

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/036/2009

13 March 2009

**Further Information on UA 31/09 (AMR 51/018/2009, 09 February 2009) III-treatment/Health concern/Legal concern**

**USA**                    **Binyam Mohamed (m), aged 30**  
**Lakhdar Boumediene (m), aged 41**  
**Approximately 50 other Guantánamo detainees**

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Binyam Mohamed was released on 26 February, and allowed to return to the UK. An unknown number of detainees, including Lakhdar Boumediene, are still on hunger strike in protest at their indefinite detention, as well as the conditions of detention at the US naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Most of them are being force-fed.

In a statement issued through his lawyers the day he was released, Binyam Mohamed thanked all those who had worked for his release. "I know I would not be home in Britain today if it were not for everyone's support. Indeed, I might not be alive at all." Binyam Mohamed also urged that campaigning should continue on behalf of those men still held at Guantánamo Bay. "My own despair was greatest when I thought that everyone had abandoned me. I have a duty to make sure that nobody else is forgotten."

The Review Team, set up on the **order** of President Obama, visited the detention facility in February and reported that the detainees were being treated humanely. However, Amnesty International is still receiving reports **of** detainees being ill-treated: this includes reports of beatings and cruel methods of force-feeding.

Lakhdar Boumediene, who has been held in Guantánamo for more than seven years, is continuing his hunger strike, which he began in December 2006. He has given his lawyers further details of what was done to him on 30 January: he was forcibly removed from his cell and beaten by members of the "Immediate Reaction Force" team. He was then strapped into a chair that restrained his arms, legs, and head; one of his nostrils has already been injured by force-feeding, so a tube was inserted roughly through his other nostril. Lakhdar Boumediene added that the feeding process usually takes between an hour and 90 minutes, but on this occasion was performed in only five minutes. It made him choke and vomit. Afterwards, he was put in solitary confinement and forced to sleep and pray on a mat smelling of excrement and urine. According to his lawyers, he was subjected to similar treatment for the next 10 days, and was only moved back to his usual cell, in Camp Iguana, on 10 February, two days before they met with him.

The discrepancies in accounts of their treatment given by detainees or their lawyers and the findings of the Review Team underscore the need for continuous independent scrutiny of the facility. One of the recommendations of the Review Team was that the government "consider inviting non-governmental organizations and appropriate international organizations to send representatives to Guantánamo."

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

- calling on the authorities to give all Guantánamo detainees who have been on hunger strike immediate access to adequate medical care and treatment;
- calling on them to ensure that all detainees are treated in accordance with international laws and standards;
- calling on them to allow visits by independent human rights experts and the UN special procedures;

- calling for all the Guantánamo detainees to be released immediately unless they are promptly charged with recognizably criminal offences and tried in US federal courts in full accordance with international standards for fair trial.

**APPEALS TO:**

The Honorable Robert M. Gates,  
US Secretary of Defense,  
1000 Defense Pentagon,  
Washington DC 20301, USA  
**Fax: +1 703 571 8951**  
**Salutation: Dear Secretary of Defense**

The Honorable Eric H. Holder,  
Attorney General,  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
Washington DC 20530-0001, USA  
**Fax: +1 202 307 6777**  
**Email: AskDOJ@usdoj.gov**  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General**

**COPIES TO:**

Matthew G. Olsen,  
Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security,  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
Washington, DC 20530-0001, USA

and to diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 April 2009.