

USA



Who are the Guantánamo detainees? **CASE SHEET 21**

Adel Hassan Hamad
23 February 2007
AI Index: AMR 51/032/2007

Sudanese national: Adel Hassan Hamad

ISN#: 940

Family status: Married with children

Occupation: Hospital Administrator, Aid Worker and Teacher

Age: 48

“I was arrested in my house at 1:30 at night when I woke up and found myself in front of policemen from the Pakistani intelligence pointing their weapons in my face...” Adel Hamad

Sudanese national Adel Hamad was taken at gunpoint from his home in Peshawar, Pakistan on 18 July 2002. Pakistani agents, led by a US agent, took his passport away, bound his hands and took him down the stairs into a waiting car.

Adel Hamad was taken to a Pakistani prison where he was held for six and a half months in what he describes as very bad conditions. Adel Hamad says that his weight dropped from 90 to 60 kilograms during this time.

Transfer to Bagram, then Guantánamo

“In Bagram there was also great suffering for me... They took me and stripped me naked completely. They laughed a lot in my face...They left me for three days not sleeping.” Adel Hamad.

During his transfer to Bagram, Adel Hamad says that he was beaten at the airport and thrown to the ground. At Bagram, dogs were set upon him whilst watching soldiers laughed. He was also stripped naked and subjected to sleep deprivation. He still suffers from pain in his feet due to the lengthy periods he was chained, both hands and feet. He was held in Bagram for approximately two months before being transferred to Guantánamo where he has now been held for nearly four years without charge or trial.

Background

“...all my interrogators they told me that I am innocent that I would be released soon they told me after a month and a month came and I wasn't released.”

Adel Hamad had been living in Pakistan, near the border with Afghanistan, since 1999 when he was appointed as the administrative director of the Afghanistan based World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY) hospital.

The US authorities claim that some of the people running WAMY, miles from where Adel Hamad worked at the hospital, may have terrorist connections. Adel Hamad says that he was just an employee of the organization and knew nothing of the alleged connections which have been used as the primary basis for his continued detention.

The Combatant Status Review Tribunal (CSRT) ruled in Adel Hamad's case that he was an "enemy combatant". However one panel member dissented from that opinion stating that continued detention on the basis of the allegations would be "unconscionable". He found that the six allegations against Adel Hamad were unpersuasive and urged that the tribunal recommend his release.

In March 2005, Adel Hamad wrote to the US District Court for the District of Columbia asking for help. That court assigned the Federal Public Defender's Office in Portland, Oregon to the case. Lawyers from that office have visited Guantánamo to interview him and have also travelled to Pakistan and Afghanistan to speak to witnesses to confirm his story.

During the investigation, William Teesdale, an attorney with the Federal Public Defender's Office in Portland, said that he confirmed the details of Adel Hamad's story by meeting with and taking videotaped sworn statements of nearly a dozen witnesses. These witnesses included three physicians who worked side-by-side with Adel Hamad at the hospital in Chamkani, Afghanistan. A video of their investigations can be viewed here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5E3w7ME6Fs>

You can also become a member of Project Hamad, an advocacy group working on Adel Hamad's case, for justice in Guantánamo and the restoration of *habeas corpus*:

<http://projecthamad.org>

Family

"She always tries to lift my spirits up. She always tells me we're fine...we don't need anything...we're doing okay. But I know that she doesn't have anyone. She is on her own." Adel Hamad, on letters received from his wife.

Adel Hamad has received a few letters from his family who are said to be suffering financially due to his prolonged absence. One letter he received while in detention informed him that his six-month-old daughter Fida had died. He never had the chance to meet her.

Just prior to his arrest, Adel Hamad had been on holiday with his family in Sudan for one month. He returned to Pakistan alone, as the family had decided that his wife should stay in Sudan with their children for the sake of their upbringing and education. They had previously been living with him in Pakistan, but felt isolated due to their unfamiliarity with the language and local culture. Adel Hamad says that he planned to continue working in Afghanistan for one more year in order to save some money before returning home to his family.

TAKE ACTION FOR

Adel Hamad

Write to the US authorities:

- Calling for Adel Hamad to be released from Guantánamo unless charged and tried in accordance with international standards of fairness in a court that will not impose the death penalty;
- Urge them to immediately investigate all allegations that Adel Hamad was tortured or ill-treated in US custody, and to ensure that all those found responsible are brought to justice;
- Calling for them to keep Adel Hamad's family fully informed of his status, health and well-being, and to ensure that he has adequate communication with his family;
- Calling for them to close the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay and either release the detainees held there or charge and try them in accordance with international standards in a court that may not impose the death penalty.

Write to the Sudanese authorities:

Send any appeals to the Sudanese embassy in your country.

- Noting that Adel Hamad, and eight other Sudanese nationals remain detained in Guantánamo and welcoming the statement made by the Sudanese Parliament calling for Guantánamo to be closed;
- Calling on the Sudanese authorities to make representations to US authorities on behalf of all Sudanese nationals still detained at Guantánamo;
- Seeking assurances that the relatives of the detainees are being fully informed of developments in their cases and provided with full information on their welfare;
- Seeking information as to the situation of the Sudanese nationals believed to have already been returned to Sudan;
- Seeking assurances that anyone returned to Sudan from Guantánamo will either be released or if charged with a recognizably criminal offence given a fair trial in accordance with international standards and without recourse to the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

Navy Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris
Commander Joint Task Force Guantánamo
Department of Defense
Joint Task Force Guantánamo
Guantánamo Bay, Cuba
APO AE 09360

Fax: +1 305 437 1241
Email: harrishb@jftgtmo.southcom.mil
Salutation: Dear Rear Admiral

Brigadier General Cameron Crawford
Deputy Commander United States Southern Command
3511 NW 91st Ave., Miami, FL, 33172-1217
USA

Fax: +1 305 437 1077
Salutation: Dear Brigadier General
Email via: <http://www.southcom.mil/home/>

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defence

1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301, USA

Fax: + 1 703 697 8339

Email via: <http://www.defenselink.mil/faq/comment.asp>

Salutation: Dear Secretary of Defense

COPIES TO:

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice

Secretary of State

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street, N.W.

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If you want to take further action on this case, please contact your national AI office
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1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. www.amnesty.org