



IRAN: The Minab Massacre – A Ground Investigation

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Dimitri Lascaris (DL): Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you for Reason2Resist on March 28th, 2026. We are in Minab in Iran. This is what was described as a girls' school, but as we've learned from our colleague Ali from PressTV, this in fact was a school for both boys and girls. And you can see behind me the remains of the school all around me. It's quite clearly a schoolyard, which included a soccer pitch, a basketball net and various images of children and children's art on the walls. Now, when we arrived here, what we found on the outside was a 10 foot high wall, approximately 10 feet, with a very rusty old barbed wire on top of it. It looked like a military base but not necessarily something that continued to be a military base. It looked like an old rusted out military base. And then when we came inside and had an opportunity to inspect this area behind me, which is obviously a schoolyard.

The only question we had was whether what is on the other side of this wall – you see there's a hole in the wall there – continued to serve some kind of a military function. And you'll see that there's a yellow piece of tape there. We were told by a local, you're going to hear from him, that that wall was created so that the hole was created after the attack so that vehicles could go in and out, I think to carry away rubble. But in any case, part of what was a military camp was walled off from the schoolyard. And we requested permission to go on the other side of this wall across that tape to inspect carefully what was on the other side just to satisfy ourselves that in fact no part of this former military camp continues to be used for military purposes.

So we are going to take you now for a tour of what is on the other side of that wall. You can judge for yourself whether there's any indication that it was being used for military purposes at the time of this attack. We are assured by locals that it was not and frankly based on everything I saw when and on the other side, they appear to be telling the truth about that. And we are also told that we were the first journalists who were permitted to go to the other side and do a thorough inspection. And I basically went wherever I wanted to go once I

crossed that tape. No one prevented me from going to any part of the grounds that are situated on the other side of that wall. So here's what we saw.

And then following our tour of this area of the former military encampment, you're going to hear from Ali, again a correspondent for PressTV, standing in front of the remains of the school describing what he has learned in his own investigation about this area and this particular facility. And you'll also hear from a father whose children attended this school. And he became as you'll see quite distraught as he described coming to the scene to try to save children, some of whom had been dismembered horribly.

So again, judge for yourselves whether there is any truth to the claims that were made that there was some kind of military purpose being served by any part of this former military base. You see the overgrown grass here – I mean it's quite clear that there was not regular ongoing activity here on the grounds of this building, whatever purpose it may have served, clearly this was not being used for example to park armoured vehicles or missile launchers or anything of the kind. There's absolutely no indication that these tall grass and these weeds were overrun by some heavy vehicles recently.

You see inside here, at this end of the building, just a bunch of chairs. It's also a very old facility. It looks like this was very dilapidated, it was not being maintained, you can see the rust, the paint was old and fading. Certainly it doesn't look like this building was being preserved, that it was performing some kind of significant function. You can see the grating there is very rusted, even these air conditioning units are quite old and rusted. Let's have a look in here. What does this say on the wall here?

Ali Akbari (AA): It's a prayer room.

DL: It's a prayer room?

AA: Yeah, yeah.

DL: So these are just the Quranic verses?

AA: Yeah, exactly.

DL: Okay.

AA: And this is the direction that we have to say our prayer in.

DL: Okay. It's carpets on the ground, a couch, very old. There's a television set, a clock on the wall up there. This water tower is obviously very old. So that looks like it was once the entrance to a military base and the locals acknowledge as much, but there's no indication that it was being used as a military base when it was struck. Sure, if you have more to add, by all means, tell us what you know.

AA: Yeah, Dimitri, we are the first group that had access to this section, which is close to Minab School. And this is one of the warehouses that we just told you that the whole area was residential. We are the first group arriving here. This was a medicine warehouse. And Dimitri, look.

DL: Yes. Let's see – those look like eyedrops. What are those?

AA: Yep, those are eyedrops. All of them. Look here.

DL: Look at the plastic bags.

AA: Exactly.

DL: What does this say, Ali?

AA: Which, brother?

DL: This bag, what is that? Medical underpads.

AA: Yep.

DL: Right. Well, there's plenty of evidence that this was a storage facility for medical supplies.

AA: Here, Dimitri. You can see the pills here. A lot of them here around me.

DL: Diapers?

AA: Diapers, brother.

DL: The lethal diapers?

AA: Yep, a lot of them there.

DL: And those look a little like pharmaceuticals – what is this?

AA: Syrup.

DL: It says syrup?

AA: It's written on it "Expectorant".

DL: Right.

AA: Again, much more pills.

DL: Yes.

AA: Dimitri, let's go.

DL: Okay. Does the lady know what they were building here? This looks like some ongoing construction.

AA: They are houses, apartments.

DL: And does she know what this was used for?

AA: Some electricity construction.

DL: Is this lady a schoolteacher?

AA: She is the deputy for the governor.

DL: What's her name?

AA: What's your name?

Saide Karimi: Saide Karimi.

AA: Saide Karimi.

DL: And when you say the governor, you're talking about – is Minab a province or is this part of Bandar Abbas province?

AA: Minab. She says that she was here from the first day.

DL: The first day of?

AA: The incident.

DL: Right. She came on the scene, you mean, as the...

AA: Yes.

DL: So you can see that this antenna is nothing fancy. Looks quite old. It certainly doesn't look like some sophisticated piece of intelligence gathering equipment. "You shall not attain

righteousness until you spend of what you love". What does that say Ali, up there, above the door?

AA: As-salamu alaykum, and a kind of verse to one of our imam, Imam Ali.

DL: And what is that photograph of?

AA: One of the martyrs during the eight years of war with Iraq. I think this one is Ebrahim Hemmat, one of the well-known commanders of Iran.

DL: Right. And this looks to you like a prayer room?

AA: Yeah.

DL: Somebody apparently was sleeping here. And there's this map up on the wall. Yes, let's go. Thank you. This is very helpful.

AA: He just said that two explosions just occurred right now.

DL: In Minab?

AA: In Minab? Yeah, surrounding here.

DL: Okay. Do you know if that's the crater from one of the missile impacts?

AA: I think so.

Tim Anderson (TA): Just a bag of pencils.

DL: Can we go under that rubble a little bit, just to take a look?

AA: It's risky, but you can.

DL: Okay.

Ahmad Saadaldin (AS): You can translate that for me later?

AA: Yeah, sure.

DL: Why not now?

AA: He said that at the time that the explosion took place, he arrived here and tried to take children from the rubble. And he said that although it was risky and there was a risk of another attack, everyone was here – locals from children to parents. Everyone came here to

help and to take children from under the rubble. And he said, they couldn't find children here completely. Some of them didn't have heads, some didn't have hands and feet. And he said that immediately after the first explosion, the first missile that targeted here, the second one targeted the house there, and the third one, the other house. And he said "we used some cars, we destroyed that wall to rescue and to help children here."

And he also generally said and according to some other information I got from the locals here that this location, the whole complex, 18 years ago it was a military camp. But from 18 years ago it has been evacuated and the whole area has turned into a school here, a warehouse for a clinic and for medicine there that also has been targeted. Maybe two or three hundred metres away you can see the destruction there. The roof has completely been destroyed. And also another warehouse has been targeted which was a store for teachers and for the staff of the Ministry of Education. In our country, we have some kinds of stores for different sections of people, for example, for teachers, providing something for them with some subsidies that we call "Taubani" in Farsi. Both warehouses have been targeted. This is the first one, the first missile hit here that has left an impact here. And also I got information about Minab because mostly it is being discussed that this was a school for girls but it was both for girls and boys and boys unfortunately have not been much discussed. The first floor was for girls and the second one for boys. They have two separate yards. This one for girls and the other one in the back for boys. Minutes ago I went inside these schools although it is risky and at any moment it may fall down. It was very sad. And I saw a whiteboard right in front of that class on which was written "your blood will not remain. We will avenge your blood". It was written on the whiteboard. If you want to see it, follow me.

DL: I do. Can I ask you a question?

AA: Yes, brother.

DL: Okay, so, look, it's quite clear that this was a school and that this entire area before us was a schoolyard. And when we were walking in, from the outside, it looked like a military base simply because there was a 10-foot high concrete wall and there was barbed wire on top of it. The barbed wire is obviously very old, it's rusting, it doesn't look new. It looks like it's been there quite a long time. But this section here, which appears very much to have been a playground, has been walled off. It was walled off. I don't know, obviously, if there was that hole there before the....

AS: He said they knocked it down so cars could come in and save kids.

DL: I see. Okay. So this part of what was a military encampment was walled off. So on this side of this wall, which we're looking at there, there's obviously a playground. On the other side, there is this thing that you call a warehouse. What was in the warehouse? What was being stored there, as far as you know? Do you know?

AA: Yeah, yeah. The locals told me in the first warehouse that you can see it has been destroyed, they used to store medicine. The first warehouse, which is right in front of us, some 300 metres away from me. And the second warehouse was the store for the staff of the Ministry of Education.

DL: Okay, now there's clearly an antenna on this roof of what you have been told is a warehouse. Do you know what function this antenna serves?

AA: Normally in our country you can find these antennas everywhere to provide network and to provide internet for citizens. You can find it everywhere, everywhere.

DL: So as far as you know, this was not for military purposes?

AA: Sure. And they told me that some 18 years ago this military camp had been evacuated and it was transferred to Shiraz.

DL: Right.

AA: And it is not only this location which is the school, the other one which includes two houses, both of them residential.

DL: Now I just want to point out, you know, feel free to comment if you want – on this side of the wall, there is grass and weeds which obviously have been allowed to grow unchecked for quite some time. This is one question I was asking myself when I came in here was were they perhaps keeping heavy military equipment, tanks, armoured vehicles and so forth on the other side, but if that were the case, it wouldn't look like this. This is obviously not being used for any purpose other than just allowing the wild greens to grow. But the only possible indication I can see that this might have had a military purpose in this particular building was that antenna. I can't see any other indication of that, but in any case you've been told that this was purely for civilian purposes, the antenna.

AA: Yeah, exactly. And the point is that from the grass that you just mentioned, it shows that for years it has not been used. And I can see the windows that have been broken on the inside. It doesn't look like, to me, a military site because it mostly looks like a warehouse as they told me. And the other one that the person just mentioned was the warehouses. And the other one, one of the families of the martyred school children in the cemetery, he just mentioned how the US and Israeli enemy, they can recognise a launcher underground in Iran, but they couldn't recognise that this whole area is residential?

DL: How did they kill the supreme leader? They were able to do that.

AA: But they could not recognise this.

DL: So Tim, thank you very much for speaking with us again today. You've had an opportunity now to peruse this site and to inspect it fairly thoroughly. What are your overall conclusions based on what you've seen?

TA: Well, we both came to the same conclusions, I think. From the outside, it looks like a prison or some sort of military facility. There might even be the IRGC written on the wall on the other corner there. But of course, once you get in, you see what we were told is true, that the place was converted to a school at least 13 years ago. And massive destruction in the school. Apparently three missiles hit this school and another one over there, perhaps the adjacent building. We, you and I, went and we inspected the adjacent building after we got permission to see if there was any evidence that it was being used for any other purpose and there was no evidence that it had any military facility at all. There is some sort of classroom, meeting room there, some accommodation facilities and so on. And on the outside of that building there's quite a lot of medical supplies like injectables and pads and things like that, medicines and so on. So, the evidence that was handed over to the health department after the military evacuated and then to the education department is very strong. There's no indication of any military facilities either in the school site or in the major adjacent building.

DL: And knowing what you know – my understanding is you're not a professional military man and haven't been – but knowing what you know about the surveillance capabilities of the United States and Israel, can you imagine how they might have come to the conclusion that this was currently being used as a military facility?

TA: No, I think they're trying to cover their trails basically. From a satellite, it would be very obvious that this was a school and they'd see the children too. They would be aware of that. Basically, they might be trying to cover up in some way. They denied responsibility at first and claimed the Iranians had done it and the Iranians have used a Tomahawk missile – because people saw the type of missile that came in and hit this school. And it wasn't just one. Apparently there were four. Apparently three hit the school and one over there. What business has the US got in any sort of military capacity on the other side of the world anyway, if they can't tell the difference between a school and a military facility. I think there's been speculation, even inside Iran, but certainly outside Iran, that there was some sort of a military facility adjacent, but you and I had a look and we can't see any evidence of that at all.

DL: Thank you again for speaking with us today. So here's what you see when you're on the outside of this former military base. See the paint is faded in this barbed wire is quite old because it's so rusted. So if you didn't have sophisticated satellite technology and were simply walking around around, you might be forgiven for mistaking this for a military facility, if you're just walking around it on the outside but if you have a sophisticated satellite technology I don't know how anybody could come to the conclusion that this was a military facility.

TA: It looks like a low-security jail from the outside.

DL: You can see all around on the outside over in this area there's just really nothing. It's just shrubs. And over here, I don't know what's on the other side of that wall, but it certainly doesn't look like a military base. Yep, those are not missiles, just if you're wondering, those look to me like crayons. Crayons and flowers.

END

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