

## PRESS RELEASE

The Eastern High Court has overruled the Ministry of Defence's main objection in the Iraqi Torture Cases this morning.

## Decisive victory for the Iraqi torture victims

Attached is an excerpt of the Eastern High Court's ruling of this morning wherein the court's reasons and result is stated.

As can be seen, the High Court rules in favour of the plaintiffs, with regard to the alleged time limitation.

The reasons read i.a. the following:

"The paragraphs in Danish law concerning time limitation shall be read in accordance with The European Human Rights Convention articles 3, 6 and 13 and Denmark's international obligations according to the Torture Convention."

The plaintiffs' beneficial lawyer states that:

"It is very gratifying that the last preliminary objection from The Ministry of Defense has now been overruled. For several years, my clients have awaited a fair trail about the substance of their cases regarding Danish responsibility for torture. After this protracted process, I must urge The Ministry of Defense to abstain from bringing the alleged time limitation before the Supreme Court. The last time the Ministry of Defense was overruled in the Supreme Court in a matter within these cases, they were delayed for about a year and a half.

After the ruling of this morning, the Treasury solicitor should abstain from throwing further grit into the machinery on behalf of the Danish State."

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As the cases are to be investigated and heard before the Danish courts in their substance, my clients as well as the Danish public will have the opportunity to learn what actually happened in the High Command/Ministry of Defense in Copenhagen, including what was decided and conducted by i.a. the Minister of Defense, Søren Gade.

Denmark will now get one last opportunity for a judicial inquiry after the catastrophe in Iraq, so that similar mistakes can be avoided in the future.

Copenhagen, the 22nd of August 2016

Christian Harlang