

PUBLIC

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UA 84/06 **Health concern/Torture**

USA **Jumah al-Dossari (m)**

Guantánamo detainee Jumah al-Dossari attempted suicide in March. He says he has been tortured in custody, and is believed to have made numerous suicide attempts since he was detained, in January 2001. US officials have refused to give his lawyers any information about his current condition.

Lawyers visiting other detainees at Guantánamo in late March were told that Jumah al-Dossari had recently attempted suicide, for what may have been the 12th time, by slitting his throat. Official notes from Guantánamo which have recently been declassified also record the suicide attempt. Despite requests for information, his lawyers have been unable to determine his current condition.

US Navy commander Robert Durand, a spokesperson at Guantánamo, told US journalists earlier this month that there was a suicide attempt at the camp on 11 March and that the unnamed detainee is “clinically stable”. He has also noted that a single detainee, believed to be Jumah al-Dossari, accounts for 12 of the 39 reported suicide attempts at Guantánamo.

Bahraini national Jumah al-Dossari was seized in Pakistan in late 2001 and held for several weeks by the Pakistani authorities. US agents then flew him to Kandahar airbase, in Afghanistan, and took him from there to Guantánamo. Jumah al-Dossari claims he has been tortured in custody. This has included beatings and death threats, prolonged isolation, exposure to extreme cold and sexual assaults.

In testimony written by Jumah al-Dossari in July 2005 and made available to Amnesty International, he wrote of “the revolting torture and those vile attacks which were a humiliation and will continue to be a vile stain on history, memories that whenever I look back on them, I wonder how my soft heart could bear them, how my body could bear the pain of the torture and how my mind could bear all that stress. How I wish my memories and my thoughts could be forgotten...” Jumah al-Dossari’s full account of his experiences can be read here: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR511072005>

On 15 October 2005, Jumah al-Dossari attempted to hang himself after going into the toilet during an interview with his lawyer. In November 2005 he told his lawyer that he had wanted to kill himself so that he could send a message to the world that the conditions at Guantánamo are intolerable. He added that he had tried to do it in a public way so that the military could not cover it up and his death would not be anonymous. This suicide attempt left him with a broken vertebra and fourteen stitches in his right arm.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The first detainees were moved to Guantánamo in January 2002. Around 490 men of around 35 nationalities are still held there, unlawfully. Reports from the detainees and their lawyers suggest that many have been tortured or otherwise ill-treated, either in Guantánamo or in other US detention centres. Many have attempted suicide.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Guantánamo detainee Jumah al-Dossari attempted suicide in March, apparently for the 12th time, and that the camp authorities have refused to give his lawyers any information about his current condition;
- seeking assurances that he is being given access to appropriate and independent medical care, and urging the US authorities to provide his lawyers with a full report of the state of his health, provided by independent doctors;
- expressing concern at allegations that Jumah al-Dossari has been tortured and ill-treated in US military custody, and calling for an independent investigation, with all those found responsible brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to release Jumah al-Dossari and all other Guantánamo detainees, unless they are to be given fair trials in US courts in accordance with international law 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

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

General Bantz John Craddock
Commander United States Southern Command
3511 NW 91st Ave., Miami, FL, 33172-1217
USA

Salutation: Dear General
Fax: +1 305 437 1077

COPIES TO:

Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, The Pentagon, Washington DC 20301, USA

Fax: + 1 703 697 8339
Salutation: Dear Secretary of Defense

Matthew Waxman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Detainee Affairs
2500 Defense Pentagon 5E420, Washington, DC 2031, USA

Fax: +1 703 697 6166
Salutation: Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

and to diplomatic representatives of USA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 May 2006.