

# Kidnapped Iranian Diplomat accuses CIA of Torture

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An Iranian diplomat abducted in Baghdad in early February and released earlier this week claims he has been interrogated and tortured by CIA agents, an Iran's news agency reported Saturday.

Jalal Sharafi, the second secretary at the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, was released and repatriated on Tuesday following what he claims an abduction by Iraqi special services working under U.S. control.

In an interview with the Fars news agency, the diplomat said he was brought to a military base near the Baghdad airport and interrogated in Arabic and English languages.

"The CIA agents asked me questions about Iran's presence and influence in Iraq, and Tehran's assistance to the Iraqi government, the Shiite, Sunnite and Kurd factions," Sharafi said.

He also claimed the interrogators tortured him after they had become dissatisfied with his answers. He showed the signs of torture on his body to journalists, the news agency said.

"They used different torture techniques during the interrogation, day and night for a long time," the diplomat, who is currently under medical examination, told the reporters.

Tehran has already called the abduction an act of aggression, and blamed U.S. intelligence agents in Baghdad.

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