

Naidoo D (Natal)
 Naidu P (Natal)
 Singh V (Natal)
 Van der Veen JP (Natal)
 Greyling P du P (Free State)
 Murray H (Free State)
 Ackerman GF (Pretoria)
 Badenhorst L (Ms) (Pretoria)
 Bodiba TI (Pretoria)
 Classen LG (Ms) (Pretoria)
 De Beer LW (Pretoria)
 Joubert C (Ms) (Pretoria)
 Kilian ME (Ms) (Pretoria)
 Le Grange AJ (Pretoria)
 Le Roux S (Ms) (Pretoria)
 Louw WJ (Pretoria)
 Lupuwane PT (Pretoria)
 Malan J (Pretoria)
 Maritz S (Ms) (Pretoria)
 Maritz GS (Pretoria)
 Masipa RG (Pretoria)
 Meyer DE (Ms) (Pretoria)
 Mojapelo MM (Pretoria)
 Mphahlele MS (Pretoria)
 Ngoepe NAR (Pretoria)
 Opperman FF (Pretoria)
 Potgieter JJ (Pretoria)
 Rossouw PG (Pretoria)
 Scheepers WC (Pretoria)
 Senatle S (Pretoria)
 Springveldt PW (Pretoria)
 Theron A (Pretoria)
 Tshabalala MS (Pretoria)
 Van Bergen CH (Pretoria)
 Van Rooyen A (Pretoria)
 Van Rooyen BDB (Pretoria)
 Van Wyk MM (Pretoria)
 Augustine M (Johannesburg)
 Bedeker L (Ms) (Johannesburg)
 Bokako T (Johannesburg)
 Colletti LG (Johannesburg)
 Engelbrecht H (Ms) (Johannesburg)
 Erasmus J (Johannesburg)
 Fourie H (Johannesburg)
 Goldman G (Johannesburg)
 Groenewald E (Ms) (Johannesburg)
 Hassim A (Ms) (Johannesburg)
 Heystek B (Johannesburg)
 Hitge M (Johannesburg)
 Ismail F (Johannesburg)
 Jagga N (Johannesburg)
 Krein R (Johannesburg)
 Leontsinis S (Johannesburg)
 MacDonald M (Ms) (Johannesburg)
 Malan L (Johannesburg)
 Matlou D (Johannesburg)
 Mkize L (Johannesburg)
 Nell J (Johannesburg)
 Ossim I (Johannesburg)
 Picarra E (Ms) (Johannesburg)
 Porteous G (Johannesburg)
 Sello M (Johannesburg)
 Varney H (Johannesburg)
 WaynecourtSteele T (Johannesburg)
 Zinn D (Johannesburg)

Human shield volunteer in Iraq

Andrea Gabriel, editorial committee member, spoke to Reggie Reddy of the Durban Bar about his experiences as a human shield in Baghdad. She writes:



Reggie Reddy began practice at the Durban Bar in 1987. His activist background is common knowledge in local circles. Reddy is a busy advocate. I could not understand why Reddy would take himself off to a war zone to act as a human shield. What prompted this endeavour and what did Reddy hope to achieve? I put these and other questions to him over lunch.

Reddy recalled reading about a group of volunteers in England who made an international request for volunteers to act as human shields in Iraq when the United States threatened to invade Iraq. The grand plan was to send literally thousands of human 'shields' to stand at the city gates in Baghdad to prevent entry of US troops. That, of course, did not materialise because the numbers of international volunteers who ultimately arrived in Baghdad were disappointing. There were approximately 100 international human shield volunteers in Baghdad.

Reddy told me that he conducted his research on the internet and decided to volunteer as a human shield. He was convinced that he had to participate. When pressed for his reasons, Reddy said that his principles and beliefs as well as the innate atrocity of the war compelled him to serve as a human shield.

At first Reddy was unaware of the South African initiative, co-ordinated by AB Dawjee, to send a group of South Africans to Iraq to act as human shields. After making contact with Dawjee, Reddy joined the South African team.

There were 32 members on the South African team. The group comprised men and woman, young and old and a mixture of religions and races. Reggie said that one of the first steps the group took was to alert the US authorities to the fact that they were engaged in this effort and would act as civil society 'guards' in Baghdad. The plan was to station volunteers at key civil society posts such as hospitals and schools to witness events and to assist where possible. US authorities responded with a polite response that Iraq would be a war zone and that the US could not guarantee the safety of the South African human shields.

Initially, the human shields did not have definite plans for their activities in Baghdad. It was expected that plans would be finalised when they arrived in Baghdad and once they had met with local authorities. This, as it turned out, proved to be more difficult than anticipated.

For a start, the human shields were stranded in Jordan when Royal Jordanian Airlines cancelled all flights into Iraq. After flying from

Durban to Johannesburg to Cairo and then to Jordan, the team rented a bus and left immediately on a 16 hour drive into Iraq and ultimately Baghdad. That trip had to be made immediately because it was not known whether the border post would be closed.

On arrival in Baghdad, the South Africans were met by local authorities and sent to spend their first night at the Sheraton Hotel. The South Africans had no sooner gathered in the dining room when the bombing began. 'I had never heard a bomb explode before so I was completely unprepared for the thunderous, high-pitched metallic sound that deafened me. I was similarly unprepared for the force of the impact that threw us off our feet. I thought that the hotel had been hit but these were bombs exploding elsewhere in the city.'

As the succession of 30-40 bombs exploded in the city on 20 March 2003 the South Africans were moved into an underground bunker where they spent their first anxious night. The next day, and for two weeks thereafter, the South Africans would emerge to survey the damage and would move to civilian posts such as hospitals to witness what Reddy termed 'a shocking disrespect for human life.'

Tensions surfaced in the group of South Africans with some insisting on a return to South Africa. Reddy recalls that the women in the group insisted on staying despite the very real threat of death.

The South Africans were ultimately moved to and housed in an establishment, which they discovered was next to an Iraqi military camp. The routine continued

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Assessing competency skills

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Grading

A trainee who demonstrates the standard required for competence at Paragraphs 1 to 5 will be graded 'Competent'.

A trainee who does not satisfy the requirements above will be graded **Not Yet Competent**.

Endnotes


¹ In New Zealand the training and testing are done by the same organisation, the Institute of Professional Legal Studies. All

aspirant barristers and solicitors also have to pass the IPLS course as a requirement for admission. In South Africa the training is provided by the provincial Bars but the testing is conducted at a national level. The curriculum is overly academic, in my view. Training is voluntary; you can practise as an advocate without having received any practical training at all and without becoming a member of one of the provincial Bars. That is soon to change when the Legal Practice Bill becomes law as it envisages a compulsory training and testing regime for all aspirant advocates. That training and testing is to be undertaken by course providers under the control of the

proposed Legal Practice Council.

² J Alspach 'Designing a competency-based orientation for critical nurses' *Heart & Lung*, 13 (Nov 1984) 655-662.

³ Jeroen JB. Van Marriënboer 'ID for Competency-based Learning: New Directions for Design, Delivery and Diagnosis' Interactive Educational Multimedia No 3 (Oct 2001) 12-26.

⁴ The assessment guide is the intellectual property of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies, New Zealand and is protected by copyright. I am indebted to Mr Mark Mason, National Director of the Institute, for permission to use it in this paper. 

Human Shield

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with the South Africans emerging after nights of relentless bombing to an increasingly damaged Baghdad, more human casualties and little hope that the bombing would cease.

Ultimately, the South Africans decided to return on schedule. Leaving Iraq was impossible by air. The group had to rent a bus and travel to Jordan. That trip was nerve-racking because of the heavy contingent of army vehicles heading into Iraq. Reddy recalled that bridges on the main highway had been bombed and at times it was not certain that the bus that they were travelling in would skirt the holes in the bridges without plunging through.

Eventually, the South Africans came upon a military roadblock and, with


approximately 50 guns and tankers aimed at them, had to emerge with a South African and a peace flag hoisted high. Australian soldiers who had set up the roadblock, upon learning that the team was heading back to South Africa, made special arrangements to escort the South Africans to the border post through a different route.

Reddy believes that the South African human shields publicised and drew attention to the atrocities[!] committed in Iraq. Despite their limited numbers, the human shields in Iraq kept in close contact with international media to present a more balanced version of events than that presented through the 'embedded' CNN reporters. Reddy also believes that the human shields, at the very least, presented balanced accounts of events in Iraq and in Baghdad.

Reddy said that he is tired of people asking him why he went to Iraq as a human

shield: 'They would not understand, so I don't bother explaining anymore.' For Reddy, his principles compelled him to go and he believes that despite their limited numbers, the human shields did make a difference, by bearing testimony to the atrocities of a super-power.

Having experienced what he described as the most terrifying time of his life, I asked Reddy whether he would do this again? 'Yes, I would. There is no question about it.' Reddy cautions against being caught up in the 'apparent importance' of our lives as advocates and, in particular, urges those who have criticised his efforts in Iraq to find ways to make their contributions to society.

As I walked back to chambers from my meeting with Reddy, I had to confess that I still did not understand why he did what he did – but then, I cannot claim to know the being that he is. I do know that I came away feeling a little more inspired. 

Regter Talla Claassen

Vervolg van bladsy 31

die prokureursfirma wat vandag bekend staan as Dyasons. Sy vader het aan die Johannesburgse Balie gepraktiseer en na sy aanstelling as regter het hy vir vyf jaar in die destydse Suidwes-Afrika as regter-president gedien. Hy is daarna na Pretoria verplaas waar hy op die Transvaalse regbank aangestel is. Talla se broer Neels, wat in Johannesburg as advokaat praktiseer het, is ook 'n regter op die Transvaalse regbank.

Talla het in 1973 sy LLB aan die Universiteit van Pretoria behaal. Gedurende sy studiejare was hy ook vir twee jaar 'n regtersklerk. Hy het sy leerklerskap by Dyasons voltooi en is in Junie 1974 toegelaat as prokureur. Nadat hy vir 'n kort tydperk as staatsaanklaer gewerk het, het hy in Augustus 1974 lid van die Pretoria Balie geword. Hy verwerf senior status in Julie 1990. Een van die bekendste

sake waarin Talla Claassen as advokaat opgetree het, was die *BK Tooling*-saak. Hy het die appèl aanbeveel en uiteindelik ook op appèl geslaag.

As regter en advokaat in die destydse Ciskei, was hy betrokke by die eerste 'grondwetlike' sake in hierdie land, wat insluit die saak van *ANC (Border Branch) v Chairman, Council of State, Ciskei* 1992 (3) SA 250 (Ck) en *S v Majavu* 1994 (4) SA 268 (Ck). Hy was vir 18 maande lid van die Spesiale Tribunaal wat in Oos-Londen gesetel was en moes grootliks toesien tot die praktiese inwerkingstelling van die hof en aanstelling van personeel. Hy het ook die eerste aantal sake daar behartig. Talla is verantwoordelik vir die bywerking van die *Dictionary of Legal Words and Phrases* 2 ed (Butterworths). Hy het ook wye belangstellings buite sy beroep en is 'n kranige gholf- en tennisspeler. Hy hou van stap en lees en het al die Argus fietstoer in vier ure voltooi. Hy en

sy vrou Linda het drie kinders. (Die bynaam 'Talla' het 'n interessante herkoms. As kind kon sy ouer broer, Gert, nie die naam Roger uitspreek nie en het hom 'outjie' genoem. Hulle huishulp het dit vertaal as 'Madala' wat later in die omgangstaal verander het in 'Matalla' en later net 'Talla'.)

Met sy permanente aanstelling op die regbank, was hy waarskynlik die advokaat wat die langste tydperk as waarnemende regter gedien het – sewe en 'n half jaar in totaal. Hy het groot lof vir die Balie as instelling en beskou dit as 'n fantastiese en 'n unieke plek om te kan werk, met kollegialiteit wat 'n mens nêrens anders in die wêreld teëkom nie. Dit was dus vir hom nie maklik om na 30 jaar afskeid te neem van die Balie nie. Hierdie gevoel is wederkerig. Talla Claassen was die afgelepe 15 jaar feitlik op 'n permanente basis lid van 'n Balieraad – in Pretoria en in die Oos-Kaap – en sy waardevolle insette sal gemis word. 