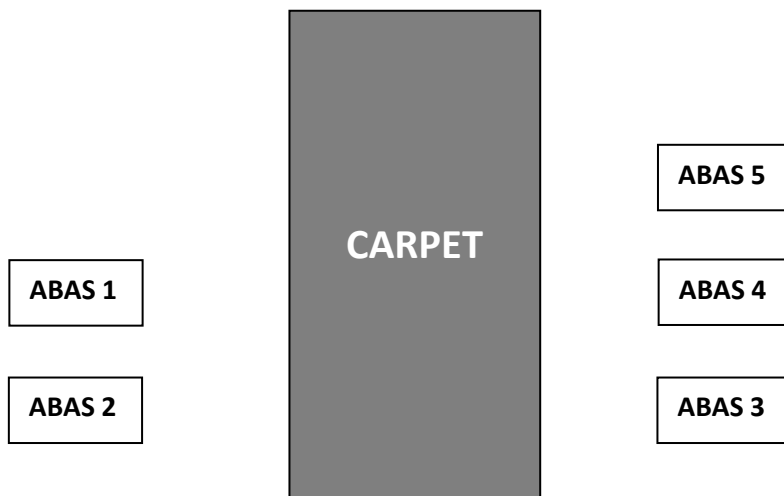


LAYOUT



**ABAS – Part 1**

H- Ok now, you told me that you used metal plates for aerials, how was that?

A- I used nickel, screw two nickel plates face to face, not from the back side and then connected with wire to get +and – at the other side, and then fixed the whole installation on a long stick. We use to screw a big nickel spoon from the back of the screwed plates. Nickel is always the best to get signals, sometimes we tried to fix it on lantern. The higher, the better image you get. It must be directed to the wave which you want to have.

H- Where did you connect the wires?

A- The wires must be connected to the screws.

Sometimes I used to get normal aerials and fix some nickel spoons on their wings to extend them.

H- Where exactly?

A- On the wings so it would be easier to capture signals.

Sometimes I used to make a hybrid of two forms trying to direct it in two directions but it never worked.

H- Was it something like this? Every wing gets one spoon like this?

A- Yes. We used 4 from each side.

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**ABAS – Part 2**

... these dishes are good transmitters, we used them to eat and take the signals ... how many people use these dishes to eat ...

(Abas looks in the pile of scrap) (Nazhad comes over with a few pieces and gives his opinion on how to make aerials

In the time of dictatorship we could not invent so many forms of these materials, as soon as they saw anything they would start investigating ... we could not do much, as deserters we could not get out ... this is an aerial that we made with two tubes attached to a piece of wood ...

... I could leave home only three times a month, my neighbors would not know I was a deserter ... anybody who reported a deserter would receive money from the government ... so I used to leave home just three times a month as if I were a soldier (the soldiers had a license for three days per month.)

... We see the Iranian TV trying to figure out if any of us were missing relatives or if it was possible he was alive ... the Iraqi TV was showing only the Iranians dead and the Iranian one only those in Iraq ... it was anyway a good thing to have not only official government information ... I could also tell to others ... the radio was not enough, we also had to see ... Iran showed the actions of Kurds rebels of Iraqi origin who had moved to Iran.

... This form with nails taught me at school, we had to make drawings with the wires but without mixing the wires ... someone said that the Iranian government used to leave big balls rolls to boost the signal so it could reach Iraq ... we cut this piece of aluminum like a tie and then we attached it to the back of the wooden plate ... sometimes the aerials had to be small, otherwise they would be too suspicious ... we had to be careful because the policemen used to look over the rooftops with binoculars ...

(Abas still looking with Nazhad, he finds three accessories for the mines and gives them to him because they could be very good conductors)

... These are the tent poles of the American army (they try to make an aerial together) it works like that ..., maybe you can use it as the aerial pedestal ...

(Abas moves to build another aerial)

... For me cinema is like another reality, when you come home afterwards you are a bit disappointed ...

... During the curfew a friend of ours, that is now in Europe, was hiding in an empty grave in the cemetery ... He said that if I did not have a place to hide myself, I could join him ... I preferred to stay in the attic of my shop because in that way I could continue my hobby, change radios, make aerials, projectors .... One day with a friend I worked on a radio that had only two channels, not like today when you have hundreds of channels.

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### **ABAS – Part 3**

During the three days of celebration after Ramadan, I was very bored and I decided to leave even though my family did not agree, I told them that outside there was a party and the possibility that I would be raped was consistently low. I was on in the street Khaneqa near the Cinema Delshad, I saw the police chasing illegal gamblers. Two police man immediately asked to see my identity card, I said that I was a student, but they didn't believe me, they told me I was probably a deserter. I said that was true and asked them to help me, as if we were talking outside their

working hours. They left me with just one police officer, I was so frightened that I immediately took the man behind. Another two policemen came to me with guns, they ordered me to let him go, then they brought me to an armored van with other 33 people. A boy showed me his back that had been beaten, he asked me if I had Vaseline and advised me to take away my new pants that I wore for the festival because they would tear them. There were other people that made the psychological terrorism, some of them pretended to be prisoners, but they were not, they just wanted to rip your information as soon as possible. I was lucky because my uncle came soon and gave them lots of money and took me with him.

I went home and was again the same thing. For another year I didn't leave home. I had to hide from everybody, even from the neighbors that they could also make a spy. I finally managed to find a fake ID and I was able to leave. I went to the family's shop to work.

(Abas works on a television trying to get a signal)

I found an Iranian channel, but the reception was poor .... you cannot work with new TVs ... as they automatically show only the local channels, tomorrow I will bring my old TV along ... that I can control better ... I can capture even the weakest signals without scanning the channel that automatically changes to the official channels ...

... This is an Iranian television ... it's gone ... try moving the aerial ... now it's better ...

Since I was a kid, I always wash my hair in the morning, in the afternoon and in the evening ....

When I was 13, I joined the Pasok party (a partisan party) ... it was a small party in the region of Sharezur, but very well organized .... My role consisted of distributing political information distribution within the school, ten minutes before the lesson ended I used to ask to go to the bathroom and while the others were in the class, I would put the party flyers on the walls of the school. The boys in those days were very angry. We liked art and science, but they taught us other subject .... One Friday (holiday in Iraq) I entered the school by breaking a glass, I had brought along a can of gasoline to burn the new uniforms that they gave us on Saturday.

With Bestun Khalil and Heme Hady one day we reached the Rishen mountains where there were partisans. The first time, two aircraft flew over the area we were, they scared us and we went back in that zone a second time. When we reached them we asked them to let us join the partisans, we wanted the weapons and other things we needed to get started. They told us that the first thing we could do was take care of their animals and other household chores. As they continued to play an active part, they told us that we could alternatively give grenades that in that time the children (because they attract less suspicion) used to put in the military machines in the city. We did not like that situation and we went back to town. I kept my work in the shop and continued making my experiments with the radio to create new channels.

After the war between Iran and Iraq (1980 - 1988) the government used laws 737 and 738 to formalize an amnesty for all deserters and partisans except for the head of the PUK Jalal Talabany. I was happy because even if I got back in the army I would not have to fight. We did not know that the government actually had another plan and was preparing to attack Kuwait (1990). After three months of training at Salam base, we wondered why we were there. One day we moved into Amare, in southern Iraq. I came from the mountains and it was quite difficult for me to adapt myself to the hot days and the cold nights of the desert. One day I fell into the river, but could not fight against the current so I was on the other side without being able to get back, so I went back to the base half-naked ... they were all surprised ...

This is a shot used by the killer who asked to kill a person ...

Hiwa ask: Have you or the other guys with you ever used them?

... Well ... Well ... I had a friend named Serdar who was a teacher in secondary school, he had joined the extremist Communist Party, Comala. At that time a witness to an antagonist story meant earning a lot of money. The government was ready to pay up about \$ 30.000 for a tape or for a proof of someone subversive. For the same reason, when someone expressed their political beliefs they were never explicit. Serdar, for example, tried to convince me about his reasons and his party, but without explicit references. Sometimes it could be a very strange dialogue. It was hard to believe in anyone, even in your friends. Many times I thought I understood something, we talked, but could not explain the subject of our discussion or offer examples.

Laws 737 and 738 made us really happy. But soon we were called back to the army. We did not know that there would be another war. Laws 737 and 738 set us free from the burden of but they allowed the government and the communities in which we lived to recognize and identify with. Since then it has become more difficult to manage a desertion.

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#### **ABAS – Part 4**

... when I was in Kanipanka, I saw a strange green machine with four towers. It was the station that the local government used to intercept and interrupt signals coming from Iran and those from the rebels.

People said it was from Spain. It worked 24 hours a day. Washington and Monte Carlo stations were also difficult to receive.

... I can't make an aerial with this ...

... we tried to make huge aerals, but couldn't place them on the roof because they would be too suspicious-looking and might cause a problem. The government might have noticed them..... I wanted to make something new, was rather frustrated at being stuck between those four walls, but could not go out, because they would have arrested me as a deserter.... my family would also have suffered ...

... this was one of the shapes we used to use at the time. You have to lay two cables, one on both sides, and install them on the roof. When it was high enough it worked pretty well ...

... I made a rather complicated one with this material, which is very clear and seems to catch the signal better. It picks up different signals, depending on each of the shapes.

We stayed in Amarah for a long time. At one point, the officer arrived and said he had some good news. For a moment I thought he meant the fall of the government ... "What are you saying now?" We had occupied Kuwait. I was really upset, I thought everyone would have been free from that moment on. After two days we received an order from above. We had a 100 vehicles in our unit. "Make sure you are ready and head towards Abu Ghraib. We did it in two days, because we had to prepare the vehicles. We stayed in Abu Ghraib for a month. We then received a new order. "Check

your vehicles and return to Amarah". After two days we received another order, "go to Kuwait". We stayed there for three months. It was the time of the First Gulf War .... the Americans ... the British ... they started bombing at night. The bombs destroyed almost all of our vehicles. We stayed in the bunkers. Someone left. The officers were no longer issuing orders, many people died, I stayed in the bunker.

At nine o' clock in the evening, an officer turned up with car that had problems and asked if he could speak to our officer. The car engine was running but it would not move. The officer said it was a Russian car. Several missiles were mounted on the bodywork. The officer asked us to repair the car, but I said that I was not familiar with that type of car and I was supposed to repair our unit's things and not those of other units. The officer ordered us to do the work anyway, otherwise the Americans would bomb everything the next day. At almost exactly the same time, an aircraft dived down and started bombing the surrounding area. I looked at the car, but everything was closed. I had never seen anything like that before. Everything was in double: double ignition engine, double tank, double dynamo. It was most odd. I said that the only thing we could do was try to push it forward with our crane in the hope that the engine would start as it was moving. Luckily it worked. I asked the officer where he wanted to go with the missiles, but he replied that that wasn't my business and told me to move off because they were apparently going to start launching the missiles.

When we returned to our bunker, the radio reported after half an hour that our missiles had hit southern Arabia. Within one hour the Americans arrived to bomb the area from where the missiles had been fired. They claimed many lives. The noise was incredibly loud and came from all sides. An old soldier with 25 years of experience was yelling and screaming because he had never seen anything like that before. I also expected to die. At midnight we heard sounds coming from outside. It was a soldier who asked us who wanted to desert. I said that I had batteries and tyres and left. We were on the road between Kuwait and Iraq. The road was full of blazing vehicles and the damage caused by bombing could be seen everywhere. In Az Zubayr, the impact of one bomb was so intense that the water came out of the ground. I saw quite a lot of things before I arrived in Amarah, where people offered us a car to take us to Suleimaniya for 100 dinars.... I was earning 23 per month at the time.... We didn't have that money, so 12 of us grouped together to obtain an acceptable price. Near Baghdad, a tyre got a puncture owing to the weight. The car flipped two or three times. I was glad, because I didn't have my share of the money, and once I left the car, I tried to get away without being seen. I stopped another car, explained to the driver that I was a deserter and asked him if he could take me to Baghdad. He said that as I had a head injury, the police would think it was because of the war. When I arrived home I discovered that no one had been expecting me to come back.

... in this way we attached the sponges to the aerials to improve the signal ...

... the aerial is turning ... this is a small monitor I took from a video camera... but this TV has no sound, I took it from that other camera.... this is an Iranian channel.

... we used analogue TV, which made it easier to receive channels other than those that were allowed, but nowadays the new TVs are automatic and when they find a weak signal they jump to the next one ... you can't control the reception ...

... I used those small TVs because they only needed a small amount of power, and when there wasn't any electricity I could use the car battery ...

(it runs over footage from several Iranian channels, captured by a self-made aerial)

(an Iranian man working in Iraq arrives and he exchanges a few words with Abas)

... do you also try to receive TV from abroad?

.... we thought it was great to be able to receive Turkish channels and some Russian stations. I know of someone who did it, but I never did it, I was afraid.

(Hiwa is on the tower)

... come down, we don't have any boxes anymore ...

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### **ABAS – Part 5**

In the early 80s, many families used to go together to the movies ... a woman in labor went to the movies ... In those days the cinema was not as bad as today. Even during the time of desertion, we used to go to the movies, sometimes I stayed there almost all day with friends ... we paid only once in the morning ... the cinema was pretty safe, because nobody would come to ask for documents and then ... then we liked it really a lot. Then it was a story about cinema, it said that in the 60s a man was so in love with the cinema that he did not realize that it was fiction and one day, watching a movie, where Sabah committed suicide, he took a knife and began to cut himself.

(Abas shows the signs of the roof where he was hiding in the 80s during the curfew)

... The roof came up till there, it was very dark and safe, no one could see you if you did not use the light. Down here was the office, filled with Western film posters ... someone was from India. If you were a deserter it was not always easy to go to the cinema. Then I put pieces of film that I had in front of a projector that I had invented, but without a fan, so after a while the images melted.

(Near the Nazhad's workplace, they try to make the aerial made with the balloon fly and the other with the shape of a kite. The aerals fly, but they cannot capture the Iranians channels)

... Someone said that the flying aerals had to be hoisted in the early morning or late at night because otherwise the sun would burn them and make them unstable, instead they should stay as still as possible ....with these I tried to receive Dubai TV ... if you want to make them you have to take them with aluminum foil and wrap it around a small piece of wire ... the wire is often wrapped in plastic and promptly burned because it works better if it is bare ...

... Abas, do you have a lighter?

(Abas keeps trying to receive Iranian TV, but without any results)

... Leave the kite ... maybe there is not enough wind ... for the kite it is better if we try to release it from a building where there is more wind ...

... This kite doesn't work ... shit, the balloon is gone ...

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## NAZHAD

This is the head of a bomb fired from a heavy artillery cannon.

All that is munition for automatic weapons.

This is munition for small cannons. It is caliber 120, no 110. This is a 150.

This has some polluting chemical elements.

This is munition to the rocket launcher. It has 12 different types of gunpowder.

This is munition to a small cannon.

This is the same. This is the big one.

This is a head.

This is the front of the head.

This is a shot of a gun, inside is made of brass, inside is the gunpowder.

This is a shot of blanks.

This is the arm of the rocket launchers.

The rocket launchers have different powders, this model has been used frequently in the region Shar Bazher, in the mountains. They are Russians.

This is for a gun used in Halabcha. It's Russian.

These are all used to illuminate. Most were used during the war between Iran and Iraq.

These are also illuminating. They were used in Garmian's region.

These guns are used as well in Garmian's region.

This is Russian blank munition.

This metal is very difficult to extract when it enters the body.

This is a German piece.

This is to illuminate, but it is German.

This is also German, the material it contains is very aggressive.

This is a cannon of great size, Russian, used in Shar Bazher.

This is a rocket launcher.

This is a small cannon.

This is a German rocket that can be mounted on a Kalashnikov.

This is the head of a small rocket. It contains 100 grams of explosive. It has been used in Garmian region where the grass is very dry and it's easy to set fire to large areas.

This is a piece of a German bomb, which destroys the fertility of the area where it explodes.

This is a German shot ... let me show you ...it is a capsule.

This is a Russian and German collection.

This is German and was used in the war that ended in 1988 between Kurdish rebels and Iraq.

This is a battery.

This is a Russian shot used at the time of Anfal retaliation.

This... we call bottle. Very difficult to handle.

This is also munition for little cannons. It is used in places where there are small puddles or pools of water.

I do not know if this is Russian or German.

This also has been used in the region of Shar Bazher, it reacts with the environment and is able to kill anything.

This contains gunpowder ... let me open it ... see, it was used in Shar Bazher. This is the dust.

These are all weapons.

This is German, and this is Russian. In Garmian region they work well because they burn everything.

This is a battery that lasts two years.

This is always a head shot of a heavy artillery with a capsule, see how they match together.

This is another piece of heavy artillery with five or six parts that connect each other.

This is another German piece with a screw lock.

That's all I have to tell you about these pieces.

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