

PRESS RELEASE

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Guantanamo Bay Prisoner Sues U.S. to Get a Bible

The government says certain books are withheld because they could 'incite' inmates.

By Richard A. Serrano, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — At the U.S. prison for suspected terrorists at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, everyone can get a Koran, but no one gets a Bible.

Saifullah Paracha, a 58-year-old former Pakistani businessman with alleged ties to Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, has been in U.S. custody since 2003. Like the other inmates at Guantanamo Bay, he has a copy of the Koran. But he also wants an English translation of the King James version of the Bible.

Paracha believes that because the Bible is one of the scriptures accepted in Islam, he is entitled to a copy to read in his small wire-mesh cell. But after his lawyer shipped him a Bible, along with two volumes of Shakespeare, prison officials confiscated the package.

Paracha's American lawyer filed suit in U.S. District Court in Washington, demanding that Paracha be given the Bible and copies of "Hamlet" and "Julius Caesar." The government responded that certain books were kept from prisoners because they could "incite" them.

Whether the Bible or the Koran, prayer might seem appropriate for Paracha. The allegations against him are serious.

The government contends that through his international packaging company, Paracha conspired to ship chemical components to the United States to help set off an attack by Al Qaeda terrorists. His son Uzair Paracha, 25, is on trial in New York on charges that he tried to help an Al Qaeda operative enter the country and plan the intended attack.

The son, if convicted, faces as much as 75 years in prison. The father could receive a life sentence. Both men insist they are innocent.

At his status review hearing last year, Saifullah Paracha conceded that he had met Bin Laden socially, and that the terrorist leader had given him a copy of the Koran.

"He was a prophet," Paracha said.

The practice of religion has been a sore point for the Guantanamo Bay detainees.

This year, tempers flared and hunger strikes were launched over allegations that copies of the Koran had been desecrated at the prison by U.S. guards. One account alleged that a Koran was flushed down a toilet. The U.S. government denied the report, but it set off riots in Muslim countries.

Paracha's Washington lawyer, Gaillard T. Hunt, said he met with Paracha in September and learned that his client had "been in solitary confinement with very little communication with anyone for most of the last year. I learned that he has been requesting a Bible. From my general knowledge, I knew that the Bible (the Old and New Testaments) is accepted in Islam as one of their holy texts, so I interpreted this as a religious request."

On Sept. 30, Hunt said, he purchased a Bible and mailed it, still in the publisher's shrink-wrap cover, to a chaplain at the naval base. He included a cover letter explaining it was for Prisoner No. 1094, at Paracha's request. Also in the package were the two plays and an English dictionary.

When Hunt visited in October, Paracha told him nothing had arrived. Hunt said one of the military lawyers "explained to me that Paracha would not be allowed to have a Bible, as that would violate prison policy."

Last week, a government lawsuit filed in response said none of the more than 500 prisoners was permitted special treatment.

Government lawyers said Paracha had not shown that the practice of his religion had been "substantially burdened" because he did not have a copy of the Bible.

They also argued that letting Paracha have a Bible would set off a "chain reaction" among the other 170 detainees who are suing the government in Washington courts, asking for relief from prison through some sort of court hearing.

Although a judge has not sorted out the dispute, the prison has recently "cleared for release" the Shakespeare plays. But still no Bible for Paracha.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=10772>

SOURCE: LA Times

Is This Your America?

By Nat Hentoff, Village Voice.

Guantánamo prisoners in federal court are protesting their "humane treatment."

Jumah Dossari has been imprisoned at Guantánamo for nearly four years without charges or access to his family, in nearly complete isolation. On October 15, he tried to hang himself in his cell, timing the attempt so that an outsider might see him dangling in a makeshift noose, his last message to the world. Dossari has more or less survived. (Military officials confirm that in the last few months, there have been at least 36 suicide attempts.)

While he was being revived, other prisoners at Guantánamo, who are being force-fed because they are on a hunger strike in desperation, like Dossari's, had their cases heard against "George W. Bush, et al.," in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

I have seen many stories on the hunger strikers in the national and international press; but the clearest account I know, vividly detailing what George W. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld keep describing as the "humane" treatment of prisoners at Gitmo, is in Judge Gladys Kessler's decision on these cases in the D.C. District Court.

The prisoners are asking for a writ of habeas corpus challenging the government to prove the legality of their being held at the U.S. naval base. There have been hunger strikes at Guantánamo before; and this most recent one—according to the petitioners' lawyers—included between 131 to 210 "detainees" of the 500 in prison. The Defense Department's statistics are reluctant and changeable, so that count may be larger.

At least 20 of the "detainees" claim they are being "forcibly subjected to involuntary medical intervention via the introduction of intravenous fluids or nasocentric (nasal) tube feeding."

In her memorandum opinion, Judge Kessler quoted a declaration by Julia Tarver, the counsel for three of the petitioners. It was submitted to the court after she had visited her clients at Guantánamo from September 30 to October 2 of this year.

Julia Tarver wrote that during the forced feeding of Yousef Al Shehri, as the tubes were inserted "through [his] nose, down the throat, and into the stomach, Al Shehri was given no sedative for the procedure; instead, two soldiers restrained him—one holding his chin while the other held him back by his hair and a medical staff member forcefully inserted the tube in his nose and down his throat. . . . He could not speak for two days [and] he could not sleep because of the severe pain." Judge Kessler wrote that "the procedure caused him and other detainees to vomit 'substantial amounts of blood.' "

In a different prison location, where there was a hole in the floor in which to urinate, thicker tubes were inserted into prisoners' noses; and when one was removed from Al Shehri's nose, Julia Tarver wrote (in another passage quoted by Judge Kessler), "blood came gushing out of him. He fainted, and several of the other detainees almost lost consciousness."

Further indicating that the "humane treatment" the president continually pledges is mandated in the cells at Guantánamo, Yousef Al Shehri also said, according to Julia Tarver's account, that "in front of Guantánamo physicians—including the head of the detainees hospital—the guards took NG tubes from one detainee, and with no sanitation

whatsoever , re-inserted it into the nose of a different detainee." (Emphasis in original.) The passage continued: "The detainees could see the blood and stomach bile from other detainees remaining on the tubes."

Judge Kessler then wrote: "Petitioners assert that because of this needlessly cruel and painful treatment, Al Shehri 'can no longer walk.' " The judge further quoted from Tarver's account: "He lost some of his vision, and he is vomiting every day. . . . He has severe headaches and great pain in his ear. He is only able to urinate once every few days. . . . He has given his last will and testament, as he fully anticipates that he is going to die."

Some years ago, I was in Judge Gladys Kessler's courtroom and admired the crisp decisiveness of her judicial temperament. Therefore, I was not surprised that in her ruling on these cases, she noted that the government, in its response to these charges, "pointed out that thus far, 'no one has died.' "

Said Judge Kessler: "It goes without saying that this Court need not wait to issue injunctive relief until a detainee has died."

She went on: "The court concludes that Petitioners have provided sufficient facts . . . to establish that the threat of death or serious physical deterioration is real and imminent, and that Petitioners have satisfied the requirement of facing irreparable harm unless injunctive relief is granted."

Kessler's conclusion was that these prisoners have a right to challenge their detentions, as the Supreme Court ruled; and to have meaningful access to their lawyers and the Court.

Moreover, from now on, the government must inform the prisoners' lawyers "within 24 hours of the commencement of any forced feeding." And the government must provide "medical records spanning the period beginning one week prior to the date forced feeding commenced," and must also continue providing medical records, "at a minimum, on a weekly basis until forced feeding concludes."

Meanwhile, Manfred Nowak, the U.N.'s special rapporteur on torture, has asked Donald Rumsfeld for permission to bring a team of U.N. human rights investigators to Guantánamo to interview the prisoners. Rumsfeld said they could come, but could not see the "detainees" privately. Nowak, refusing to come, said mordantly, "He said they have nothing to hide." Ah, but Rumsfeld is allowing an International Committee of the Red Cross delegation to have private meetings with the prisoners. That, said Nowak, is because Red Cross investigators cannot declare their findings publicly. The U.N. team can.

Rumsfeld says of the hunger strike that these "detainees" are merely "fasting" for brief periods in rotation with each other.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=10761>

SOURCE: Altnet

November 23, 2005

Four Former Gitmo Detainees Stay in Jail

'Two worked against US interests'

KUWAIT CITY: The Detention Renewal Judge Tuesday renewed the detention of four of the five Kuwaiti men, who were released from Guantanamo camp recently, for 15 days. The four men are Mohammad Al-Dihani, Saad Al-Ajmi, Adel Al-Zamil and Abdullah Al-Ajmi. The fifth, AbdulAziz Al-Shimmari is on a hunger strike at the Central Prison. He will be summoned by the Detention Judge on Saturday. Al-Dihani, who was questioned by the Public Prosecution Tuesday, denied the charge against him. Attorney Mubarak Al-Shimmari attended the session.

KUWAIT CITY: High level Foreign Ministry sources quoting officials from the US administration said the US government has expressed reservations about the release of two Kuwaiti detainees from the Guantanamo X-ray Camp because there is some evidence that the men were involved in attacks against US interests, reports Al-Anba daily. Meanwhile, during interrogation with the Public Prosecution one of the Guantanamo detainees, identified only as Al-

Ajmi, and who returned to Kuwait after serving time on the Cuban island, told interrogators he was in Pakistan to teach the Holy Quran and had never been to Afghanistan.

By Moamen Al-Masri - Arab Times Staff

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=10784>

SOURCE: Arab Times

November 24, 2005

UN Envoy: No Doubt US Hides Truth about Guantanamo

BERLIN: The United Nations envoy who investigates torture allegations said the United States has "something to hide" at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, the German weekly Die Zeit reported in its latest edition.

Special Rapporteur Manfred Nowak is investigating "serious allegations" against the United States in relation to the controversial military prison at Guantanamo in Cuba, the weekly said in its edition dated Thursday.

The UN this month turned down an invitation to inspect Guantanamo, saying there was no point because the US authorities would not allow UN officials free access to detainees there. Die Zeit said Nowak was "convinced" that the US authorities were hiding something about the facility.

The US government has been sharply criticised for conditions at Guantanamo, where around 500 detainees are being held. Most of them were captured after a US-led offensive toppled the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in late 2001.

The weekly quoted a report from the US State Department that defends living conditions at the detention camp, saying detainees live in "air-conditioned cells", have "family-style dinners" and are able to take fresh air and even play board games and football.

But Die Zeit said former prisoners of Guantanamo paint a starkly different picture of the camp, claiming they have been tortured. The weekly said it has obtained a copy of a letter from a detainee dated November 2 claiming that prisoners on hunger strike were tied to their beds and force-fed by a tube through their noses. "No independent inspector sees what happens here," the detainee wrote

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=10799>

SOURCE: IQNA.ir

Wife of Gitmo Detainee Vows Hunger Strike

DIZDAREVIC: PEOPLE FROM BiH ARE RECEIVING THE WORST TREATMENT IN GUANTANAMO

SARAJEVO, November 24 (FENA) – Nada Dizdarevic, wife of one of the members of the so-called "Algerian group" detained in the US military base Guantanamo, Cuba, sent an open letter and appeal to BiH institutions to urgently request the release of her husband and other men "who are in the casemate called Guantanamo for the fourth year".

She warned that any delay would represent a guaranteed loss of these people who live in abnormal conditions and whose lives are constantly in danger.

Dizdarevic said that she has just returned from London where she attended a four-day conference on the violation of human rights in the fight against terrorism organised by the British Amnesty International. She added that people who were released from Guantanamo also spoke at the conference.

She said that their testimonies were some of the most horrific things ever heard.

"The worst thing is that they all agree that people brought from BiH are being treated the worst and that they cannot sleep at night because of their painful screams from torture which they suffer on a daily basis", Dizdarevic wrote in the letter.

In her last appeal to institutions to start talks on taking over the prisoners Dizdarevic warned that if no action is taken in ten days she would be forced to start a hunger strike, which she would not stop until concrete action on releasing her husband is taken.

"The state will be responsible for taking care of my four children who were unrightfully taken their father and judging by things the state will with its negligence also kill their mother", Dizdarevic wrote.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=10821>

SOURCE: FENA.BA

November 26, 2005

An Innocent Man in the Hell of Guantánamo



By Sara Daniel

Le Nouvel Observateur

He's forgotten nothing of the pain, the humiliation, the solitude. American investigators took a year to clear him. And another year to free him. Beyond the revolting injustice to which he was victim, former journalist Bader Zaman denounces the arbitrariness of American detention centers.

He suffers from hypermnesia. It's twelve months since Bader Zaman was released from Guantánamo prison, but he remembers every detail of his detention. Not only the pain, the humiliation, the solitude, but also little things: dogs' breath, the scrape of the razor against his eyebrows, the accent of the creep who cried out over the megaphone to the other soldiers: "Don't show any sympathy for the terrorists!" He can't forget anything. Today he is free. The Americans have cleared him of all accusations against him. Yet, in Peshawar, this former journalist's liberty still remains under tight surveillance. A few weeks ago, ISI (Pakistani Secret Service) agents came back to see him again. He received them calmly: "What do I have to fear from you now? Have you found a worse hell on the earth than the one you've already thrown me into?"

To meet Bader Zaman, one must dive into the alleys of Old Peshawar. The 35-year-old journalist, who looks ten years older, has transformed himself into a trader in precious stones since his liberation. In a dark little room in the middle of the rubber tire souk, he holds his stock of lapis-lazuli from Afghanistan. Meeting a foreign woman is just not done in this city controlled by Islamists, but Bader Zaman insists on bearing witness. He doesn't really resent the Americans. According to him, the party responsible for his Calvary is the Pakistani Secret Service, which he intends to sue. "I spent two months and twenty-two days in Peshawar prison, fourteen days at Bagram, two months and eight days in Kandahar and two years and four months in Guantánamo, solely because I denounced their practices."

When he was a very young man, Bader and his brother belonged to an Afghan religious organization close to Bin Laden and al-Qaeda that fought the Soviet occupation in Afghanistan. He resigned from it in 1987 to protest that organization's links with the Pakistani Secret Services. Later, he who had never touched a weapon denounced the Taliban's obscurantism in his newspaper and described them as puppets of the Pakistani Secret Services. "So they sold me to the Americans. A current practice right after the American offensive in Afghanistan," he explains. "For them, it was just a question of keeping the Americans busy with false suspects. They never stopped playing the international community."

The journalist knows the stories of all the detainees who occupied neighboring cells in Guantánamo. He mentions the taxi driver sold for \$5000: "The Pakistanis had just made a raid to find Arabs close to al-Qaeda and hadn't found anybody, so they arrested him. The officer who sold him to the Americans told him: 'Look here, it's worth it to sell people like you to keep the Americans from coming to make war on Pakistan...'" He says the taxi driver is still at Guantánamo.

According to Bader, less than 20% of the detainees presently in the American prison in Cuba are real "bad guys" or Taliban officials like Mullah Fazel. But it was the Kandahar and Bagram detention centers in Afghanistan that left him with the worst memories. For twenty-four days, he was shut up in a container. Then he was forbidden to wash for three months. With a light on at all times, too tight ligatures that cut into his arms and legs, tortures. At Bagram, he saw prisoners being kicked across the ground, others hung by their hands. He also saw offenses to the Koran, which he says was the normal practice in the Kandahar detention center. It was there, by the way, that he saw the guards throw the sacred book into a bucket that was used to empty toilets.

When he arrived at Guantánamo in May 2002, Bader was placed in solitary for over a year. In the prison in Cuba, there were no physical tortures. "The prisoners frequently attacked the guards. I saw them bite Americans!" But they tried to crack the detainees morally. Like when one of the female guards touched one of them on the face, her hand smudged with what she claimed was menstrual blood - testimony corroborated by one of the Guantánamo investigators, Sergeant Erik Saar, who included that episode in a book.

For Bader, after long months of despair in which he kept repeating the same story about the Pakistani Secret Services to people who didn't want to hear any of it, the climax came. "At the end of the interrogations, Federal agents finished by telling me they didn't have anything on me. That I was cleared. But after that, I had to wait another year before leaving Guantánamo. Such a long year!

After that, the conditions of Bader's detention loosened up. He was transferred to Camp 4, a camp for prisoners who "collaborate." He traded his orange overall for a white tunic, and picnics were even organized so the prisoners could see the sea. "We were transported in a closed ambulance, chained to one another. Then we were placed between rows of barbed wire near the water. I remember seeing a ship on the sea."

Bader Zaman has only one good memory from Guantánamo: that's the arrival of his mortal enemy, the one who acted as intermediary for the Pakistani Secret Services to sell him to the Americans - who was himself, in fact, close to al-Qaeda - in the neighboring cell. All the prisoners who knew the truth booed the man. He lowered his head. "That day, I knew that I had been believed, that I could hope to leave that hell. The one who handed me over, he's still there, in the Guantánamo jail...

Who Are the Guantánamo Detainees?

The Guantánamo detention center numbers 500 detainees who, for the most part, were captured in Afghanistan in the autumn of 2001. Among the prisoners, one may find, for example, Mullah Fazel, former Taliban Defense minister, but also people who had the misfortune of finding themselves in the wrong place, like Wazir Mohamed, a taxi driver whose case Amnesty International is defending. The seven French citizens detained in the American prison have all been freed and five of them are now in prison in France. Washington continues to liberate dozens of detainees to - as Pierre Prosper, the diplomat in charge of negotiating these transfers, puts it - "share the burden" with their home countries.

The "gulag of our era," according to the shock formula used by Amnesty in its report on Guantánamo, continues to be the object of much indignation and controversy embarrassing to the American government. Washington is engaged in an arm-wrestling contest with the UN, representatives of which want to meet with all the detainees to investigate accusations of torture. The Pentagon has been forced to adjourn the trial of "Australian Taliban" David Hicks to conform to a judge's decision that the Supreme Court pronounce beforehand on the legality of exceptional military tribunals.

The CIA's Secret Prisons

Has the CIA established a network of clandestine detention centers spread across more than ten countries so they may interrogate supposed terrorists without legal or moral constraints? The "Washington Post" revealed the existence of several secret prisons in Eastern Europe. Since then, the list of countries that supposedly collaborate with the American authorities has continued to grow: Thailand, Morocco, Norway, Sweden, Italy, and Spain have been accused of harboring these centers or tolerating prisoners' transit through their territory. But up until now, only the Czech Republic has admitted rejecting an American request to implant a prison for detainees coming out of the Guantánamo base.

This network of detention centers would have been created in the months following September 11, when the idea of "prison ships" was abandoned by the CIA for "security and logistical" reasons. Then a "black site" with the code

name "Salt Mine" was put in place in Afghanistan. And the CIA supposedly also closed a secret dungeon at Guantánamo.

According to the "Washington Post," there are a hundred ghost prisoners. The organization Human Rights Watch - which called them the "desaparecidos" (the disappeared), in reference to the victims of Latin American dictatorships - mentions 40 people detained in secret in its October 2004 report. For several months, voices have been raised within the CIA itself to contest the legality, and above all, the effectiveness of such prisons.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=10836>

SOURCE: Truthout

I Was Sad To Leave My Friends Behind

By KANWAL HAMEED

YOU would think that 24-year-old Abdulla Majid Al Nuaimi would have been happy to leave behind the infamous high-security prison at Guantanamo Bay, which has been his home for the best part of four years.

However, he said he was actually sad to leave the notorious US military base, in Cuba, because he did not want to leave his fellow inmates behind.

He also described how another Bahraini detainee still at the prison, Salah Abdul Rasool Al Blooshi, said he was happy that Mr Al Nuaimi was being let out instead of him.

"There was a part of me that wanted to leave, but there was a part of me that was sad to leave my friends and brothers there," said Mr Al Nuaimi, who was speaking in an exclusive interview with the GDN.

"Salah I met before leaving the island the same night and I said goodbye

to him.

"He was happy for me, happy that I was going out instead of him."

But although Mr Al Nuaimi knew he was being released, he said his ordeal in captivity did not end until the moment he stepped off the plane that brought him to Bahrain.

He claimed he was denied a shower on his last day in captivity, was not allowed to use the toilet in private on the plane, had his ankles and wrists shackled with handcuffs chained to his waist during the journey and made to wear goggles to block his vision and hearing.

Mr Al Nuaimi, whose family lives in West Riffa, estimated the trip from Guantanamo Bay took around 24 hours.

He said the long journey home began when he was taken to an isolated block at the prison and informed of his pending release, but was asked by a government lawyer to sign a contract of conditions.

"They first took me from the block I was in to another camp in isolation," he said.

"A major who is a military lawyer came in with cameras.

"He told me that I was going home and that I had been detained as an enemy combatant.

"Then he said: 'We don't say that you are one, but that was the reason that you stayed here. And now, for you to go home we need you to sign this form of conditions'."

Mr Al Nuaimi said the contract gave the US government permission to arrest him "at any time in any place" if it believed he was helping a terrorist organisation.

"The form said I would no more help Al Qaeda, the Taliban or any other terrorist group and if I do so the US government can detain me again at any time or any place," he said.

"After reading it, I refused to sign, but they kept telling me it would be better for me to sign.

"I told them they could say at any time that I am a terrorist and take me. The way they picked me up was the way they were going to let me go.

"I said: 'If you are so afraid of me just leave me here - otherwise let me out as a normal person. It's like you're trying to make me say I was helping Al Qaeda and the Taliban and that I will not any more'.

"I told them that they didn't give me a form when they picked me up - why didn't they ask me these questions and give me the form in the first place, instead of leaving me there for four years?

"They kept arguing and trying to convince me, but I didn't accept."

Mr Al Nuaimi said during his final day at the prison, he was refused permission to take a shower and eventually resorted to taking a shower in his cell.

Ordeal

"On the night before coming home, I needed a bath because I couldn't pray before I bathed," he said.

"But when I asked the guard, they refused to let me have a shower. They said 'today is not the day for showers'.

"I said: 'Are you trying to fight my religion? You're stopping me from praying because you're stopping me from showering'.

"All human beings need showers every day. There's no such thing as 'this is not a shower day'.

"So I had to take a shower in my cell, getting everything wet."

The detainees were taken by bus from the prison, wearing civilian clothes, to an airport where they boarded a plane.

Because of a mistake by the guards, Mr Al Nuaimi said he saw male and female army personnel on the plane.

However, he said he was quickly made to face the wall and goggles blocking his vision and hearing were placed on his head.

"They made me sit on a seat and they fixed me with a belt that wouldn't let me move - as if I was going to fly away," he said.

"I stayed there for the whole trip, for maybe 24 hours."

Mr Al Nuaimi said he did not eat or drink throughout the flight because he could not use the toilet, which he said detainees were being forced to do in front of cameras and under observation.

After asking, Mr Al Nuaimi said he was taken to the toilet by guards, but claimed he was being photographed and watched.

He said he could see flashes of light reflected off the lenses of his goggles coming from the side of the plane where he had previously seen people sitting.

"I felt like my bladder was going to explode," he said.

"The people were in front of me and they wanted me to go to the toilet in front of everyone.

"I yelled: 'Do you think that we are animals?'

"I could see the flashes starting again, so I said: 'Take me back to my seat'."

He was asked if he wanted to eat and said he was told to drink water, but refused because he could not use the toilet.

"A female brought me some water and tried to force me to drink it," he said.

"I refused, so she spilt it on my chest. It (the water) was freezing cold."

After being urged by a doctor on board, Mr Al Nuaimi said he agreed to use the toilet if he was provided with cover.

He described the toilet as being similar to open-front stalls that are commonly used for outdoor showers.

Mr Al Nuaimi said that when he was in the toilet, he bent slightly to pull his goggles down and saw that he was being watched over the top of the blanket.

That is when he asked to be returned to his seat.

In addition, he claimed that detainees were assaulted during the flight.

"Throughout the whole journey, every five or 10 minutes, soldiers would come up and jump on us with their full weight, pulling the shackles on our legs and checking our hands," he said.

"They claimed they wanted to be sure we were not going to escape and that we were secured."

When he asked for tissue to wipe his eyes when they started watering, he said he was at first allowed, but later refused for "security reasons".

In addition, he said that the guards were unable to take off the detainees' handcuffs when they got here because there was a problem with the keys.

"They are professionals at putting people in cages, but don't know how to let them out," he said.

Mr Al Nuaimi said chain-cutters had to be brought on to the plane to remove the cuffs, which he said was painful.

"The guy before me I heard screaming in pain," he said.

"They came to me next. They tried to cut the lock and I could feel something sharp on my fingers - very sharp, like a blade.

"I faintly heard someone laughing and saying 'look at his fingers'. I felt the blade and I moved my fingers.

"They cut the lock, but the cutter broke. When it broke, I felt the metal hit my wrist and my leg - I got a cut on my wrist.

"Then they said 'bring a new one, a bigger one' and they brought it."

Mr Al Nuaimi said he asked the guards to cut the chains instead of the locks because they were made of lighter metal, but was told that they "need the chains".

"I thought who told you I don't need my fingers?" he said.

Mr Al Nuaimi returned to Bahrain on November 5 with fellow former detainees Adel Kamel Hajee and Shaikh Salman Al Khalifa.

Other Bahraini detainees still at Guantanamo Bay are Salah Abdul Rasool Al Blooshi, Essa Al Murbati and Juma Al Dossary.

However, Mr Al Nuaimi said his ordeal only truly ended when he saw his family waiting to meet him upon arrival in Bahrain. "I just saw my father and then my family all at once - it felt like home," he said

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=10838>

SOURCE: Gulf Daily News

Farewell Permission Denied

RELEASED Guantanamo Bay detainee Abdulla Majid Al Nuaimi said he was only allowed to meet one of three Bahrainis still being held at the prison before he left.

He said he was allowed to see Salah Abdul Rasool Al Blooshi, but was not given permission to say goodbye to Essa Al Murbati.

When he asked for permission to meet Mr Al Murbati before leaving, he said officers did not give him "any attention".

He also said it had been a long time since he met fellow Bahraini Juma Al Dossary. "I heard that they said he tried to kill himself, but I don't believe this.

"The US government can get rid of anyone over there, hang him and say that he killed himself."

He described one occasion when a Saudi detainee was allegedly beaten unconscious at night by guards, who turned off the lights so that nobody could see what was happening.

"It was New Year 2002," he said. "There was a guy from Saudi Arabia in isolation. The guards turned the lights off and started banging on the doors, going in cell by cell beating detainees.

"Then, all of a sudden, they turned the lights on and they found someone unconscious.

"They claimed he was hanged from his neck and that they took him down."

He claimed an investigation team made up of "men in white" came in to find out what had happened. Mr Al Nuaimi accused it of being a cover-up to justify US claims that the man attempted suicide.

"He can't walk any more," he said. "He said he doesn't remember trying to hang himself."

When asked about the condition of the Bahraini detainees still at Guantanamo Bay, he said they were "in general okay."

"My point is they could do anything to Juma and others. But if they claim prisoners have human rights, they shouldn't be so scared to let people see what's going on in there."

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=10839>

SOURCE: Gulf Daily News