

SNCR



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Director of Communications and Strategy

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See below

Andrew Gilligan claimed on Radio 5 that "people here are saying the Republican Guard hasn't really been damaged at all and they could be right." (R5 1220). Can you tell me who told him the Republican Guard hasn't been damaged - the Iraqi Ministry of Information?

On what evidence does he base this claim - in particular the assertion that 'they could be right'?

Was this report monitored? Does Mr Gilligan have a minder?

Would you agree Andrew Gilligan's report yesterday broke several of the BBC's own guidelines, including:

"Reports should normally make it absolutely clear where the information has come from, and be attributed accordingly."

"Reporters and correspondents in the battle areas will often be reporting what they have not themselves seen. That should be made evident."

"We will have a great deal of information from both military and various governments' briefings. That too should be made evident and tested as to its reliability."

"We should also make clear if our reporting has had to take place with a 'minder' present or our ability to travel has been circumscribed by the authorities."

"Beware of speculation, and overstated claims from all sides. Context is essential."

Since drafting this letter, I have heard that Mr Gilligan reported as follows on the subject of Saddam's son Uday: "He is a fairly wild sort of character to be honest and he is alleged to have tortured opponents of his father's and of his. He's

BBC/4/0146

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