

PRESS RELEASE

August 26, 2005

89 Prisoners Resume Hunger Strike at Guantanamo

**Detainees say US military broke July pact
By Charlie Savage, Globe Staff**

WASHINGTON -- New tensions between Guantanamo Bay detainees and the US military have prompted 89 prisoners to resume a hunger strike that so far has left seven hospitalized, a spokesman for the military operation confirmed yesterday.

The prisoners, protesting their living conditions and their continued detention without trials, had undertaken a widespread hunger strike that ended in July. Word that the hunger strike had resumed was disclosed yesterday by Clive Stafford Smith, a British human rights lawyer who returned from visiting clients at the base a week ago.

Smith warned that many detainees have grown so desperate that they intend to starve themselves to death in an effort to create a public relations disaster for the US military. No detainee has died at the prison since it opened in January 2002, but, in the view of lawyers who have talked to clients, there have been signs of extreme frustration this summer.

According to Smith's newly declassified notes, his client Binyam Mohammed, a British refugee from Ethiopia, told him on Aug. 11 that many among the prison population had decided to resume their hunger strike. The decision was sparked by rumors of a violent interrogation session and two rough extractions of detainees from their cells, as well as a new incident of alleged desecration of a copy of the Koran, the Muslim holy book.

The detainees viewed the rumors as a violation of an agreement struck at the end of July to bring an end to the hunger strike, Smith said. Meeting with detainee representatives, the military had promised a series of improvements to living conditions if they would start eating again.

"They have betrayed our trust," Smith's declassified notes quote Mohammed as saying. "Therefore the strike must begin again. Some have already begun. . . . I do not plan to stop until I either die or we are respected. People will definitely die."

Army Colonel Brad Blackner, a spokesman for the prison operation, confirmed yesterday that "detainees began fasting to protest their continued detention" on Aug. 8. He said the military views this as a continuation of the July hunger strike, not a new one.

"We are monitoring some detainees who have missed at least nine meals over a 72-hour period, which we define as a hunger strike," Blackner said.

Smith was the last attorney to return from Guantanamo because the military did not allow any detainee representatives to visit the base last week. He represents several dozen detainees, but only his notes of his conversation with Mohammed have been partially declassified. "This is all that is unclassified for now, but you can imagine that there is much more," he said. "This is very urgent, as you can infer from the statement that if they stopped eating on Aug. 11 or so, this means that some of them could be getting in serious physical problems by the next week or so."

But Blackner said that the prison had dealt with hunger strikes regularly since the start, and that medical staff were closely monitoring the fasting detainees. Camp policy is to force-feed any detainee "to avert death from fasting and from dehydration," he said.

Smith's report of the resumption of the hunger strike was made as the military has declassified the notes of other lawyers who visited the base in the last month, clearing them to disclose what their clients told them about what has been happening this summer.

Several lawyers said their clients reported that about 200 of the 500 prisoners participated in the July hunger strike, resulting in several dozen hospitalizations requiring intravenous fluids. The military said the number was closer to 100. Many detainees started to eat again around July 28, after the military promised to make concessions that allegedly varied from specific improvements to their living conditions to assurances they would receive trials.

Detainees were allegedly promised better access to books and that they would receive bottled drinking water with each meal, instead of having to drink what they considered unpalatable water out of the sinks in their cells. The military said last week it was seeking to expand the size of its library. Several attorneys said the military had started supplying bottled water in early August.

Jonathan Hafetz, who visited the base in late July to meet with a Qatari client, said his newly declassified notes indicate that the prisoners were primarily interested in improving their physical and religious conditions.

"He attributed the strike to the bad water and the lack of respect for Islam," he said. "For example, guards laughed at prisoners when they are praying and disrespect the Koran when they go into a cell to [restrain] a prisoner."

Joshua Colangelo-Bryan, who visited his six Bahraini clients in late July and early August, said things did improve after the agreement. In a cellblock where at least one of his clients is housed, he said, the military began turning off loud industrial fans during the calls-to-prayer.

"It was also said that international law would be recognized at Guantanamo, whatever that means," Colangelo-Bryan said. "It seems there was a probationary period . . . and if things did not change within that time, then a hunger strike of more severe proportions could be undertaken."

By the end of the first week of August, there was rising discontent among detainees who believed that they had been misled in order to get them to start eating again. Lawyer David Remes said his Yemeni clients told him during the first week of August that detainees were starting to doubt the promises that had been made in order to get them to relent.

"There is a sense that the government tricked them into ending their hunger strike by promising them the moon because the government couldn't tolerate a situation in which detainees were placing themselves at risk of death or serious injury as a result of being on the hunger strike," Remes said.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9280>

SOURCE: Boston Globe

Septembre 1, 2005

Canadian Teen in Guantanamo on Hunger Strike, Lawyers

By COLIN FREEZE

Canadian teenager Omar Khadr went on a hunger strike in July at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he has grown up to become the spiritual leader of his cellblock, his U.S. lawyers say.

New documents written by the lawyers say the 18-year-old terrorism suspect and dozens of fellow detainees were put in hospital as a precaution after they began a mass hunger strike to protest against conditions at the notorious detention camp.

"It's destroying us slowly," Mr. Khadr told one of his lawyers, according to documents filed in court as part of his bid to get out of the legal limbo he has been in at the prison.

The U.S. military has said that 50 prisoners stopped eating in late June, but U.S. civil-rights lawyers estimate that as many as 200 detainees -- or nearly half the current prison population -- have taken part in the protest.

Among them is Mr. Khadr, who is starving himself "to protest the military's disrespect of Islam," according to the documents written by U.S. lawyers who visited him in July.

A decade ago, Mr. Khadr's father staged a hunger strike when he was jailed in Pakistan on suspicion of financing a deadly al-Qaeda-style bombing.

At the time, Ahmed Said Khadr invited reporters to meet his children and come to his hospital bedside. Through media reports, the charity worker from Ottawa implored then-prime-minister Jean Chrétien to intervene for him during a Team Canada trade mission to Pakistan.

Mr. Chrétien did intervene, and Mr. Khadr was let go and returned with his family to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. They fled that country after the 2001 U.S. invasion.

The elder Mr. Khadr was killed by the Pakistani army. Omar, his favourite son, was shot three times in an Afghan gun battle after allegedly throwing a lethal grenade at a U.S. soldier.

He was 15 at the time. Since then, the younger Mr. Khadr has been in Guantanamo Bay, but has never been formally charged with any crime.

In the past year, U.S. civil-rights lawyers have been allowed to visit him. He has told them that he has suffered abuse, and his complaints are less about physical abuse than his freedom to practise Islam.

"O.K. states that he has been leading prayers in his cell block (approximately 7-8 people). During prayers, guards turn on fans, turn up the radio and whistle," the legal documents say.

Mr. Khadr further complains that the U.S. military routinely broadcasts a woman's voice when the Muslim call to prayer sounds out. He is also angered that the call sounds only four times a day, and not the standard five.

"O.K. was on hunger strike for 15 days, starting on July 2, 2005. He took water but no food. During this time, he was taken to the hospital twice and given IV fluids," say documents released by his legal team.

Mr. Khadr complained that he was too dizzy to walk away after being released from the hospital, causing him to sit down along the way. Guards, he says, kicked him 10 times before carrying him back to his cell. He eventually returned to hospital for a few days.

"I believe it's a combination of frustrations, which includes a lack of due process month after month, year after year," said Dennis Edney, Mr. Khadr's Edmonton-based lawyer. He said the teenager is still fasting, but the Pentagon has said that many detainees are eating again.

The documents say that U.S. guards cut off air conditioning in Mr. Khadr's cellblock after the hunger strike began.

The documents say the teenager, who is more savvy about Western ways than many detainees, is raising concerns about the prisoners who still don't have lawyers.

Plus "another detainee had his prosthetic foot taken away from him, and is on hunger strike to get it back," according to Mr. Khadr's filings.

Hunger strikes are not unique to Guantanamo Bay. Two Canadian Muslims detained by Ottawa have also been fasting this summer to protest against the fact that they have been jailed for the past four years under national-security laws as Ottawa tries to deport them.

An emergency rally is planned today in Ottawa for Hassan Almrei -- a Syrian terrorism suspect who has been fasting for 70 days and is at "imminent risk of permanent, severe impairment and, very possibly, of death," according to organizers of the rally.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9352>

SOURCE: The Globe & Mail

Guantanamo Inmates on New Hunger Strike

By MICHELLE FAUL

Associated Press Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - Scores of detainees have started a new hunger strike at the U.S. prison for terror suspects in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, demanding to be put on trial or released, human rights lawyers said Wednesday.

Many have been held more than 3 1/2 years without charge or access to lawyers. Most were captured in the Afghanistan war, suspected of ties to al-Qaida or the ousted Taliban regime that sheltered the terrorist network.

The hunger-striking detainees allege the Pentagon reneged on promises to bring the detention camp into compliance with Geneva Conventions if they ended a hunger strike this summer involving up to 200 of the 500-plus detained men from some 40 countries, the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights said.

The military said only 52 prisoners were involved in the first strike. An attorney with the center, Gitanjali Gutierrez said the Pentagon "hid evidence of the hunger strike and prisoner abuse from visiting senators and the public."

``Prisoners are now prepared to die in an effort to receive a fair hearing and humane treatment," Gutierrez said.

Spokesmen for the detention mission at Guantanamo could not immediately be reached for comment. Several telephones in the public affairs office there rang without response. There was no immediate response to e-mail messages. A Pentagon spokesman referred a reporter to the military's Miami-based Southern Command, which said comment could come only directly from Guantanamo.

Detainee Binyam ``Benjamin" Mohammed al-Habashi said the military promised that if they stopped the June-July hunger strike ``they would bring the prison into compliance with the Geneva Conventions."

That strike ended July 28, but nothing had changed by Aug. 11, said Mohammed, an Ethiopian refugee detained in Pakistan in 2002.

Mohammed said some 150 detainees began refusing meals at the beginning of August and were joined by another 60 on Aug. 11. He told his lawyer he had planned to start his fast Aug. 12,

``I do not plan to stop until I either die or we are respected. People will definitely die," he said.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9350>

SOURCE: The Guardian

September 3, 2005

U.S. Denies Guantanamo Bay Prison Abuse

By STEVENSON JACOBS

Associated Press Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - The U.S. military says only 76 detainees are refusing food at the prison for terror suspects in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, disputing lawyers allegations that nearly half the 500-plus prisoners are on a hunger strike.

A military spokesman also denied charges that they have been beating up and otherwise abusing prisoners.

Some detainees have been fasting since Aug. 8 and nine have been hospitalized, but are in stable condition, Army Col. Brad Blackner, told The Associated Press.

``We continue to monitor them 24 hours a day. We continue to offer them water and food," Blackner said Thursday in an e-mail. ``The number (of prisoners on hunger strike) is nowhere near 200."

Most of some 500 detainees from more than 40 countries have been held more than 3 years without charge or access to lawyers. One of the demands of the strikers is that they be charged and brought to trial, or freed. Most were captured in the Afghanistan war, suspected of ties to al-Qaida or the ousted Taliban regime that sheltered the terrorist network.

The military's account conflicted with Wednesday's report from the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights that 210 prisoners were refusing food and that some are threatening to starve to death unless they are put on trial or released.

The detainees are angry because the U.S. military allegedly reneged on promises to bring the prison into compliance with Geneva Conventions if detainees ended a June-July hunger strike that involved up to 200 of the 500-plus men from some 40 countries held at the base, the center said.

After news of that hunger strike came from a freed detainee, the military said only 52 prisoners were not eating.

Blackner also denied the center's claim that at least three detainees were abused by the military's Extreme Reaction Force. Lawyers from the center said an interrogator threw a mini-refrigerator and a chair at detainee Hisham Sliti on Aug. 5. Military police then beat him up, the center said.

``If the events ... actually happened I would know about it and I haven't heard anything about 'beating' or 'abusing' or throwing of a refrigerator," Blackner said.

Lawyers accuse the military of lying to and about the detainees.

The strike is the result of prisoners `` who have grown desperate after more than three years of constant deceit. The military has lied to the prisoners over, and over, and over again," said Clive Stafford Smith, a British lawyer representing several detainees, including Sliti.

He said that during a visit to the detention camp Aug. 4-14, he was not permitted to meet Sliti.

In another statement Thursday, the Center for Constitutional Rights said the Department of Defense `` has continued to resist the efforts of counsel to meet promptly with their clients participating in the hunger strike."

Blackner denied there was a practice of denying lawyers access. `` If someone was refused a visit it was simply due to the fact that we can only accommodate a certain number of visitors per week," he said.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9362>

SOURCE: The Guardian

September 4, 2005

Hunger Strike Fears for Bahrainis

By **REBECCA TORR**

MANAMA: At least two Bahrainis are feared to be among hundreds of detainees at Guantanamo Bay who have been on hunger strike for up to three weeks.

Human rights activists have warned the US military in a report that prisoners at the detention centre in Cuba are likely to start dying in the "next few days".

Attorney Joshua Colangelo-Bryan said yesterday that he "strongly suspected" Essa Al Murbati and Juma Mohammed Al Dossary were participating in the hunger strike.

That is because they are known to have staged a similar strike in July-end.

"My strong suspicion is that Essa and Juma would be participating in this hunger strike, but I can't confirm this as of now," Mr Colangelo-Bryan told the GDN.

"The hunger strike was because the detainees are desperate at not receiving a fair hearing, having no prospect of a fair hearing and having their religious practices interfered with."

The detainees said they would end the July hunger strike if certain changes were made - including turning off large noisy industrial fans during the call to prayer and dimming 24-hour-a-day lighting at night to help them sleep.

However, they threatened to resume the hunger strike a month later if their demands were not met.

"What I imagine is that the military did not comply, so they initiated the hunger strike," said Mr Colangelo-Bryan.

He said he was in the process of scheduling a visit in October, but added it was impossible to get information from his clients now because he was unable to speak to them by telephone.

"It's a sign of desperation, hopelessness and frustration as they have been locked up for three-and-a-half years with no charge," said Mr Colangelo-Bryan.

"It's not surprising, but disturbing that it comes to this."

The other four Bahraini detainees at Guantanamo Bay are Salah Abdul Rasool Al Blooshi, Adel Kamel Hajee, Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa and Abdulla Majid Al Naimi.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9383>

SOURCE: Gulf Daily News

September 5, 2005

Three Kuwaitis Among 300 Gitmos On Hunger Strike

Lawyers to meet detainees for 2 days; Three Kuwaitis among 300 Gitmos on hunger strike: Al-Oudah

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies): Head of the Committee of Kuwaiti Families of Detainees in Guantanamo, Khaled Al-Oudah was recently quoted as saying three Kuwaiti detainees - Mohammad Al-Dihani, Sa'ad Al-Azmi and his son Fawzi Al-Oudah - are among the 300 detainees who are on a hunger strike in Guantanamo prison protesting their maltreatment. Al-Oudah said his son Fawzi was rushed to hospital after his health deteriorated because he had been on a hunger strike for a long time. Al-Oudah pointed out lawyers defending the inmates will be allowed to meet the Kuwaiti detainees for two days from Sept 12, 2005. Earlier in the week lawyers for the detainees had said at least 210 men had been on hunger strike for the last three weeks. However, officials at Guantanamo said there were 76, but refused to say when the hunger strike started.

"Since January 2002, the (Defense Department) has denied prisoners access to the courts or legal counsel in an effort to avoid justifying the basis for the detentions. This policy has driven detainees to strike until they die or are afforded a fair hearing and humane treatment," said attorney Gitanjali Gutierrez, of the New York-based Center for Constitutional rights, which represents some of the prisoners. A spokeswoman for Joint Task force at Guantanamo said, "They're 76. The numbers change every day." She did not say when the strike began. "They are treated to the best of our ability."

There are about 505 detainees at the detention camp on the US naval base in Cuba. On July 21, 52 prisoners launched a hunger strike at Guantanamo, apparently in protest at their detention, refusing nine consecutive meals. Prisoners who refused food were treated with intravenous drips, and oral dehydration solutions including Gatorade energy drinks, water and oral nutritional supplements. The US military admitted to the hunger strike a day after one of two Afghan men released from the camp after three years said after arriving back in Kabul that 105 prisoners had just staged a hunger strike. Meanwhile, European officials say the United States wants to internationalize the US detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a report said Sunday.

The response from Europe has been negative, the report said. Saudi Arabia's semi-official al-Watan daily quoted an unidentified European security official as saying that Washington has proposed that European countries to turn Guantanamo prison in Cuba into "an international prison for terrorism." The source said the US suggestion included referring the 'dangerous suspects involved in terrorism or those who pose a security threat to these countries' to Guantanamo. He added the prison would be supervised by international forces in accordance with a security agreement among the participating states.

The official said US officials were also thinking of sending prisoners arrested in Iraq to Guantanamo prison. He added that European officials saw the US proposal as an attempt to contain the growing criticism over alleged abuse of prisoners currently held in US custody in the Cuban base. The official said the proposal did not receive positive response from the European countries, which he said prefer that the Guantanamo prison be under UN supervision should it become internationalized, and that only those who have already been convicted of terrorism crimes should be held there.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9392>

SOURCE: Arab Times

'Help Me' Plea By Guantanamo Bay Detainee

By ABDULRAHMAN FAKHRI

A BAHRAINI detainee at Guantanamo Bay has pleaded his innocence and urged rights activists to continue campaigning for his release and that of the other five held in the security camp for nearly four years.

The plea was made by Juma Mohammed Abdul Latif Al Dossary in a letter to Bahrain Centre for Human Rights president Nabeel Rajab.

The now-dissolved centre has been responsible for co-ordinating between relatives of the detainees and lawyers in the US.

In his letter, Mr Al Dossary also said that accounts of his torture in the Afghanistan detention centre and Guantanamo Bay were only some of the hardships he had faced while he was under US custody.

The GDN had published the torture allegations stated in a report conducted by Mr Al Dossary's legal team, headed by attorney Joshua Colangelo-Bryan, during its visit to the security camp last October.

They were released after the US Defence Department reviewed the notes.

The reports of the detainee's account alleged that he was urinated on by US soldiers, had cigarettes put out on him and was made to walk on a barbed wire. He also claimed that he was made to observe a couple having sex in an adjacent room, wrapped in American and Israeli flags and was severely beaten until he lost consciousness.

Other reports revealed that he allegedly had a soldier's boot put in his mouth, was beaten so severely by US soldiers that he vomited blood, had tea poured over his head and was given electric shocks during interrogation.

However, Mr Al Dossary said in his letter that these accounts did not cover all the hardships that he had suffered.

"I would like to inform you that what Joshua Colangelo-Bryan has said was not everything that happened to me," he wrote.

"But it was very little from so much and what had happened was worse than I could mention."

Mr Al Dossary called on rights activists to continue their efforts to ensure the release of the detainees from the security camp. "I urge you to continue supporting our case, help us as much as possible and to continue to follow up our case with Joshua Colangelo-Bryan," he wrote.

He thanked Mr Rajab for all the efforts exerted by him and the centre so far in resolving the case of the detainees.

The envelope of Mr Al Dossary's letter was dated June 10 but was received only yesterday.

It also contained a four-line poem that described his patience to overcome the hardships at the security camp.

Mr Rajab said the letter was an incentive for his centre to exert further efforts, work faster and be more committed to the case.

Stressed

Commenting on the GDN's Saturday report that at least two Bahrainis could be among the detainees who have been on hunger strike at the camp, he said the centre would follow up the issue with the Bahrain government.

Mr Al Dossary and Essa Al Murbati are suspected to have taken part in the July hunger strike, according to their lawyer Mr Colangelo-Bryan.

"We expected that they would be on a hunger strike since they are emotionally stressed and have given up hope," he said.

Mr Al Dossary is accused of being a member of Al Qaeda when he travelled from the US to Afghanistan via Bahrain and Iran in November 2001.

The other three detainees are Salah Abdul Rasool Al Blooshi, Adel Kamel Hajee, Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa and Abdulla Majid Al Naimi.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9390>

SOURCE: Gulf Daily News

September 9, 2005

Hunger Strikers Pledge to Die in Guantánamo

Audrey Gillan

More than 200 detainees in Guantánamo Bay are in their fifth week of a hunger strike, the Guardian has been told.

Statements from prisoners in the camp which were declassified by the US government on Wednesday reveal that the men are starving themselves in protest at the conditions in the camp and at their alleged maltreatment - including desecration of the Qur'an - by American guards.

The statements, written on August 11, have just been given to the British human rights lawyer Clive Stafford Smith. They show that prisoners are determined to starve themselves to death. In one, Binyam Mohammed, a former London schoolboy, said: "I do not plan to stop until I either die or we are respected.

"People will definitely die. Bobby Sands petitioned the British government to stop the illegitimate internment of Irishmen without trial. He had the courage of his convictions and he starved himself to death. Nobody should believe for one moment that my brothers here have less courage."

Yesterday, Mr Stafford Smith, who represents 40 detainees at Guantánamo Bay, eight of whom are British residents, said many men had been starving themselves for more than four weeks and the situation was becoming desperate.

He said: "I am worried about the lives of my guys because they are a pretty obstinate lot and they are going to go through with this and I think they are going to end up killing themselves. The American military doesn't want anyone to know about this."

He pointed to an American army claim that only 76 prisoners at the base were refusing food, saying that they were attempting to play down what could be a political scandal if a prisoner were to die.

The hunger strike is the second since late June. The first ended after the authorities made a number of promises, including better access to books, and bottled drinking water.

The men claim that they were tricked into eating again.

In his statement, Mr Mohammed described how during the first strike men were placed on intravenous drips after refusing food for 20 days.

He said: "The administration promised that if we gave them 10 days, they would bring the prison into compliance with the Geneva conventions. They said this had been approved by Donald Rumsfeld himself in Washington DC. As a result of these promises, we agreed to end the strike on July 28.

"It is now August 11. They have betrayed our trust (again). Hisham from Tunisia was savagely beaten in his interrogation and they publicly desecrated the Qur'an (again). Saad from Kuwait was ERF'd [visited by the Extreme Reaction Force] for refusing to go (again) to interrogation because the female interrogator had sexually humiliated him (again) for 5 hours _ Therefore, the strike must begin again."

In another declassified statement, Omar Deghayes, from Brighton, said: "In July, some people took no water for many days. I was part of the strike and I am again this time. Some people were taken to hospital, and put on drip feeds, but they pulled the needles out, as they preferred to die. There were two doctors. One wanted to force feed the men, but they got legal advice saying that they could not if the men refused.

"In the end the military agreed to negotiate. We came off the strike [on July 28 2005], but we gave them two weeks, and if the changes were not implemented we would go back on strike."

Yesterday, Mr Deghayes's brother, Abubaker, pleaded with the British government to intervene on his brother's behalf. "I'm really worried. Something really needs to be done. We can't just allow people to be oppressed and tortured," he said.

Another prisoner, Jamal Kiyemba, from Battersea, south London, said in an account of the July hunger strike: "Many of the prisoners collapsed, as they would not drink water. More than 30 were hospitalised. I am in Camp IV and we joined in."

He added: "Eventually, because people were near death, the military caved and let us set up a prisoner welfare council of six prisoners."

Jamil el Banna, another British resident, described how the guards were again searching the Qur'an by hand, which they had agreed to stop.

Yesterday, representatives of George Bush's government appeared before the US court of appeal to stop legal bids on behalf of dozens of Guantánamo Bay detainees, who say they are not being afforded an opportunity to challenge their status as enemy combatants.

The Pentagon says it is holding 505 prisoners at Guantánamo Bay.

Most were captured in Afghanistan following the US invasion in October 2001 and many have been there since January 2002.

Last night a Pentagon spokesman denied that there were more than 200 hunger strikers: "There are 76 detainees doing a voluntary fast at present. There are nine detainees in hospital as a result of their hunger strike.

"They are listed as being in a stable condition and they are receiving nutrition."

Asked if they were being force fed, he said: "They are being held in the same standards as US prison standards... they don't allow people to kill themselves via starvation."

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9432>

SOURCE: Guardian

Guantanamo Protest Fast Continuing

AFP

Some 87 detainees held by the US military at Guantanamo Bay have begun the second month of hunger strikes to pressure authorities into adhering to Geneva Convention standards.

Military spokesman Sergeant Justin Behrens told journalists on Friday that the number of prisoners on strike was decreasing, though ten prisoners had to be fed through nose tubes but were in "stable" condition.

"Ninety-two was the max on hunger strike but it has now dropped down to 87," Behrens said. "Ten of them are being fed through medical assist."

The hunger strike began on 8 August, when the military initially said 76 inmates were refusing food.

The Centre for Constitutional Rights (CCR) said the strike was set off in part by alleged beatings of prisoners, denial of basic needs, and lack of fair trials.

Access difficult

It maintained that lawyers have found that 210 prisoners were taking part in the strike. CCR also said lawyers for prisoners who were on strike were blocked from meeting with their clients.

A federal court late last month ordered the Defence Department to grant attorneys for the firm of Sherman and Sterling access to its clients, it said.

The strike is the latest in a series that have broken out since 2002 amid protests over the treatment of prisoners at the detention centre.

The prison, long a source of international controversy, is located on a remote US naval base forcibly leased from Cuba.

The military has given the International Committee of the Red Cross access to the prison and hosted tours for visiting journalists and lawmakers. But it remains tightly controlled and largely shut off from the outside world.

Previous hunger strike

The most recent previous hunger strike was from late June through to 28 July, according to the CCR, which maintains that up to 200 prisoners participated, almost four times more than reported by the military.

"In fact, from early July through [to] 25 July 2005, the hunger strike became so severe that the [Pentagon] was forced to place approximately 50 men on IV's," or intravenous feeding, the centre's report said.

"Medics could not manage the detention centre's need and elected to stop making their regular medical calls. The prisoners spent 26 days without food," it said.

"The breadth and severity of the June-July 2005 hunger strike forced the [Pentagon] to permit the creation of a prisoners' representative committee to negotiate with prison officials concerning the protesters' demands," it said.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9431>

SOURCE: AlJazeera

September 10, 2005

U.S. Tube-feeding Detainees On Hunger Strike

By ALEXANDRA OLSON

The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The U.S. military is tube-feeding more than a dozen of the 89 terror suspects on hunger strike at the Guantánamo Bay prison in Cuba, a spokesman said yesterday.

Some of the 89 striking detainees at Guantánamo have not eaten for a month, said Sgt. Justin Behrens, Guantánamo detention mission spokesman. The others have refused at least nine consecutive meals, he said.

Fifteen have been hospitalized and 13 of those were being fed through tubes, Behrens said in a written response to questions. Medics are monitoring all 89 and checking their vital signs daily, he added.

Previously, the military has said that 76 inmates were participating in the hunger strike.

British lawyer Clive Stafford-Smith, who represents one of the hunger strikers — Briton Omar Deghayes, 36 — warned yesterday that some of the inmates were willing to starve themselves to death.

"People are desperate. They have been there three years. They were promised that the Geneva Conventions would be respected and various changes would happen and, unfortunately, the [U.S.] government reneged on that," Stafford-Smith said.

"Sadly, it is very hard to see how a very obstinate military and a very desperate group of prisoners are ever going to come to an agreement."

The prison at Guantánamo opened in January 2002 and now holds around 520 prisoners from 40 countries; more than 230 others have been released or transferred to their home governments' custody.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9453>

SOURCE: Seattle Times

September 11, 2005

Deaths Feared As At Least 15 Guantanamo Prisoners Hospitalized in Hunger Strike

Scores or even hundreds of inmates at the U.S. military base in Guantanamo Bay are entering the second month of a hunger strike that has led to the hospitalization of at least 15 prisoners, according to the Pentagon and defense lawyers.

Many detainees and their lawyers believe some fasters may starve to death to protest conditions at the controversial military outpost in Cuba. Thirteen inmates are being force-fed intravenously.

"People will definitely die," detainee Binyam Mohammed, an Ethiopian-born British resident, said in one of several statements from inmates that defense lawyers recently declassified.

"Bobby Sands petitioned the British government to stop the illegitimate internment of Irishmen without trial," Mohammed continued, referring to a famous Irish Republican Army inmate who died during a hunger strike in a British prison in 1981. "Nobody should believe for one moment that my brothers here have less courage."

- **T** : The Pentagon denied wrongdoing and said that it is "constantly looking for ways to improve conditions" for detainees.

According to base spokesman Sgt. Justin Behrens, 89 of Guantanamo's 505 inmates are on the current fast, which began Aug. 8. Behrens said 15 inmates were hospitalized and are in stable condition.

Defense attorneys said more than 200 inmates are fasting but some are accepting small amounts of liquid or occasional meals to prolong the strike.

- **"Dire situation"**: Prisoners are demanding trials in U.S. courts, as well as such improvements as better food, bottled drinking water, more reading materials and greater religious freedoms.

"It's a dire situation because the military is refusing reasonable negotiation," said Clive Stafford Smith, a prominent British attorney representing several detainees.

- **Grisly scene**: The detainees' statements paint a scene of gruesome desperation during the previous hunger strike, with prisoners vomiting blood or collapsing in their cells.

Detainee Omar Deghayes, a Libyan-born British resident, adding that he felt "like dead" from fasting. "... I think things are getting worse and it will go out of control," he added.

Newsday

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9460>

SOURCE: Star Tribune

September 12, 2005

CCR Releases Report on Hunger Strikes by Guantánamo

CCR Releases Report on Hunger Strikes by Guantánamo Detainees Protesting their Indefinite Detention without Legal Process

CCR Hunger Strike Report Documents Escalating Severity of Detainee Protests

Synopsis

On September 8, 2005 in New York, the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) issued a special report, *The Guantánamo Prisoner Hunger Strikes & Protests: February 2002 – August 2005*, chronicling the origins and scope of the major hunger strikes by prisoners at the detention center at Guantánamo Bay Naval Station. The Guantánamo Prisoner Hunger Strikes & Protests report raises concerns about the ethical responsibilities of military medical personnel's treatment of hunger strike participants.

Description and Status

According to the CCR report,

Hunger strikes that began in early 2002 as a means to protest the uncertainty of the prisoners' legal status have escalated three years later into the detainees' willingness to strike until death unless they are afforded a fair hearing and humane treatment. Despite the increasing severity of the Guantánamo detainees' protest, the United States appears no closer to ending its unlawful practices.

— The Guantánamo Prisoner Hunger Strikes & Protests: February 2002 – August 2005

CCR attorney Gitanjali Gutierrez, who authored the report, stated, "The men detained in Guantánamo are seeking access to the federal courts as mandated over a year ago by the United States Supreme Court in *Rasul v. Bush*. It is astounding that men in U.S. custody are willing to engage in a hunger strike until they are afforded a fair hearing or they die of starvation. Most troubling today is the government's argument that the President may imprison individuals outside the law, a position that disregards the prisoners' rights in the face of increasingly life-threatening hunger strikes."

The report includes:

- A brief overview of the ethical responsibilities of physicians to abstain from force-feeding imprisoned hunger strike participants;
- Department of Defense documents used during its monitoring of hunger strikers at Guantánamo;
- Statements from current and released detainees describing the purposes of the major hunger strikes beginning in 2002 through the present;
- Documentation of the Department of Defense's efforts to withhold information about striking prisoners from their families and legal counsel as well as from public scrutiny; and
- Recommendations for ending the United States' unconscionable policies at Guantánamo leading to the hunger strikes.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9499>

SOURCE: CCR

September 13, 2005

More Join Guantanamo Hunger Strike

Detainees Demand Hearings, Allege Beatings by Guards

By Carol D. Leonnig

A month-old hunger strike at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has grown to include at least 128 detainees, 18 of whom are forcibly receiving intravenous fluids or nutrition in the prison hospital, military officials and detainee lawyers said yesterday.

The captives are protesting their indefinite imprisonment and what they describe as beatings administered by the prison's Immediate Response Force (IRF)-- squads of military personnel who are dispatched to put down disturbances in detainees' cells. Some have said they will refuse to eat until the military gives them a fair hearing or they die, according to their attorneys.

Military officials first acknowledged the hunger strike, the second of the summer, on Aug. 25. Since then, the number of people hospitalized and in serious physical danger has grown to 18, according to Maj. Jeffrey J. Weir, a Guantanamo Bay spokesman. He said that step was taken to prevent any of the approximately 520 prisoners at the U.S. Navy base prison from engaging in a "form of suicide."

The hunger strike began in the first week of August, and, according to newly declassified accounts of detainees provided by their lawyers, has gradually spread across several camps at the prison. Detainees allege they have been severely beaten and are deeply frustrated at their indefinite detentions. Some have been held for 3 1/2 years without facing charges.

Lawyers for the prisoners assert that more than 200 detainees are refusing food. An earlier hunger strike in June and July ended after military authorities met with a small group of detainees and promised improvements in their living conditions.

"They truly feel they have nothing left," said attorney David Remes, who represents several Yemeni detainees. "I'm not sure what the end point will be. But I do predict there will be death."

Binyam Mohammed, formerly of London, whose account was the first declassified, told his attorney on Aug. 11 of the new hunger strike. "I do not plan to stop until I die or we are respected," he said. "People will definitely die."

Another detainee, Libyan-born Omar Deghayes, told his lawyer he had not eaten in five weeks. "Many more people have fallen unconscious. . . . More are taken to hospital," he said.

Military officials have characterized the protest as a "fast" of prisoners aimed at grabbing attention, and say it involves 128 prisoners. They say its significance is exaggerated by their lawyers.

Weir said no detainees are in danger of dying and that the military's treatment is preventing them from losing critical nutrition. Of the 18 people hospitalized, 13 are being force-fed through nasal tubes and five are being given intravenous hydration.

On Aug. 25, the military said that 89 detainees were fasting and seven were hospitalized and receiving forced fluids or nutrition.

Weir said yesterday that the military does not allow beatings of detainees, and he believes the refusal to eat is part of a campaign to press for their transfer or release.

"My understanding is that it's just because of their continued detention," Weir said. "They're trying to call attention to that."

The majority of detainees at Guantanamo Bay have long insisted that they were captured by mistake by U.S. forces in Afghanistan in the fall of 2001. In some prisoners' cases, records show, the military has little but circumstantial evidence that the men engaged in or supported terrorist acts. The military's review of 558 cases resulted in 38 detainees being declared non-enemy combatants.

The appellate court for the District of Columbia heard arguments last week on the legality of the military holding the detainees indefinitely without giving them the chance to challenge their detentions in a U.S. court -- a follow-up to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 2004. But that dispute is expected to drag on until next year, and is likely to be appealed to the Supreme Court again.

Hunger strikes are not new to the prison. Detainees launched one in 2002 after allegations that guards and interrogators mistreated copies of the Koran. Military officials then issued new guidelines for proper treatment of the Islamic holy book, and the strike ended.

Detainees began a new strike in late June to protest their treatment and the quality of their food and water. They complained about solitary confinement, alleged beatings by IRF teams, and the use of uniform colors to signify how detainees should be treated. Detainees given white uniforms are considered cooperative while those assigned orange uniforms are considered uncooperative and treated more harshly, detainees said.

The prisoners halted the previous strike in the first days of August after military camp leaders met with a small "council" of detainees and promised improvements in their living conditions. But the strike resumed a few days later, some detainees told their lawyers, when news spread through the camp of a Tunisian detainee beaten by an interrogator and IRF teams hitting two others, according to detainees' reports to their lawyers.

Weir declined to discuss individual detainees' cases or allegations.

An Algerian detainee told his lawyer in a newly declassified report provided by his attorney that a new interrogator beat the Tunisian with an empty beverage cooler and a metal chair after the detainee refused to talk to him. The Algerian said he saw the Tunisian's bloodied, swollen eye after the session.

Weir declined to comment on those details. Other detainees' accounts of the strike have not yet been declassified by the military, their lawyers said.

Researcher Julie Tate contributed to this report.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9491>

SOURCE: Washington Post

John Roberts' Role in the Guantanamo Hunger Strike

"People will definitely die.... Bobby Sands petitioned the British government to stop the illegitimate internment of Irishmen without trial.... Nobody should believe for one moment that my brothers here have less courage." -- Binyam

Mohammed, British prisoner at Guantanamo Bay

By Mike Whitney

09/12/05 "ICH" -- -- When Senate hearings convene this week for Supreme Court candidate John Roberts, let's hope that they focus on the hunger strike taking place at Guantanamo Bay. It was Robert's ruling in *Rumsfeld vs. Hamdan* that hastened a massive 200-man hunger strike that is now in its second month and has hospitalized at least 15 inmates. The prisoners are demanding that they be given the opportunity to challenge the terms of their detention in a court of law, a principle that Roberts does not support. He ruled in the *Hamdan* case that the President was not constrained by international law and that "the Geneva Conventions do not create judicially enforceable rights."

Roberts ignores the fact that the United States is a signatory of the Geneva Conventions and must comply with its provisions for the humane treatment of prisoners as well as offering prisoners the Convention's protection "until such time as their status has been determined by a competent tribunal." Rumsfeld's handpicked military courts do not meet these requirements, and have been rejected by prominent legal organizations and human rights groups alike.

Let's be clear -- the 500 prisoners in Guantanamo Bay are innocent. That is not my contention, but the belief of everyone who still accepts the fundamental principle of American jurisprudence, that men are "innocent until proven guilty." The inmates have been deprived of due process of law, so we must presume that they are innocent. The language invented at the Defense Department -- "terrorist", "enemy combatant", "insurgent" -- should not cloud our reasoning or undermine our commitment to fair play. The prisoners should be allowed to defend themselves according to internationally accepted standards of justice.

Roberts does not believe that captives in the war on terror have any rights whatsoever. His ruling in *Rumsfeld vs. Hamdan* confers absolute authority on the President to imprison suspects indefinitely without any legal process in place to challenge their imprisonment. But, if this is true, than why do we need courts or judges at all? Why not simply resolve these issues by executive fiat?

Roberts' ruling has earned him an appointment to the Supreme Court; a souvenir for endorsing the supreme powers of the President. But, his ambition comes at a cost. 200 or more victims of his verdict are presently starving themselves to death demanding the right to have their cases heard in court. The scene at Guantanamo has been described as "dire" by defense attorneys for the detainees with gruesome descriptions of prisoners "vomiting blood or collapsing in their cells." The Defense Department has tried to conceal the details of the hunger strike and has prevented the media and the Red Cross from visiting the prisoners.

Guantanamo needs to be opened up so that we can see the consequences of Roberts' judicial philosophy. If Roberts is willing to rubberstamp a policy that promotes the cruel and inhuman treatment of prisoners then the public should be aware of it.

Roberts has argued that, "The president's authority under the laws of our nation to try enemy combatants is a vital part of the global war on terror."

Fine.

Roberts should be given every opportunity to defend his theories on justice as long as the sick and emaciated victims of his philosophy are paraded through the Senate Rotunda for everyone to observe.

American justice is an oxymoron. Under Bush, there is neither justice nor a system; just the willful conduct of bullies who act according to the most cynical impulses. Roberts is the embodiment of the present paradigm: a man whose adult life has been devoted to secret organizations, like the Federalist Society, whose sole purpose is the dismantling of legal protections and civil liberties for the common man. He is the poster boy of the new world order.

The Muslim prisoners who are resisting this regime of lawlessness -- some who have even ripped the feeding tubes from their arms -- are heroes in the truest sense of the word. They have put their own lives on the line for a just cause, demanding that they be treated with the same respect and dignity deserving of every man. Now, they face an agonizing death fighting for the very same principles that are written into the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

They've earned our admiration, and they have it.

Mike Whitney lives in Washington state, and can be reached at: fergiewhitney@msn.com

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9490>

SOURCE: Information Clearing House

September 14, 2005

No Law Followed at Guantanamo Bay Prison: Zaeef

KABUL, September 14 (Pajhwok Afghan News): Former Taliban ambassador to Islamabad Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef has alleged no law is followed at the US naval detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, where has spent four years in captivity.

Palpably bitter over his arrest and subsequent handover to the US by Pakistan, the former diplomat told Pajhwok Afghan News of frequent and prolonged hunger strikes by inmates at the notorious prison and his travails in detention.

Before taking up his ambassadorial assignment in Islamabad, Mullah Zaeef had held senior positions in the ministries of defence and mines and industries and transport during the Taliban regime, ousted from power in 2001 by the US and the Northern Alliance.

He recalled after Pakistan derecognized the Taliban regime in 2001, he wrote an official letter to the foreign ministry in Islamabad regarding his stay in the host country. The ministry responded he could live there. With his diplomatic visa still valid, he says he was detained and yielded up to Americans.

"One night unidentified men - introducing themselves as Pakistani intelligence operatives - came to my house and told me US officials wanted to interrogate me. They took me to Peshawar, where they handed me over to Americans - blindfolded and hands tied behind my back - at the airport," Zaeef claimed.

About the recent hunger strike of almost all the Guantanamo Bay inmates, the diplomat revealed the protest started on August 7 and continued till his release. The protesters pressed for two things.

"One, they wanted to be treated under the Geneva Convention - especially stressing implementation of the articles which say as long as detainees are innocent till convicted," he explained.

"Two, they demanded an improvement in the situation at the Fifth Camp, where detainees were kept locked in closed cells for 17 months at a stretch. All inmates are suffering from psychological disorders," Zaeef added.

He described the Fifth Camp's cells as suffocating, with no proper ventilation. The prisoners were denied access to books, pens and notebooks, Zaeef said, adding the oppression enraged the inmates.

"Another article of the Geneva Convention says nobody should be held for more than a month in detention without charges. This period is allowed only for investigations. But the Fifth Camp's prisoners were kept for 17 months in hard conditions and that sparked the hunger strike."

Asked if detainees were tortured during questioning, Zaeef replied the attitude of the jailers was harsh at the beginning but improved gradually. However, he said he himself was never beaten up or tortured.

Regarding the interrogation process and the procedure for the release or trial of detainees, Zaeef said the Bush administration had set up two bodies for the purpose, but both operated illegally while seeking to work according to US military strategy.

"The US set up the Enemy Combatant Status Tribunal Review, which allows the detainees' description as enemy combatants and their indefinite detention without charge-framing. This body acquitted 10 prisoners.

"Later, they established the Administration Review Board to interrogate the detainees and decide on the release of those not threatening American interests. This commission has so far produced no practical result."

Answering another query, the 37-year-old said: "There was no law, US or international, but few inmates were freed by the board." Zaeef attributed his release to efforts from "some friends."

Hasan Haqyar

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9530>

SOURCE: Pajhwok Afghan News

September 15, 2005

Three More Gitmo Detainees Hospitalized

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - Three more detainees have been hospitalized after refusing meals at the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, bringing to 21 the number being treated from a hunger strike that involves a quarter of the camp's prisoners, an official said Wednesday.

All 21 detainees are being tube-fed through their nose, up from 13 a day ago, said Sgt. Justin Behrens, a spokesman at Guantanamo. The military has said it views a hunger strike as a form of suicide and will take steps to prevent it.

All striking detainees were in stable condition, Behrens said.

The military has said the hunger strike began on Aug. 8 with 76 detainees refusing meals. The military said the number rose to 128 before three dropped out, lowering the figure to 125.

The number differed from one given in an Aug. 31 report from the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights, which claimed 210 prisoners were refusing meals.

The center said the prisoners are angry because the military allegedly reneged on promises to bring the prison into compliance with the Geneva Conventions if prisoners agreed to end a hunger strike that began in June.

The military has denied it reneged on any promises. It says detainees have chosen representatives to meet with military officials about living conditions at the camp.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9524>

SOURCE: The Guardian

US Military Hides State of Guantanamo Hunger Strikers

HAVANA, Sept 15 (AIN) The health conditions of up to 200 hunger striking prisoners at the US military base in Guantanamo, Cuba are being concealed, accuses says a US legal rights organization.

A press release by the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), a non-profit organization which has represented many of the detainees, objected to the US Defense Department's blackout of details on the health of prisoners taking part in a hunger strike, reported the Granma newspaper on Thursday.

Some of the prisoners have threatened to starve themselves to death unless they are put on trial or released - after having been held without charge for more than three years. A hunger strike this past July ended when the Pentagon agreed to talk to inmates.

The Pentagon has only admitted to there being 128 striking prisoners in Guantanamo, with 18 of them having been hospitalized where they are being tube-fed.

No names have been disclosed despite the pleas of a hundred of relatives. "It doesn't serve national security interests to hide the health condition of prisoners from their relatives," said CCR lawyer Gitanjali Gutierrez.

The CCR points out that refusing this type of basic information is a flagrant violation of the ethics code set up by the World Medical Association to which the American Medical Association belongs.

According to the civil rights organization's statements to the press, military doctors attending to the strikers in Guantanamo should immediately contact the prisoners' families through the Red Cross or consulates of the detainees' respective nations.

More than 500 inmates from 40 countries are being held as "enemy combatants;" a status which the US authorities insist merits no protection by the Geneva Convention and allows them to be held indefinitely, without formal charges or a trial. Chilean President Urged to Stop Pardons to Former Repressors.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9561>

SOURCE: Escambray.cu

September 16, 2005

Hunger Strike Spreads at Guantanamo Bay

By STEVENSON JACOBS

Associated Press Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - A hunger strike at the U.S. prison for terror suspects in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has grown to its largest point since detainees began their latest protest more than a month ago, a military official said Thursday.

After 11 detainees joined the protest overnight, there are now 131 taking part in the hunger strike, said Maj. Jeff Weir, a spokesman for the detention center.

Twenty-one of the striking prisoners were hospitalized in stable condition at the prison medical clinic, including 20 who were being tube-fed, Weir said.

The military considers a hunger strike to be a form of suicide and Weir said that one prisoner was restrained after he resisted having a feeding tube inserted.

"No facility in the U.S., and hopefully the world, is going to let someone starve to death," Weir said. "We're charged with keeping them in good health, and that's what we're doing."

Guantanamo officials said this latest hunger strike began Aug. 8 with 76 detainees protesting their confinement. It has since grown to more than a quarter of the approximately 500 detainees.

The military defines someone as being on a hunger strike after they have refused nine consecutive meals. There have been at least two previous hunger strikes, but military officials said they were not able to confirm whether this was the largest.

A U.S. human rights group, the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights, has claimed that some 210 detainees are participating in the hunger strike.

The center said the prisoners are angry because the military allegedly reneged on promises to bring the prison into compliance with the Geneva Conventions if prisoners agreed to end a hunger strike that began in June.

The military has denied it reneged on any promises. It says detainees have chosen representatives to meet with military officials about living conditions at the camp.

The detainees are accused of ties to the al-Qaida terror network or Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime. Most have been held for more than three years without charge.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9560>

SOURCE: The Guardian

Kuwait Concerned on Reports of Health of Kuwaiti Detainees in Guantanamo

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 16 (KUNA) -- Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah on Friday expressed Kuwait's concern over reports of the worsening health conditions of Kuwaiti detainees in Guantanamo as a result of reported hunger strike, and said talks with the American side will be soon on the possibility of releasing five Kuwaiti detainees held in Guantanamo.

Sheikh Mohammad made the remarks after a meeting with the US Ambassador at large for war crimes, Pierre Prosper.

"I have conveyed to the Ambassador Kuwait's concern over reports of some Kuwaiti detainees on Hunger strike and that their health conditions are of concern," Sheikh Mohammad told reporters after the meeting.

"I have also explained to him that the measures you have taken have no legal grounds and are not in conformity with the American constitution and such measures are more harmful than that the acts taken by terrorists against American interest," he said.

Sheikh stressed that "I have also explained that first there must be a humanitarian treatment with those on hunger strike, then the cause of the hunger strike must be addressed and third there has to be a solution to the legal status of the detainees," he said.

Sheikh Mohammad added that he had told the American Ambassador that Kuwait is ready to receive the detainees and try them in Kuwaiti court.

"Whoever is proven guilty will be jailed in Kuwaiti prisons ... We in Kuwait have an independent legal system that has proven its effectiveness," he said.

He said Kuwait is discussing with the United States the possibility of handing over to Kuwaiti Five Kuwaiti detainees, saying that Kuwait has the desire "to receive all the 11 detainees". - For his part, the American Ambassador said he discussed with Sheikh Mohammad a way to find a solution to the issue of the detainees, but stressed that the two sides agreed that the issue of the detainees is a "complex situation".

"It is a complex situation because there are things to examine and make sure that security means or needs are met. but we also understand the humanitarian side of it," he said.

elaborating on the humanitarian side, he said it is logical that the detainees and their parents want to know about the future of the detainees.

Prosper pledged to work on a solution to some cases of the detainees who have been held in Guantanamo for over three years now.

He said his talks with Sheikh Mohammad also covered the trial of the former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, stressing that the trial of Saddam should be fair and credible manner.

"We talked about the importance that the abuses committed in Kuwait against Kuwaiti nationals need to be addressed and need to be prosecuted," he said.

The first session of trial is due to open on October 19 and Prosper said the sessions after the opening one would be an opportunity to highlight the abuses committed against the people of Kuwait.

"We are aware that October 19 is the scheduled trial date which is probably the first in many as it relates to Saddam. we do anticipate there will be other proceedings in the future which will address the matters and abuses that occurred in the Kuwaiti situation," he said.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9582>

SOURCE: KUNA

September 17, 2005

Forced Feeding of Gitmo Detainees Violates International Medical Codes of Ethics

The force feeding of hunger strikers by physicians at Guantanamo Bay under the authority of US officials is in direct violation of international codes of medical ethics, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) said today.

Since early August, according to press reports, at least 130 detainees have been on a hunger strike protesting lack of due process and conditions of detention. Ethical principles unequivocally support the autonomy of a hunger striker who is mentally competent and is engaged in this form of expression by his or her own free will -- one of the few forms of expression available to prisoners. Given statements by US officials that US military physicians have force fed some of the hunger strikers, PHR is also concerned that these physicians and other health personnel working at the facility may have been pressured into intervening in ways that contradict their ethical obligations.

Ethical codes endorsed by the American Medical Association (AMA), including the World Medical Association (WMA)'s 1975 Declaration of Tokyo, which was elaborated in the 1991 WMA Declaration of Malta on Hunger Strikers (see links below), state clearly that "where a prisoner refuses nourishment and is considered by the doctor as capable of forming an unimpaired and rational

judgment concerning the consequences of such voluntary refusal of nourishment, *he or she shall not be fed artificially* [emphasis added].”

The WMA is the internationally recognized organization that represents national medical associations around the world. It promotes the highest standards of medical ethics, and provides ethical guidance to physicians through its Declarations, Resolutions and Statements. The American Medical Association is one of the founding members of the WMA.

Internationally-adopted codes of medical ethics provide detailed guidelines for doctors treating hunger strikers. Though physicians in these situations have a duty to respect the sanctity of life, and act in the best interests of their patients, they have a greater duty to respect the autonomy of their patients who freely choose to refuse food and/or fluids and understand the consequences of their actions.

Ethical principles call for health personnel to inform hunger strikers on the clinical consequences of their fasting. Physicians should not apply undue pressure on a hunger striker to end their fasting, and should never accept a decision by a non-medical authority to force-feed them. Hunger strikers require daily assessment by the treating physician of their wishes to continue – or end – their strike and are entitled to have a second medical opinion. Once a patient is no longer able to make an unimpaired decision or has lapsed into a coma, the patient’s physician is responsible for subsequent clinical decisions, taking into account the patient’s preceding decisions regarding fasting when he/she was fully conscious and aware of the consequences of his/her actions.

Hunger strikers should also be protected from coercion by fellow prisoners to participate in this form of protest. It is also the doctor's duty to preserve them from being force fed as a measure of intimidation prescribed by detaining authorities eager to stop the protest. If a doctor cannot accept a patient’s decision to refuse treatment or artificial feeding, the patient would then be entitled to be attended by another physician.

The existing ethical guidelines presume a trusting and confidential relationship between a health professional and the patient. Physicians for Human Rights is concerned that the current situation at Guantanamo, where severe conditions of detention, persistent interrogations using now widely documented coercive methods over the past three years, along with the subsequent hostility generated towards custodial staff, including the physicians, make it impossible for physicians to care for the hunger strikers according to these guidelines. In view of the continued lack of due process and transparency, chronic repressive conditions at Guantanamo, and the ongoing hunger strike crisis among prisoners there, PHR calls on the US Government to:

- permit an independent delegation of qualified physicians to investigate the conditions and circumstances of the hunger strikers in order to help attending military physicians clarify their ethical duties to each patient engaged in the hunger strike**
- assure that any intervention with regard to hunger strikers is consistent with WMA standards of medical ethics, as endorsed by the AMA, and that no health personnel are compelled to engage in force feeding. It is imperative that physicians should be allowed to meet privately and confidentially with**

prisoners to assess the voluntary nature of their strike, as well as to ascertain how and when they have been artificially or force-fed.

PHR also calls upon the American Medical Association to:

- **support its members who act in accordance with their ethical duties regarding the health of hunger strikers and to sanction those who violate these duties.**

For more information:

- [Declaration of Tokyo](#)
- [Declaration of Malta](#)
- [WMA Course for Prison Doctors](#)
- [Physicians for Human Rights Report: Break Them Down](#)
- [Physicians for Human Rights Report: Dual Loyalty and Human Rights](#)

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) mobilizes the health professions to advance the health and dignity of all people by protecting human rights. As a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, PHR shared the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9578>

SOURCE: PHR

Terror Camp Man's Protest

By Carron Taylor

A Battersea man held by US authorities at Guantanamo Bay will today enter his 35th day of a hunger strike.

British resident Jamal Kiyemba is one of more than 200 detainees being held at the facility in Cuba who are starving themselves in protest of camp conditions.

Mr Kiyemba, 26, who is originally from Uganda, has been held as an "enemy combatant" at the camp for over three years without charge after being picked up in Pakistan in February 2002.

The former pharmacy student was taken to the notorious Bagram airbase in Afghanistan before being transferred to Cuba that summer. He began his hunger strike on August 11.

In a statement which was declassified by the US government, Mr Kiyemba said conditions at the camp had deteriorated.

The hunger strike is the second to occur at Guantanamo Bay since late June. The first prompted Mr Kiyemba and others to take part in a second starvation protest against conditions.

Describing the first wave of starvation in July, he said: "Many of the prisoners collapsed, as they would not drink water. More than 30 were hospitalized. I am in Camp IV, and we joined in."

He explained how those held in Whisky Block had shouted at a group of VIP visitors when they came to see the camp in July, saying they were "not terrorists" and the visitors were "being shown a lie".

Following this incident, Mr Kiyemba alleged the administration tried to punish detainees by moving 20 prisoners to other camps where treatment was worse.

He said because some people "were near death, the military caved" and detainees were allowed to set up a prisoner welfare council with six prisoner representatives.

He added the authorities also agreed they would no longer punish people by denying them clothes and would give them items such as pens and paper.

The statement was passed on by Mr Kiyemba's lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith, who said the situation was "desperate".

Mr Stafford Smith said: "I respect the fact Jamal is on a hunger strike, but I don't want him dying from starvation because the Americans are too pig-headed to respect the law."

He said he is now writing to the UK Government about camp conditions.

A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said it had no comment to make on the hunger strike, as it was "something which is happening outside of Britain and by people who are not British".

Mr Stafford Smith added: "Britain needs to behave the way it used to behave when it stood up for decency and human rights, which are the best counter-terrorism measures we have."

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9573>

SOURCE: IC London Network

September 18, 2005

Guantanamo Hunger Strike Unnerves Authorities: Report

A hunger strike at the US military's prison camp at Guantanamo Bay has unsettled senior commanders and produced the most serious challenge yet to the military's effort to manage hundreds of terrorism suspects, The New York Times reports.

Quoting unnamed lawyers and officials, the newspaper said as many as 200 prisoners - more than a third of the camp's population - have refused food in recent weeks, to protest conditions and prolonged confinement without trial.

While military officials put the number of those participating at 105, they acknowledge that 20 of them, whose health and survival are being threatened, are being kept at the camp's hospital and fed through nasal tubes and sometimes given fluids intravenously, the report said.

The military authorities were so concerned about ending a previous strike this summer that they allowed the establishment of a six-member prisoners' grievance committee, said the Times.

But the committee was quickly disbanded.

The reports quotes Major Jeffrey Weir, a spokesman at the base in Cuba, as saying the prisoners who are being fed at the hospital are generally not strapped to their beds or gurneys but are in handcuffs and leg restraints.

A 21st prisoner at the hospital is voluntarily accepting liquid food, the report said.

Major Weir said the prisoners usually accept the nasal tubes passively because they know they will be restrained and fed forcibly if necessary, the paper reported.

"We will not let them starve themselves to the point of causing harm to themselves," The Times quotes the major as saying. On at least one occasion, he said, a prisoner was restrained and forcibly fed.

The paper said one law enforcement official who has been fully briefed on the events said senior military officials had grown increasingly worried about their ability to control the situation.

A senior military official, also speaking on the condition of anonymity, described the situation as greatly troublesome for the camp's authorities and said they had tried several ways to end the hunger strike, without success, The Times.

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=9591>

SOURCE: ABC Australia