

**CASAS LAW GROUP, P.C.**  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

www.casaslaw.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 12, 2006**

**Re: Hamdaniya Allegations**

**Contact:** Joseph Casas (619) 519-0427  
joseph@casaslaw.com

**SAN DIEGO, CA** – Attorneys Joseph N. Casas and Jane L. Siegel represent Private First Class John J. Jodka, one of the Marines involved in the April 26, 2006 Hamdaniya incident in Iraq.

PFC Jodka, along with six other Marines and one Sailor, are confined in Special Quarters (solitary confinement) in Camp Pendleton's Brig. They spend 24/7 in an 8x8 cell with only a small bed, a stainless steel commode, a tiny sink, and a shelf for some innocuous personal effects such as socks, underwear, and a book. They have the option of spending an hour outside, but if they elect to do so, their wrists and ankles are shackled. Their ankle shackles make it very uncomfortable to walk, and because of that, the detainees often elect to stay in their cell. The detainees are allowed to visit with their families over the weekend, but they must do so with a reinforced glass pane in between them. They are not allowed to hug their families. They are not allowed to use pens/pencils and as such cannot write letters. PFC Jodka has been in solitary confinement since May 24, 2006, but has been in some form of confinement since approximately May 12, 2006. We believe this level of confinement is unwarranted, especially in light of the fact that those accused of more serious offenses, e.g. Haditha, are only on base restriction (they can run around Camp Pendleton, but may not leave the base).

The level of confinement of the 3/5 Marines is unjust and unprecedented. In effect, these Marines are guilty before proven innocent. Sadly, recent media coverage and actions by our Country's leaders have further eroded the 3/5 Marines' Constitutionally protected presumption of innocence – the presumption of innocence that our forefather's fought and died for, the very same presumption of innocence that our service men and women have fought and died for in Iraq.

We are appalled by recent disparaging comments made by some of our Country's "leadership." Congressman Murtha's recent damning of our Marines by calling them "cold-blooded killers" is not only disgraceful; it emboldens terrorists in Iraq and abroad, weakens American support for our troops, and taints the minds of service members that will potentially serve as jurors. Although Murtha's draconian comments were aimed at the 3/1 Haditha Marines, we are concerned about the spill-over effect on the 3/5 Marines. His use of the Haditha incident as a political tool for re-election flies in the face of our American system of justice.

Page 2

We are similarly concerned with recent comments made by General Michael Hagee, the Commandant of the Marine Corps. While he is quick to reinforce “Corps Values” and promises of punishment, he has done little, if anything, to stand behind his Marines caught in a political quagmire.

We caution the American public, media, politicians, and military leaders not to jump to conclusions which further demonize the 3/5 Marines and deteriorates their presumption of innocence.

With regard to rumors of alleged “confessions,” to the extent that any statements were made by these Marines, we believe them to be the product of improper investigative tactics.

On Thursday, June 8, 2006, Captain Scott Joiner, USMC, (29 Palms, California) was appointed as PFC Jodka’s military defense counsel. All of the accused in this case will be afforded the same right. Captain Joiner will assist PFC Jodka’s civilian defense attorneys throughout this litigation.

PFC Jodka is innocent of the Hamdaniya allegations. He and the members of his squad upheld all Marine Corps values on the night of April 26, 2006. We stand behind PFC Jodka’s innocence and believe he will be exonerated of these allegations.

PFC Jodka’s father, John Jodka II, has established a legal defense fund for his son. For information on PFC Jodka’s defense fund, please visit [www.innocentmarine.com](http://www.innocentmarine.com).

While we expect charges to be filed in this matter relatively soon, we do not know when that will happen, especially in light of the fact that the alleged victim’s body was only recently exhumed. Until then, patience is warranted.

**END OF PRESS RELEASE**