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Note to translators: Please enter the translations into the boxes below and leave the box headers. Please do not translate items in square brackets, like this: []

Title

Jordan: “Your confessions are ready to sign!”

Summary for AI home page (max 45 words)

Torture persists in Jordan against political and security suspects, including individuals detained as part of the “war on terror”. “Confessions” extracted under torture are used as evidence in court, but the torturers themselves are not brought to justice.

[Email the King of Jordan to stop incommunicado detention and torture!](#)

Summary for torture homepage

-SAME AS ABOVE -

Feature

Jordan detains and tortures political and security suspects. Its military security agency – the General Intelligence Department – uses torture methods such as the “*falaqa*” – beating the soles of the feet with a stick, and the “*shabeh*” (phantom) - suspension from handcuffed wrists for several hours and then beatings.

The “confessions” then extracted appear to be regularly used as evidence before a Special Security Court that has so far failed to properly investigate any of the 100 allegations of torture submitted over the last 10 years. Some suspects have even been **executed on the basis of “confessions” extracted under torture.**

Perhaps unsurprisingly therefore, Jordan seems to have become a central hub in the **global complex of secret detention centres** operated in coordination with foreign intelligence agencies as part of the “war on terror”. At least 10 of the individuals tortured or otherwise ill-treated appear to be victims of the **US-led “rendition”** [[link this word to rendition page - http://web.amnesty.org/pages/stoptorture-renditions-eng](http://web.amnesty.org/pages/stoptorture-renditions-eng)] **programme.**

The **UK** has signed a “memorandum of understanding” with the Jordanian authorities that supposedly provides “**diplomatic assurances**” [[link to DA fact sheet http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engact400212005](http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engact400212005)] that certain Jordanian nationals will not be tortured if the UK forcibly sends them to Jordan. Given the complicity of Jordanian authorities in the practice of torture however, any such agreements are clearly not worth the paper they are written on.

The Jordanian government has a responsibility to maintain public safety and bring to justice any perpetrators of attacks on civilians, but it is legally bound to do so without resorting to torture and other ill-treatment.

Click here [*link to web action*] **to email the Jordanian King**, to end the use of secret and incommunicado detention; ensure that claims of “confessions” extracted under torture are fully and impartially investigated; and bring the suspected torturers to justice.

Quote

"They put out their cigarettes on my hand, beat me with sticks on my body...then hit me on the feet continuously for three hours... I told him I was ready to say anything he wanted, so they carried me on a stretcher, as I was unable to walk, back to the interrogation offices."

Usama Abu Hazeem.

Image captions:

Al-Jafr prison as seen from above [image not yet cleared]

Maher 'Arar [<https://intranet.amnesty.org/adam/en/9033/detail.html>]

Salah Nasser Salim Ali Qaru [<https://intranet.amnesty.org/adam/en/6748/detail.html>]

Muhammad Faraj Ahmed Bashmilah [<https://intranet.amnesty.org/adam/en/6747/detail.html>]

Find out more (box) – links

Report, July 2006 Jordan: “Your confessions are ready for you to sign”. Detention and torture of political suspects. [link to MDE 16/005/2006 – **to include summary!**]

Report, April 2006 USA: Below the Radar - Secret flights to torture and ‘disappearance’ [link to AMR 51/051/2006]

Public Statement, January 2006 Beirut NGO meeting rejects flawed deals on detainee transfers. [link to MDE 01/001/2006]

Press Release, November 2005 – Jordan: Attacks by armed groups show utter disregard for humanity [link to MDE 16/007/2005]

Web letter to King.

Your Excellency,

I am deeply concerned at reports of torture and other ill-treatment at the General Intelligence Department (GID) and other detention centres in Jordan.

Amnesty International and other organisations have documented the practise of torture within the GID for more than 20 years. GID officers have extensive powers and benefit from near total impunity, acting virtually as a law unto themselves. The GID does not always promptly disclose the names or other details of those they detain, who are generally held incommunicado, nor their whereabouts. The GID can prolong such detentions for weeks or months at a time. It has almost unlimited power over those they detain who are rendered effectively powerless. The UN Special Rapporteur on torture, at the close of his visit to Jordan in June 2006, stated that “torture is systematically practiced” at the GID.

For the most part, interrogations in the GID are geared towards obtaining the “confessions” which are then used as evidence – sometimes the only evidence – in prosecutions before the State Security Court (SSC). The SSC has been largely supine in the face of repeated torture allegations and frequently fails to order that allegations are independently investigated. In 1994 the UN Human Rights Committee went so far as to recommend that the Jordanian authorities consider the abolition of the SSC.

These practices violate Jordanian and international law. I call on you to use your authority as King to outlaw torture and institute effective safeguards against torture, in accordance with Jordan’s obligations under international law. Anyone who is taken into detention should be allowed prompt access to a lawyer, as this is a key safeguard for the prevention of torture. All allegations of torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment must be the subject of a prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigation, and suspected perpetrators should be brought to justice.

In addition, regarding Jordan’s apparent role within the ‘war on terror’ I call on Your Excellency to: make publicly available information on the numbers, nationalities and current whereabouts of all terror suspects rendered, extradited or otherwise transferred to or from Jordanian custody; and to cancel the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Kingdom

Yours sincerely,

Name, Address, Fax and EMAIL and salutation for King

H. M. the King

His Majesty King >Abdallah bin Hussein

Office of H.M. the King

Royal Palace

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Flash animation – Torture Works. Already designed.... Extract from *Cruel. Inhuman. Degrades us all* (ACT 40/010/2005, <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engact400102005>).

Torture works...

- *to inflict unspeakable pain on defenceless people;*
- *to break the will and destroy the personality of the victim;*
- *to brutalize the victim and torturer;*
- *to make the victim say what the torturer wants to hear;*
- *to increase terrorism by normalizing brutality and antagonizing communities;*
- *to inspire hatred and terror across whole communities;*
- *to deepen divisions in society by dehumanizing certain groups;*
- *to lower the moral standards of society.*

Torture doesn't work...

- *to stop terrorism;*
- *to make us safer.*

Update on Guantanamo Bay –

CHANGES IN RED

See <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/guantanamobay-index-esl>

<http://web.amnesty.org/pages/guantanamobay-index-fra>

<http://ara.amnesty.org/pages/guantanamobay-index-ara>

Guantánamo Bay - a human rights scandal

The unlawful detention of “enemy combatants” at the US Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba has now entered its fifth year. Hundreds of people of around 35 different nationalities remain held in effect in a legal black hole, many without access to any court, legal counsel or family visits.

Many of these detainees allege they have been subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. **Three detainees have died at the camp, after apparently committing suicide.** Others have gone on prolonged hunger strikes, being kept alive only through painful force feeding measures.

Guantánamo Bay has become a symbol of injustice and abuse in the US administration’s “war on terror”. It must be closed down.

You can make a difference. Take action now!

Ending Guantánamo Bay detentions

A framework for closing Guantánamo

Amnesty International was among the first to call for the closure of Guantánamo over a year ago, and this prospect is now being publicly entertained by some within the US administration. President Bush has stated that he would “very much like to end Guantánamo”.

Amnesty International details in this report its recommendations on alternatives to continued detentions at the facility. Guantánamo detainees should be released or charged and tried in accordance with international standards of fairness. Crucially, closing Guantánamo must not result in the transfer of human rights violations elsewhere.