



LIFE AFTER GUANTÁNAMO

FATE OF FORMER DETAINEES

Release from Guantánamo has not meant the end of suffering for many of the detainees. Some have been arrested immediately on arrival in their home country and possibly tortured or otherwise ill-treated. Some have been harassed or ostracized because they had been labelled by the US authorities as suspected terrorists, even though they have never been charged or tried in this context. Many have suffered physical and psychological health problems because of their long years in incarceration in harsh conditions. Some have found themselves in desperate poverty, their businesses and jobs long gone.

MOHAMMED AL-AMIN

Mauritanian national

"I spent five years in Guantánamo, but I don't know anyone in al-Qa'ida and I have no relations with those people."

Mohammed al-Amin

Mohammed al-Amin was transferred to Mauritania in September 2007. On arrival he was held at a police station and questioned. He was released without charge after a few days and reunited with his family. He has thanked Amnesty International for campaigning on his behalf and for the many letters he received while in Guantánamo.

AHMED ERRACHIDI

Moroccan national/UK resident

"I am on the edge... I don't want to fall off."

Ahmed Errachidi

Ahmed Errachidi was transferred to Morocco in April 2007. He was immediately arrested and subsequently appeared before a judge on suspicion of preparing and carrying out terrorist acts. The charges were dropped and he was released, although the Moroccan authorities have indicated that fresh charges will be brought against him. He has since been reunited with his family in Tangier. His relatives told the media that he is suffering from depression.

MUHAMMAD ABDALLAH MANSUR AL-RIMI and ABU SUFIAN IBRAHIM AHMED HAMUDA BIN QUMU

Libyan nationals

Muhammad Abdallah Mansur al-Rimi was transferred to Libya in December 2006. Shortly after his return, the Gaddafi Development Foundation stated on its website that he was receiving medical treatment and might soon be reunited with his family. Abu Sufian Ibrahim Ahmed Hamuda Bin Qumu was repatriated on 30 September 2007. Attempts to establish the whereabouts and legal status of both men have failed.

LUTFI BEN SWEI LAGHA and ABDELLAH BEN OMAR AL-HAJJI

Tunisian nationals

"... the two men are being held in a Tunisian prison, telling visitors that things are so bad they would rather be back at Guantánamo Bay."

Lawyer of Abdallah al-Hajji

Lutfi Ben Swei Lagha and Abdallah Ben Omar al-Hajji were transferred to Tunisia in June 2007, despite grave fears that they would face torture or other ill-treatment there. Both men were detained on arrival and say that they were ill-treated to force them to sign statements. Lutfi Lagha has since been convicted of "associating with a criminal group with the aim of harming or causing damage to Tunisia" and sentenced to three years in prison. Abdallah al-Hajji was sentenced to seven years in prison on charges of "belonging in times of peace to a terrorist organization operating in a foreign country".

JUMAH AL-DOSSARI

Saudi Arabian national of Bahraini origin

"When I looked at him, I thought, 'Oh, my God, is this my brother?' He was describing the pain he had in Guantánamo and the days he was really sick. He's trying to forget those days."

Jumah al-Dossari's brother

Jumah al-Dossari attempted suicide at least 13 times in Guantánamo.

In July 2007 he was transferred to Saudi Arabia, along with 15 others. All were detained on arrival but allowed to meet relatives. Jumah al-Dossari has joined what the Saudi Arabian authorities refer to as a reform and rehabilitation programme for all former Guantánamo detainees. He is allowed to return home to spend time with his family.

DAVID HICKS

Australian national

"He is happy to be back on Australian soil... He was visibly elated when we touched down."

David Hicks' lawyer

David Hicks was transferred to Australia in May 2007. He was sentenced in March 2007 by military commission to seven years' imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to "providing material support for terrorism". Under a pre-trial agreement, all but nine months of the sentence was suspended and he was transferred to Australian custody. He is serving his sentence in Yatala Labour Prison in Adelaide, Australia, where his family visits him weekly. He is held in solitary confinement.

David Hicks will be released on 30 December. He has told his family that he would like to apply for university to study ecology, zoology or geology.

ADEL KAMIL ABDULLAH

Bahraini national

"I did not get my job back despite being promised. Bahrain's cost of living has also increased. Our financial status was hard hit during my detainment and my side business is gone, which has caused difficulties in adjusting back to normal life here."

Adel Kamil Abdullah was transferred to Bahrain in November 2005. Like other Bahraini nationals released from Guantánamo, he did not face any charges on his return and was immediately reunited with his family. He has written about the difficulties he has experienced in adapting to normal life, including problems with finding employment.

RASUL KUDAEV

Russian national

"In Guantánamo, he did not confess to anything because he has not done anything wrong. Here in Russia, they treated him so badly, he could not stand it any longer and made a statement against himself."

Rasul Kudaev's mother.

Rasul Kudaev was transferred to Russia in 2004. On 23 October 2005, he was arrested on suspicion of organizing terrorist attacks on government installations in the city of Nalchik. The police allegedly tortured him to extract a "confession". Photographs, eyewitness testimony and official documents support the allegations of torture. His lawyer and family have expressed grave concerns that he is being denied access to medical care in detention. The preliminary hearing for Rasul Kudaev and other defendants began in October 2007. Amnesty International is monitoring the hearings.

SAMI AL-LAITHI

Egyptian national

"Once they stomped on my back... A [military police officer] threw me on the floor, and they lifted me up and slammed me back down."

Sami al-Laithi

Sami al-Laithi was transferred to Egypt in October 2005 and on arrival was taken to hospital. A few days later he went home to his family. He needs a wheelchair because of a spinal injury which he says was caused when US officials at Guantánamo hospital stomped on his back, fracturing two vertebrae. He has been told that sudden movement could sever his spinal cord and paralyse him. US authorities have stated that his spinal injury was sustained before he arrived in Guantánamo and that the damage progressed over time.

AHKAR QASSIM BASIT

Ethnic Uighur from China

"We suffered very much at Guantánamo, but we continue to suffer here... The other prisoners had their countries... we have no place to go."

Ahktar Qassim Basit

Ahktar Qassim Basit is one of five ethnic Uighurs from China who were transferred to Albania in May 2006. They could not be returned to China for fear of further human rights violations. Three other former Guantánamo detainees were sent to Albania in November 2006. Language problems, Albania's high rate of unemployment and the scarcity of housing in the capital Tirana mean that their integration into Albanian society is difficult. They have been given some Albanian language tuition.

December 2007

AI Index: AMR 51/170/2007

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