

## PRESS RELEASE

**January 04, 2006**

### March for Omar Deghayes

Supporters of Omar Deghayes and six other British detainees being held in Guantanamo Bay have called a demonstration to demand that the US authorities release them and shut down its network of secret detention centres.

The march will take place on Saturday 21 January in London. Meanwhile, lawyers for Omar and the other detainees have launched a court challenge aimed at forcing the British government to do more to help free them.

Omar's family came to Britain in the early 1980s as refugees from Libya. His father, a trade union activist and lawyer, was murdered by Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

Over the Christmas break the US military admitted that the long running hunger strike at Guantanamo has spread, with 46 detainees joining the protest in the last week of 2005.

Demand justice for the British residents in Guantanamo Bay, Saturday 21 January. Assemble 12 noon, Tothill Street, central London, nearest tube St James's Park.

Go to [www.save-omar.org.uk](http://www.save-omar.org.uk) for more information

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=11553>

**SOURCE: Socialist Worker**

**January 05, 2006**

### Bay Three Case Suffers Setback

**By KANWAL TARIQ HAMEED**

THE legal fight to free three Bahrainis imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay has suffered a serious setback. The cases of the three, filed by New York based Dorsey and Whitney firm, will "undoubtedly" be dismissed from the US Courts, lawyers said yesterday.

The US Justice Department on Tuesday informed judges at the US District Court of Washington - where the cases of the three remaining Bahraini detainees have been filed - that they would file official motions to dismiss 187 legal cases made on behalf of more than 300 prisoners.

The cases include a legal appeal for an improvement in confinement conditions for Juma Al Dossary, who has tried to kill himself 10 times according to the US military, as well as cases pushing for the release of the three.

The three are Mr Al Dossary, 31, Salah Al Blooshi, 24, and Essa Al Murbati, 40.

Mr Al Murbati is believed to be still in the hospital as the result of a hunger strike he is said to have begun more than three months ago.

The legal blow follows a law passed by US President George W Bush, which denies detainees the right to a court hearing and allows the US to hold individuals for the rest of their lives based on evidence obtained through coercion.

"Undoubtedly the government will seek to dismiss our cases along with the others," head lawyer for the three Mr Colangelo-Bryan said.

"They will move to dismiss every action that has been filed by a detainee at Guantanamo."

Mr Colangelo-Bryan said his legal team would continue to argue against the motion but that the move, at best, delayed the chance of the three receiving a fair trial.

"Certainly we will propose the motions to dismiss when they are filed," he said.

"Our opposition will be based on the fact that the new law, while quite misguided, does not apply to our case because our case was filed before the law became effective.

"Undoubtedly there will be litigation about this question for some number of years - which underscores the fact that we cannot expect a fair judicial hearing for any of our clients within any reasonable period of time.

"We certainly will continue to fight these court battles and we will continue to urge that diplomatic be taken on behalf of our clients including those two who are very poor health."

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=11563>

**SOURCE: Gulf Daily News**

**January 06, 2006**

## **Bush Administration Seeks Dismissal of Guantánamo Habeas Corpus Suits**

**By Kate Randall**

The Bush administration is seeking the dismissal of all habeas corpus lawsuits brought by detainees at the Guantánamo Bay prison camp. On Tuesday, the Justice Department informed federal judges that they would be asked to dismiss more than 160 cases involving at least 300 Guantánamo detainees who are challenging the legality of their imprisonment.

The Justice Department's action is based on an amendment attached to the Defense Appropriations Act passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush last Friday, which strips the federal courts of jurisdiction over the habeas corpus petitions. In essence, the amendment deprives the Guantánamo detainees—designated by the Bush administration as "enemy combatants"—of any legal right to challenge their detention in the US court system. (See "US Senate moves to ban court review of Guantánamo detentions")

The government's move—and the Congressional amendment that provides its justification—constitutes not only an affront to basic democratic rights, but stands in opposition to the June 2004 US Supreme Court rulings upholding the right of so-called enemy combatants to file habeas corpus petitions in federal court. (See "The meaning of the US Supreme Court rulings on 'enemy combatants'")

It is the latest instance in which Bush—in his role as "commander-in-chief" in a perpetual "global war on terrorism"—has seized unprecedented powers for the executive branch, in this case trampling on the legal rights of prisoners who have been detained in violation of the Geneva Conventions and international law.

While limited at this stage to so-called enemy combatants, the Bush administration is likely to seek extension of this abrogation of the centuries-old legal right to habeas corpus to all non-citizens held by the government, both within the US and abroad. It poses a profound danger to the democratic rights of US citizens as well.

The Bush administration pressed actively in Congress for passage of the amendment. It was sponsored by Republican Senators Lindsey Graham (South Carolina) and John Kyl (Arizona) and Democratic Senator Carl Levin of Michigan. The senators pushed the Bush line that the legal challenges brought by the Guantánamo detainees—many of whom have been held for nearly four years without charges, and subject to torture and abuse—were frivolous and clogging the federal courts.

A key role was played by Levin—the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee and a consistent supporter of Bush’s military policy—who won broad support for the provision denying any further federal review of the Guantánamo detentions after assuring Congress that the bill had been altered to apply only to new cases, not those pending in federal courts. Levin acted three times to remove language the Bush administration sought to insert in the amendment declaring it “shall apply to any [habeas] application or other action that is pending on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.”

In any event, although the final amendment to the Defense Appropriations Act did not include such a phrase, this did not deter Justice Department officials, who within four days of the measure’s passage notified federal judges of their intention to seek dismissal of all pending habeas corpus suits. Formal notices to this effect were to be filed this week. Attorneys for the detainees are expected to challenge the Bush administration’s request to dismiss the petitions.

According to the Graham-Levin amendment, in place of habeas corpus petitions detainees will have the “right” to have their cases heard before the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. These proceedings will be limited to a review of the results of military tribunals held at Guantánamo to determine whether they have been properly designated as “enemy combatants” or convicted of military crimes.

Tasia Scolinos, a Justice Department spokesperson, claimed that such reviews would provide ample opportunity for detainees to have their cases heard. “We are aware of no other country that has provided their enemies with such extensive legal review during an ongoing conflict,” Scolinos commented. Such statements are laughable given the rigged nature of the legal proceedings concocted by the Bush administration and the Pentagon to hear the Guantánamo prisoners’ cases.

These military tribunals have been universally denounced by civil liberties advocates and legal counsel for the detainees. They are undisguised kangaroo courts in which panels composed of three military officers determine whether a prisoner is an “enemy combatant.” The detainees are not represented by legal counsel and are often denied access to evidence against them if the tribunal finds this would compromise “national security.” The panels are empowered to hand down death sentences, with the sole proviso that they rule unanimously.

Bush administration efforts to deny all pending and future habeas corpus suits for the Guantánamo prisoners—and the reaffirmation of the military tribunals’ fitness to judge their fate—comes at a time of renewed international criticism of the US prison facility. Manfred Nowak, the United Nations special rapporteur on torture, says there are credible allegations that hunger strikers at the prison in Cuba are being force-fed in a cruel manner.

The number of detainees participating in the hunger strike at Guantánamo has reportedly doubled since December 25, with some 84 inmates now refusing food. Nowak told the BBC that he had received reports of hunger strikers having thick tubes roughly inserted through their noses and forced down their stomachs, resulting in bleeding and vomiting. He cited reports that this procedure was performed at times by prison guards rather than medical personnel.

“If these allegations are true, then this definitely amounts to an additional cruel treatment,” Nowak said.

There are reports that the US may attempt to defuse international criticism over Guantánamo by transferring a number of the 500 detainees at the camp to a refurbished prison in Afghanistan. The Financial Times reports that the US is planning to build a high-security prison near Kabul at the Pol-e-Charkhi jail, a run-down facility dating from the 1980s Soviet occupation.

Citing Western diplomats, the newspaper said that the UN and the European Union have been resisting US plans to turn the facility into a prison for Afghan terror suspects as well as transferred prisoners from Guantánamo, many of whom were captured in Afghanistan in the fall of 2001. The detainees—undoubtedly still denied prisoner of war status by US authorities—would be outside of US jurisdiction and remain in legal limbo.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=11569>

**SOURCE: World Socialist Website**

**January 07, 2006**

**U.S. Says Fewer Hunger Strikers at Guantanamo Bay**

**By Will Dunham**

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The number of Guantanamo Bay prisoners taking part in an ongoing hunger strike has fallen by more than half after a surge in participation that began on Christmas Day, the U.S. military said on Friday.

The military last week said participation in the protest by detainees, believed to be uniformly Muslim, had more than doubled starting on the Christian holiday on December 25, with 46 joining in, bringing the total to 84 by last Thursday.

But 44 of those had since ended their participation, Army Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin, a military spokesman, said by telephone from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, site of the U.S. prison for foreign terrorism suspects.

The Pentagon said the prison housed about 500 detainees, many of whom have been held for nearly four years, all but nine without charges. The hunger strike has been going on since August 8, with fluctuating levels of participation, Martin said.

Lawyers for detainees call the strike a protest of jail conditions and the prisoners' lack of legal rights. The military says it treats the detainees humanely, and says the strike is intended to "elicit media attention and bring pressure on the United States government to release them."

Martin said 32 of the current 40 hunger strikers were being fed through tubes inserted through the nose into the stomach.

He declined to speculate on why so many had stopped taking part in the hunger strike.

Martin said peak participation was on September 11, the fourth anniversary of the al Qaeda attacks on America, when 131 detainees took part in the protest. Human rights lawyers, however, estimate at least 200 were involved at the peak.

Military officials define a hunger striker as a detainee who has refused nine straight meals, and often refer to the strike as a "voluntary fast" and force-feeding as "enteral feeding."

Detainees' lawyers say the strike began in early August after the men accused the military of reneging on promises to bring the prison into compliance with the Geneva Conventions. Detainees are willing to starve themselves to death to demand humane treatment and a fair hearing on whether they must stay, the lawyers said.

Bill Goodman, legal director for the New York-based Centre for Constitutional Rights, which represents many detainees, said restrictions on information from the base made it impossible to know just how many detainees were taking part.

"You can't believe them because they have an interest in trying to purvey this perspective that everything at Guantanamo is fine and everybody is wonderful. In order to do that, they have to say there aren't that many hunger strikers," he said.

Detainees' lawyers have accused the military of violently shoving tubes through the men's noses and into their stomachs without anaesthesia or sedatives as part of the force-feeding process and then hurling religious taunts at them when they vomit up blood. The military has denied allegations of deliberately inflicting suffering in the feeding process.

Most Guantanamo detainees were captured in Afghanistan after U.S. forces invaded to overthrow the Taliban, which was harbouring al Qaeda leaders.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=11581>

**SOURCE: Reuters**

# Guantanamo Bay Force Feeding Raises Painful Memories For Republicans

*(Evan Short, Irelandclick.com)*

Former prisoners of recent British penal history recall the trauma of torture and forced feeding, now happening to Muslim hunger strikers

January 11 marks the fourth anniversary of detainees being held in the US Military Detention Centre in Guantanamo Bay.

In what has become one of the most contentious issues surrounding the so-called war on terror, men and boys who were arrested by the US Army after the invasion of Afghanistan and labelled "unlawful combatants" were transferred to the camp in Cuba.

The UN special rapporteur on torture has revealed that there are allegations that Guantanamo hunger strikers are being force-fed in a cruel manner.

Manfred Nowak's comments came after it emerged that the number of detainees refusing food at the prison camp had more than doubled since December 25.

Some 84 inmates are now refusing food, according to the US military.

But a Pentagon official said there was no evidence that they had been treated in an inappropriate way.

Denied access to a judicial process and forced to live in what human rights groups have described as 'dog kennels' that offer little protection from the elements, prisoners, some believed to be as young as 13, have in the words of Amnesty International been involved in a "travesty of justice".

Such shocking abuses bring back painful memories for New Lodge man Sam Millar. The former republican prisoner – now a major selling author – was the longest man on the blanket protest. He said watching the scenes from the horror camp were extremely distressing.

"When I look at what is going on in Guantanamo Bay and compare it with what happened to us, the parallels are frightening. It is worse than internment what is going on out there."

Sam Millar believes the issue of Guantanamo goes beyond the question of Afghanistan.

"I think there should be absolute outrage at what's going on, but for some reason it just doesn't seem to be a big issue. The way it is portrayed as well, they make you become immune to it."

He said he also fears for ordinary Americans, who he believes will suffer because of the country's policies.

"The telephone transcripts that have been released of the prisoners on the phone would break your heart. I am afraid this will alienate ordinary Americans from the rest of the world because of what their government is doing," he said.

In recent weeks, as we approach the fourth anniversary of the camp opening, chilling new reports have emerged that forced with a growing hunger strike campaign by the detainees, the military has instigated a new regime of force feeding.

Described by the US military as "providing appropriate nutrition through nasal tubes" the grim reality of force feeding was described in detail by Sinn Féin's Gerry Kelly in an interview with the North Belfast News in 2004.

"They press their knuckles into your jaws and press in hard. The way they finally did force feed me was getting forceps and running them up and down my gums," he said.

"I opened my mouth, but I was able to resist after that," said the Sinn Féin man in the interview.

"Then they tried – there's a part of your nose, like a membrane and it's very tender – and they started on that. It's hard to describe the pain. It's like someone pushing a knitting needle into the side of your eye. As soon as I opened my mouth they put in this wooden bit with a hole in the middle for the tube. They rammed it between my teeth and then tied it with cord around my head.

"Then they got paraffin and forced it down the tube. The danger is that every time it happens you think you're going to die. The only things that move are your eyes.

"They get a funnel and put the stuff down."

Affidavits from the prisoners in Guantanamo describe how the torture victims vomited up "substantial amounts of blood" while being fed through their nose.

The US Military has denied that torture takes place in Guantanamo Bay and says there was not truth in the allegations.

However, by admitting to force feeding prisoners for republicans like Gerry Kelly, these words will have a hollow ring to them.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=11577>

SOURCE: Irelandclick.com

**January 08, 2006**

## Omar Khadr Then and Now



***The story of the Khadr family and Omar's childhood is well known. But what has the teenager become after 3 1/2 years in a U.S. camp for suspected terrorists? Journalists will finally get to see him on Wednesday, when the 19-year-old Canadian faces murder charges at a military tribunal***

**MICHELLE SHEPHARD  
STAFF REPORTER**

Omar Khadr was locked behind the wire in the fall of 2002, a 16-year-old brought to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for allegedly throwing a grenade that killed an American soldier in Afghanistan.

How the young Canadian arrived at the Guantanamo camp is well documented. The second-youngest son of Ahmed Said Khadr, a reputed Al Qaeda financier, Omar Khadr is most often recalled as a quiet, dutiful child caught somewhere between his father's fanatical teachings and his experiences growing up on a Canadian diet of action films, potato chips and basketball.

On July 27, 2002, this scrawny teenager was in Afghanistan and somehow survived a lengthy air and ground assault on a suspected Al Qaeda compound near Khost, in barren Paktia province. He is alleged to have lobbed a grenade at the U.S. soldiers who'd approached when they thought all the enemy fighters were dead, mortally wounding Sgt. Christopher Speer, a decorated medic with two toddlers at home.

What's unclear about Omar Khadr is who, at age 19, he has become.

On Wednesday afternoon, barring any last-minute court rulings, Khadr is scheduled to make his initial appearance before a U.S. military tribunal on charges of murder, attempted murder and various conspiracy offences. Although cameras are not permitted in the heavily guarded Guantanamo hearing room, Khadr's lawyers and a pool of international journalists will be allowed to attend.

It will be the first time outsiders can see Canada's only detainee. But through an analysis of Khadr's letters home, declassified lawyers' reports, interviews, court documents and international papers documenting the camp's conditions, there's a hint of what to expect.

"As an amateur observer of the human condition, Mr. (Jim) Gould would describe (Khadr) as a thoroughly 'screwed up' young man. All those persons who have been in positions of authority over him have abused him and his trust, for their own purposes."

— Foreign Affairs Department briefing note detailing a March 2004 Guantanamo Bay visit by Canadian intelligence officer Jim Gould

If Omar Khadr had been transferred to Guantanamo Bay a month earlier, his detention these past three-and-a-half years might have been different. Khadr was 15 when he was captured in July 2002 and taken to the Bagram airbase in Afghanistan. American authorities said he was treated at the base for the three bullet wounds and eye injury he sustained during the battle near Khost.

On Sept. 19, during this incarceration, Khadr turned 16. In October, he was transferred to Guantanamo Bay.

Although 18 is the age that divides the boys from the men, according to international law, in Guantanamo Bay the cut-off age seems to be 16. Detainees aged 13 to 15 were eventually identified and recognized as "juvenile enemy combatants."

Housed separately, these teenagers were given a view of the ocean, a soccer field and videos to watch, including *Cast Away*, starring Tom Hanks — a far cry from the first images of shackled detainees, kneeling and wearing opaque goggles.

Even the young detainees' quarters were given a relatively gentle name: Camp Iguana.

"We're doing our best to give these juvenile enemy combatants options to be able to be integrated back into their societies," Maj.-Gen. Geoffrey Miller, the former commander of detention operations at Guantanamo told *The New York Times* in 2003.

"These despicable terrorists have decided to use younger people as a part of their army. They're the ones who decided to impress, kidnap and force them into services. Their treatment program started the day that they came here. And so, like anyone freed from an intolerable situation, they're returning to what we'd consider normal."

In January 2004, the juveniles were released.

When 16-year-old Khadr came to Gitmo, as the camp is dubbed, he was not regarded as, nor treated as, a juvenile. His lawyers say this was a violation of international laws protecting the rights of children in armed conflicts and they believe Khadr is the first person to be tried for war crimes allegedly committed as a minor.

But Layne Morris, the U.S. soldier who was injured alongside Speer in that 2002 battle, says that Khadr, despite his young age, wasn't really a child the day he was captured.

"I don't think someone with a juvenile mindset would have the ability, after going through what he went through, to want to continue in the fight and be willing to basically give his life to take out one American," Morris said in an interview with the *Toronto Star*.

Morris agrees with the Pentagon's decision not to demand the death sentence if Khadr's convicted of murder, but he does think the military tribunal is fair and believes Khadr should be tried as an adult.

"I don't personally think life (in prison) is too much to ask," he said. "This isn't some kid who's fresh off the farm or out of some village. This is a kid who has spent much of his life traversing the globe ... having to make some very conscious decisions on the type of person he was, and the type of goals he had, and the actions he wanted to take, and I think you don't get that type of thinking from an immature juvenile."

"At some point (Khadr) urinated on the floor and himself. Military police poured pine oil on the floor and on (Khadr), and then, with (Khadr) lying on his stomach and his hands and feet cuffed together behind him, the military police dragged (Khadr) back and forth through the mixture of urine and pine oil."

— Allegations of abuse contained in a December 2004 declassified report by Khadr's lawyer, Muneer Ahmad

Khadr has been housed for the past 39 months at two maximum-security prisons known as Camp Delta and Camp 5, where he has been kept in isolation. His lawyers say he told them during one visit that the confinement was "destroying us slowly."

It is not known just how many intelligence and police agencies have had access to him, but it's safe to assume there were many. Khadr spent part of his childhood with Osama bin Laden and his extended family as neighbours, making him an intelligence treasure trove.

One of the first Canadians Khadr met came armed with a Big Mac and fries — treats that were quickly devoured.

Jim Gould, a long-time Ottawa bureaucrat, went to the camp in 2003 as a representative of the Foreign Affairs Department intelligence division. His meeting wasn't a consular one to determine Khadr's well-being — consular visits weren't permitted by the Americans at the time. Gould was there to collect intelligence and he was accompanied by members of Canada's spy service.

Gould recalls Khadr as being very childish and seemingly unaware of the severity of his situation. Letters the youth wrote to his grandparents in Scarborough around this time had a similar juvenile quality.

"I pray for you very much and don't forgat me from your pray'rs and don't forget to writ me and if ther any problem writ me," Khadr wrote in February 2003.

A year passed and, on March 30, 2004, Gould returned to find what he says was a different person. Gould believed that Khadr had gained a certain status in the camp as the son of a bin Laden associate (his father was killed in a battle with Pakistani forces in October 2003) and was trying to acquire a "tough guy" reputation.

"He had grown up and became less willing to co-operate and more eager to argue the hard line," said Gould, who recently retired from the government and now works as a consultant, in an interview with the Star. Khadr refused Gould's offering of chocolate bars and other outside food, on the second visit.

But Khadr's lawyers have a different opinion on the young man's change in attitude, attributing it instead to Khadr's realization that he was being interrogated, not aided, by the Canadians who visited him.

"Omar advised me that when he was first told these people were Canadians, he thought that someone had finally come to help him," Washington-based lawyer Muneer Ahmad wrote in a court affidavit. "He was therefore very co-operative with these Canadian interrogators at first.

"The Canadian interrogators never asked Omar how he was feeling or how he was holding up, nor did they ever ask him if he wanted to send a message to his family. The Canadian interrogators never advised Omar of his rights."

According to Ahmad, Khadr said the Canadians told him they were powerless. He quoted one official as saying: "The U.S. and Canada are like an elephant and an ant sleeping in the same bed."

Khadr's lawyers allege that he was abused during his interrogations by the Americans and someone who identified himself as an Afghan called Izmarai. Khadr told his lawyers he was left short-shackled to a bolt on the floor for hours, then threatened and taunted during interrogations. He claims he was used one day as a human mop.

Intelligence officials often point out that Al Qaeda members are trained to fabricate claims of torture once incarcerated, to garner media attention and discredit arresting officials. But Khadr's claims are bolstered by internal FBI emails, alleging mistreatment of Gitmo detainees, that were released to the American Civil Liberties Union as a part of a freedom of information request.

In one email, the writer describes seeing a "detainee sitting on the floor of the interview room with an Israeli flag draped around him, loud music being played and a strobe light flashing."

In another email, the writer reports witnessing prisoners in soiled clothing, chained to the floor in the fetal position, with no food or water.

Psychiatric reports commissioned by Khadr's lawyers and based on their questions to him early last year conclude that Khadr had mental disorders and was at risk of suicide.

There were also numerous reports mentioning Khadr as one of the high-profile detainees who staged periodic hunger strikes in 2004 and last year. During the strike, he was hospitalized and, according to a diary kept by one of the detainees, was seen coughing up blood.

"I think the hunger strike is really when he hit bottom, pretty much when he lost hope in the ability of anybody to do anything for any of them," said his lawyer, Rick Wilson, who has visited Khadr on five occasions.

But Canada's spy service appears to dismiss any connection between the conditions of Khadr's detainment and his mental state.

"This is not the first time Omar Khadr has been reported to be `suicidal,' states a June 2005 report by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, obtained by the Star through Access to Information legislation. CSIS notes in a section entitled "service comment" that there were reports to the media by the American soldiers who captured Khadr, that he begged to be killed.

"(T)he TV isn't good and make us do bad things so if you can get red of it or something and you say you feel sade and not happy and problem bitwen you it's because the TV try and take it out and you will see the results very soon."

— From a May 2005 letter from Khadr to his mother Maha Elsamnah

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Khadr is the fourth of six children born to Egyptian-Canadian Ahmed Said Khadr and his wife, Maha Elsamnah. They're a family that has garnered international attention.

Born Sept. 19, 1986, in Toronto, Omar lived here for four years, before beginning a childhood shuttling between Scarborough, Peshawar, Pakistan and Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

His father said his life was one devoted to charity work, but intelligence officials say the senior Khadr was providing funds and logistics for bin Laden's terrorism network.

Last month, American authorities charged Khadr's eldest brother, Abdullah, with criminal offences relating to terrorism.

Abdullah Khadr, 24, is being held in a Toronto jail while he fights extradition to the United States. His next court appearance is scheduled for Tuesday — the day before Omar faces his.

Then, there's Abdurahman Khadr, the 22-year-old self-appointed black sheep of the family, who denounced his father's teachings and briefly worked for the CIA as an informant after being captured by American forces.

He now lives in a Scarborough apartment with youngest brother, Karim Khadr, who was paralyzed in the fire that killed their father, and Zaynab, the eldest sister, who is under investigation by the RCMP. Their mother also lives with them since returning from Pakistan in 2004, as does youngest sister, Maryam.

Khadr addressed a letter home last May to "Dear and Best Mother," drawing a heart in the upper left corner alongside "MOM" in a bubble script.

"I hope you are good and in good health and hi spirit and in happy mood I hope all this is with you all the time because every thing is good for the Muslim," Khadr wrote in a page-long letter without punctuation and littered with spelling and grammatical errors. Only 18 at the time, he offers advice for his mother on how to handle Abdurahman.

He tells her not to be sad.

Khadr's lawyers believe he has acquired a better grasp on what was going on at the camp, and appears to be more stable, since being moved to less restrictive quarters late last year.

One court document notes that Khadr leads the prayers in his cellblock.

Wilson last met with his client in October and noted how much taller Khadr had grown and the "sparse facial hair" he was sprouting.

"He's a very smart kid and very perceptive about what's going on in the world. But he's quite susceptible to influence from others."

Wednesday's proceedings will be the first of many steps involving complex legal arguments.

There's no doubt, given the allegations that he killed an American soldier, Khadr is a detainee the Pentagon wants to keep locked up.

Layne Morris, who now lives in Utah after having to leave the military due to his injury, will not be in Guantanamo next week but expects to face Khadr at some later tribunal date.

He stands by his assessment of Khadr: "He killed a good man who left behind a wife and two children who are never going to know their father and I think there needs to be a severe punishment for that."

But the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a challenge of the constitutionality of the tribunals this year and will likely rule before Khadr eventually gets to trial.

Then, there's his age. Khadr's lawyers plan to vigorously contest trying someone who was arrested as a minor and last week asked the United Nations to get involved in their protest.

"He has had to be with adults this entire time and he has had to prove himself in some ways because of his age and I think he has adjusted his behaviour in that sense. But he's still a child," said Wilson.

The last time Wilson was in Guantanamo Bay, Khadr asked if he would bring him some magazines with new model cars.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=11593>

**SOURCE: The Toronto Star**

## Scandal of Force-Fed Prisoners

### **Hunger strikers are tied down and fed through nasal tubes, admits Guantánamo Bay doctor**

**David Rose**

New details have emerged of how the growing number of prisoners on hunger strike at Guantánamo Bay are being tied down and force-fed through tubes pushed down their nasal passages into their stomachs to keep them alive.

They routinely experience bleeding and nausea, according to a sworn statement by the camp's chief doctor, seen by The Observer.

'Experience teaches us' that such symptoms must be expected 'whenever nasogastric tubes are used,' says the affidavit of Captain John S Edmondson, commander of Guantánamo's hospital. The procedure - now standard practice at Guantánamo - 'requires that a foreign body be inserted into the body and, ideally, remain in it.' But staff always use a lubricant, and 'a nasogastric tube is never inserted and moved up and down. It is inserted down into the stomach slowly and directly, and it would be impossible to insert the wrong end of the tube.' Medical personnel do not insert nasogastric tubes in a manner 'intentionally designed to inflict pain.'

It is painful, Edmondson admits. Although 'non-narcotic pain relievers such as ibuprofen are usually sufficient, sometimes stronger drugs,' including opiates such as morphine, have had to be administered.

Thick, 4.8mm diameter tubes tried previously to allow quicker feeding, so permitting guards to keep prisoners in their cells for more hours each day, have been abandoned, the affidavit says. The new 3mm tubes are 'soft and flexible'.

The London solicitors Allen and Overy, who represent some of the hunger strikers, have lodged a court action to be heard next week in California, where Edmondson is registered to practise. They are asking for an order that the state medical ethics board investigate him for 'unprofessional conduct' for agreeing to the force-feeding.

Edmondson's affidavit, in response to a lawsuit on behalf of detainees on hunger strike since last August, was obtained last week by The Observer, as a Guantánamo spokesman confirmed that the number of hunger strikers has almost doubled since Christmas, to 81 of the 550 detainees. Many have been held since the camp opened four years ago this

month, although they not been charged with any crime, nor been allowed to see any evidence justifying their detention.

This and other Guantánamo lawsuits now face extinction. Last week, President Bush signed into law a measure removing detainees' right to file habeas corpus petitions in the US federal courts. On Friday, the administration asked the Supreme Court to make this retroactive, so nullifying about 220 cases in which prisoners have contested the basis of their detention and the legality of pending trials by military commission.

Although some prisoners have had to be tied down while being force-fed, 'only one patient' has had to be immobilised with a six-point restraint, and 'only one' passed out. 'In less than 10 cases have trained medical personnel had to use four-point restraint in order to achieve insertion.' Edmondson claims the actual feeding is voluntary. During Ramadan, tube-feeding takes place before dawn.

Article 5 of the 1975 World Medical Association Tokyo Declaration, which US doctors are legally bound to observe through their membership of the American Medical Association, states that doctors must not undertake force-feeding under any circumstances. Dr David Nicholl, a consultant neurologist at Queen Elizabeth's hospital in Birmingham, is co-ordinating opposition to the Guantánamo doctors' actions from the international medical community. 'If I were to do what Edmondson describes in his statement, I would be referred to the General Medical Council and charged with assault,' he said.

· Yesterday the new German Chancellor Angela Merkel became the latest leader to condemn the United States for practices at the prison. In a magazine interview days before her first visit as premier to the US, Merkel said Washington should close Guantánamo and find other ways of dealing with terror suspects.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=11586>

**SOURCE: The Observer**