

By Mona Mahmood, Maggie O'Kane and Patrick Farrelly

From [The Guardian](#) | Original Article

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A 15-month investigation by the Guardian and BBC Arabic reveals how US colonel James Steele, a veteran of American proxy wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua, played a key role in training and overseeing US-funded special police commandos who ran a network of torture centres in Iraq. Another special forces veteran, retired Colonel James Coffman, worked with Steele and reported directly to General David Petraeus, who had been sent into Iraq to organise the Iraqi security services

This is an edited version of a longer film. [Watch our full-length film investigation about James Steele narrated by Dearbhla Molloy](#)