

The National Society for Human Rights,



Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp and Human Rights Violations

Suffering of Saudi Detainees and their Families

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Table of Contents

Topic	Page
Preamble	5
Introduction	9
CHAPTER ONE: Legal perspective	11
1. Guantanamo as an international issue	13
2. Arbitrary detention	14
3. Legal violations and legitimacy of detention	15
4. International conventions and covenants on war prisoners	18
5. Crisis of values and principles	19
6. Legal situation of detainees between reality and justifications	20
CHAPTER TWO: Suffering of detainees and their families	25
1. Suffering of detainees	27
2. Suffering of detainees' families	30
CHAPTER THREE: Guantanamo and the USA	37
1. International position on Guantanamo detainees	39
2. Guantanamo's impact on the USA's international image	46
CHAPTER FOUR: Local efforts vis-à-vis Guantanamo detainees	49
1. Governmental efforts vis-à-vis Guantanamo detainees	51
2. Efforts of The National Society for Human Rights vis-à-vis Guantanamo detainees	52
3. Efforts of the committee for the follow-up of Guantanamo detainees' situations	55
Conclusion	61
Appendices	63
Appendix 1: Detainees and released names	63
Appendix 2: Statements made by the Society about Guantanamo detainees	68
Appendix 3: Correspondence issued by the Society and follow-up committee to official parties	71

Preamble

When I hear or read about Guantanamo Bay detention camp, images of human rights violations unfurl before me in the twenty-first century. In the first picture, I see people squatting down in iron cages, dressed in orange costumes, with heads bent, hands cuffed, feet chained, and standing on their heads muscular were well built American soldiers and looking at them contemptuously. In the second picture, I see guardsmen, pulling a wooden cart similar to a fruit and vegetable one, on which one detainee is lying, with hands and feet chained. In the third picture, I see two soldiers dragging one detainee out of his cell to the investigation room, with hands and feet chained. In that room, the detainee sits on a plastic chair, with guards pinning him down to the ground with chains on his feet. On the ceiling, a camera connected to the electronic control center monitors his movements. The investigator and CIA agents then start interrogating him, using abusive language meant to degrade his culture, denigrate his religion, and demolish his morals. They may use other techniques to force him to admit some crimes he did not commit. I imagine his answer coming from the investigator's mouth as follows: before purchasing me from Afghanistan and bringing me to this place, I heard that your state respects human beings, irrespective of sex, nationality, religion, color, or origin, and that the criterion of advancement of any country has to do with respect of human rights. After five years of detention, I have come to the opposite realization. You have deprived me of my rights stated in your Christian teachings, constitution, laws, international conventions which you spent a lot of time and efforts to establish throughout the world, and which you forced some countries to join. The first of these conventions is the International Declaration of Human Rights, which is the sum total of principles of the United Nations regarding the protection of all persons exposed to any form of detention; the Geneva Treaty for Prisoners of War, which defines exemplary rules for treating prisoners and the behavior of employees in charge of the implementation of laws; the United Nations rules for

the protection of juveniles deprived of freedom; the Convention on the eradication of torture and other forms of treatments or punishments that are severe, inhumane, humiliating to dignity; and the Convention on Child Rights.

These documents and others have ensured me rights to preserve my humanity and dignity. However, you deprived me of them and of the right of each suspect to be considered innocent until found legally guilty in a public trial in which all necessary guarantees for self-defense are guaranteed, that the burden of proving an accusation is the responsibility of the prosecution, and that a suspect reserves the right to have an attorney and to inform his family of his detention. He will also reserve the right to review all the details relating to his case in a language that he understands, and that each person receives the same treatment as other people. He also reserves the right to be fairly and openly tried by an independent and unbiased court for any accusation directed against him. You deprived me of the right that guarantees for each person to be tried immediately upon arrest or detention in order to reconsider his detention, not to be forced to self-condemnation, and not to consider any confession made through torture, and to be treated respectfully and humanely upon arrest.

The report in your hands records the suffering of Guantanamo detainees and their families, the position of the American administration towards those detainees, efforts and stance of some personalities and human right organizations that reject the attitude of the American administration regarding the detention of thousands of people under the name of War on Terror without trial and subjected to physical and psychological torture. The report also shows the successful efforts made by the Saudi Government in favor of those detainees, and the efforts made by the National Society for Human Rights and Guantanamo Detainee Follow-up Committee in this respect. The report closes by emphasizing the

position of the Saudi National Society for Human Rights, which calls for the closure of this detention camp and the return of the detainees to their home countries, or their unconditional release if they are proved to be innocent, with the necessary apologies made to their families, and whoever is proved to be guilty should be punished in accordance with international laws and Conventions.

This balanced stance preserves both the American Government's right to protect American Society from terror and terrorists, and at the same time does not ignore values of justice, primacy of the law, and respect for human rights under the pretence of combating terror.

To conclude, the Society gives its grateful thanks and respect to His Royal Highness Prince Naief ben Abdulaziz Minister of Interior and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed ben Naief ben Abdulaziz, Deputy Minister of Interior for Security Affairs for their efforts to follow-up the detainees' situations, furnish all facilities to those who were released, and care for their families, under the directions of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah ben Abdulaziz and his Crown Prince Sultan ben Abdulaziz, may Allah protect them all. Thanks should also be extended to my colleagues at the Society and to the public representatives in the Follow-up Committee of Guantanamo Detainees whose participation throws light on the suffering of the detainees both locally and internationally, namely, the vice president of the society for preparing this report and his colleagues in the Guantanamo Detainees Follow-up Committee for the efforts they made in following up their case and being in touch with their families.

Dr. Bander ben Mohammed Hamza Hajjar
President of National Committee of Human Rights.

Introduction

Since 9/11, the name of Guantanamo has been so much in use in the media. It is a name of a small Cuban island, neighboring the borders of the United States, located 90 miles off the coast of Florida, and inhabited by 280,000 people, most of whom are cotton and sugar cane farmers. The Guantanamo American Naval Base is located on this island.

In 1903, Cuba agreed to its then neighbor and friend, the USA at that time, to enjoy the privilege of using the island out of gratitude for the support provided by the Americans to Cubans in their resistance to the Spanish occupation, for an annual nominal rent. Upon the Cuban Revolution after World War II, the US refused to evacuate the base and leave the island, strongly holding to the previous agreement. The US continued to pay annual rent although the Cuban Government has suspended cashing off the checks issued by the US as the island's rent for approximately 50 years.

At the outset of what the US calls the war on terror, the American naval base on this island grew more important to the American government, who made it the headquarters of one of the worst detention camps in human history, keeping it as central to the war on terror. At this point, an old dilemma appeared consisting of the requirements of war versus individual rights. This is clearly shown in this detention camp resting side by side with American democracy, which claims to protect human rights throughout the world.

It was observed that the American administration is very concerned to put the detainees in this detention camp in a legal void where they can neither benefit from the protection guaranteed by the American laws, nor benefit from the protection insured by international laws.

CHAPTER ONE: Legal perspective

1. Guantanamo as an international issue
2. Arbitrary detention
3. Legal violations and legitimacy of detention
4. International conventions and covenants on war prisoners
5. The values and principles crisis
6. Legal situation of detainees between reality and justifications

1. Guantanamo as an international issue

Guantanamo became an international problem when the American administration selected this island to be the headquarters for the famous Guantanamo detention camp, which was established at the beginning of 2002 as a jail for a number of persons deemed by the American administration to be Al-Qaeda members, or to belong to Taliban or the like. The Guantanamo detention camp was originally built to detain Usama ben Laden and his assistants and the main members of Taliban who were accused of direct responsibility for 9/11 attacks.

After the US invasion of Afghanistan, the American forces arrested a great deal of persons, directly or indirectly, in Afghanistan, Pakistan and other places. Among those arrested were some Saudis, and many others from other countries. The number of those who were detained is estimated to be more than 650 detainees, deported by the American authorities to this ill-famed detention camp in batches at the same or different intervals of time. They were deprived of their human rights according to the regulations and international conventions that organize the status of prisoners of war, and were not treated according to the American laws that guarantee some rights, either. They were treated in an utterly different way, which deprived them of their rights and caused them to remain all this time without trial. The behavior of the American administration vis-à-vis the treatment of Guantanamo detainees and the violation of laws, deteriorated owing to its utter disillusionment and failure to catch the main members of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban movement that might have furnished them with some information regarding the chief of Al-Qaeda. As a result, the American administration started using all types of torture banned internationally in contempt of international conventions and covenants signed by the US. This administration persists in raising some legal problems to stop any effort toward trying the detainees before a normal judicial court or

releasing them. The biggest defiance for this administration is to find legal evidence to keep those prisoners under detention, protesting that the evidence against them includes sensitive intelligence sources.

This administration has isolated those detainees from the outside world, and severe torture and human rights violations were practiced against them. They were only permitted to contact their families some time after their arrest, through emails that reach their families belatedly, and some of their contents were deleted. Correspondence can be suspended for months if the American army decided since such a suspension of correspondence is a type of punishment practiced against the detainees. At this point, Guantanamo has become an international problem because it has become a cemetery for the principle of human rights protection.

2. Arbitrary detention

Although the first Guantanamo detainees came from the battlefield in Afghanistan, most of them are far from this field. They were arrested outside the legal procedures valid in the countries in which they were arrested. Some of them were arrested due to some doubts; others, independently of guilt, were detained because of their nationality. The American authorities paid big amounts of money to individuals and local authorities in some countries against delivery of some persons of specific nationalities. Kidnapping, imprisoning, and blind detaining were accompanied by a number of inhumane practices done by the American security authorities, in cooperation with some governments who were affected or who believed American claims.(1)

It was clear that blind arrest by the American security authorities was not based on any legal procedures that preserve the rights of detainees. Instead, it includes many of the practices and violations that contradict the principles of human rights such as preventing detainees from

(1) See Amnesty International, document 2002 / 14 / 044, March 2002

seeking any legal support and concealing arrest from their families and even their countries, and preventing them from using their senses for prolonged periods, chaining their hands and feet, putting them in small cells where minimal human facilities are not available, regardless of age, nationality, or whether they belong to a country that is a friend or an enemy to the US.

3. Legal violations and legitimacy of detention

If blind arrest is the means followed by the US administration regarding detainees outside US borders, some reports issued by Amnesty International point that more than 1200 foreigners in the US were arrested in the two months following the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Arrests occurred through storming in throughout the United States to seek for persons suspected to have participated in these attacks.

Preliminary reports that the US administration allowed to be published, disclosed that most of the detainees are of Arab or Asian origins, and that the reasons for their arrest has to do with violation of immigration laws.⁽²⁾ It was believed that more than 300 individuals caught during these campaigns remained in detention for more than 6 months, and an unspecified number of them were expelled from the country or released on bail. The arrest, detention, and investigation processes were carried out almost secretly, in that the US administration concealed the names of detainees and where they were detained.

This practice resembles the one followed by the American administration regarding detainees transferred to the Guantanamo detention camp and other detention camps. This proves that the American violation of laws is not limited to those arrested outside its borders, but included

² <http://www.amnesty.org/library/engerdex>

those residing on its soil. Many attorneys specializing in immigration cases pointed that most of those arrested after 9/11, were accused of petty things that did not in normal circumstances necessitate detention. Although the detainees legally depended on the immigration department, many of them were detained and remained at the disposal of the FBI until the latter made sure that they did not constitute any danger to US national security. And although most of the detainees did not see serious accusations directed against them, they were cruelly treated during detention, including solitary confinement for prolonged periods, chaining during visit hours or upon appearing before courts, preventing them from practicing sports outside their cells, and harming them both verbally and physically. Undoubtedly, the occurrence of such violations on American soil and under the protection of American laws, reflects the extent of violations committed by the American administration vis-à-vis detainees outside American borders and beyond the application of its local laws. In Guantanamo detention camp, it was leaked from some reports made by human rights organizations that a great deal of detainees were deprived of human rights guaranteed by international law such as the right to humane treatment, protection from abusive detention owing to national or religious belonging, being represented by an attorney, and the right to innocence till guilt is proven juristically.

Many events and practices carried out by the US authorities pointed that the CIA most of the time, under the pretext of protecting the American people against terrorism, behaved with detainees without abiding by legal limits. It has done all the things that were expected to provide protection to the American people against what they call terrorism, regardless of its legal extent. The case of secret prisons and the transfer of prisoners between some countries' airports without their officials' knowledge and blind arrest on and outside American soil, is evidence of such a tendency among the American security authorities.

Although it was supposed that the US Secretary of Justice should have

been law-abiding, up to 2004 the idea prevailed that foreign detainees in Guantanamo Bay cannot refer their cases to American courts under the pretext that Cuba enjoys full sovereignty on its soil. By such a practice, detainees were prevented from referring to American courts to contest the decision of their arrest. Such an explanation was included in a memorandum from the US Secretary of Justice to the Secretary of Defense after 9/11, which was only disclosed in 2004.

Although the American media spoke about the document, the Supreme Court decided that American courts enjoy jurisdiction regarding appeal of foreign detainees in Guantanamo. However, no American court looked seriously into any appeal regarding the legality of arrest of any of the detainees who are natives of many countries, including three persons from Canada, Chad, and Saudi Arabia who were under 15 years of age at the time of arrest. No appeal is seriously looked into since the American administration continued to accumulate evidence before American courts to the effect of preventing any serious revision of the case of detainees. Accordingly, they were kept under the control of intelligence personnel, with continual deprivation of all rights considered as a basic guarantee against any illegal detention, disappearance, torture, and all types of inhumane treatment.

Such a treatment is a reflection of an integrated position of American President Bush, Secretary of Justice, and White House advisors, whose conclusion determines that some persons do not deserve by American regulations and international laws to be treated humanely. This is why former Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld allowed the use of interrogation styles that violate all international standards and practices. Generally, the American administration showed utter contempt for international laws through the “war on terrorism” slogan, which conceals many disasters and legal violations. Through American policy and the order created by the US Secretary of Defense to supposedly protect US national security, big violations to basic human rights occurred such as depriving suspects

from a fair trial before a civil court and from appealing to criminal laws, and detention for years without trial. Such an occurrence creates a serious unprecedented international event.

4. International conventions and covenants on war prisoners

The Geneva Convention regarding prisoners of war states that all prisoners, under all circumstances, should receive a humane treatment and should not be subjected to humiliation and insult by occupying forces,(3) and that any physical or psychological humiliation should be considered a violation of the convention. There is a great deal of evidence from within Guantanamo detention camp and other detention centers, point to the fact that detainees faced severe torture, subjugation, and humiliation, acknowledged by the American authorities themselves. In an article by American journalist Seymour Hirsh, it was said that torture in Guantanamo includes stripping detainees, chaining their hands and feet tightly and nailing them to the ground, exposing them to blinding lights, loud music, and operating air-conditioning to its full capacity for 14 hours non-stop. The third Geneva Convention regarding the rights of prisoners of war and other conventions and covenants, have been ignored, which guarantee the rights of prisoners to receive humane treatment and to see their cases looked into in accordance with justice and law. This transpired from stories of suffering from FBI agents told by released prisoners, and from documents and memoranda pointing out that the Bush administration brushed aside the Geneva Convention, which prohibited psychological and physical torture against detainees.

It was also reported from American soldiers working in Guantanamo that detainees were regularly subjected to a very bad treatment and serious violation of their rights. Testimonies of released detainees

3 Article (13) of the Geneva Convention states the following about prisoners of war: "Prisoners of war shall be treated humanely and protected at all times, especially against torture, terror, humiliations, and public attention.

and confessions of American soldiers who participated in torture, converge to testify to the savagery, bloody violence, and inhumane treatment undergone by Guantanamo detainees. This emphasizes that the American authorities ignored regulations of international covenants and treaties regarding prisoners of war. The American administration tried to disavow its moral responsibility for that, saying that what is going on in that detention camp is done by junior soldiers. But the extent of violation in this detention camp is so significant that one of the CIA investigators, who visited Guantanamo in 2002, said “we have committed war crimes.” It was proven that the detainees’ faith was insulted, and that the holy Quran was profaned, in spite of the White House’s claim that the men and women of the American army respect the detainees’ religious values.

In spite of the celebration of the human rights day every year, the case of Guantanamo detainees remains one of the persistent and difficult problems to solve owing to the American administration’s stubbornness to keep detainees under inhumane conditions, thus violating the least international practices and laws. It considers them outside concepts of rights, justice, humanity, and international laws, which made talks about human covenants and principles of justice and laws laughable to some American authorities when they were asked to implement such standards to detainees.(4)

5. Crisis of values and principles

Since 9/11, the American administration has been unable to claim that it did not lose its leadership in respecting values and principles of human rights owing to the violations that this administration is guilty of in Guantanamo and other detention centers and the secret and declared

4 As a reaction to a hunger strike by some detainees, Former Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld said that they have grown more “zealous.”

wars and legislations surrounded by fears and exaggerations.(5) The United Nations committee against torture asking for the closure of secret detention centers, especially that of Guantanamo, is further evidence that what inhumane practices and violations committed within these centers are a stain of disgrace on the forehead of the American Administration that is still talking about spreading democracy across the world and protecting human rights.

The behavior of the American Administration in detaining thousands of persons under the pretext of war on terror and keeping them in secret and declared detention centers for years without trial while frequently denying their detention and subjecting them to physical and psychological torture, coercing them to confess to crimes using many means, ordering some participating countries to build secret prisons on their soil or provide illegal facilities for its security staff, or provide direct support to arrest and host suspects, all these behaviors contradict the values and principles protecting human rights that the American nation believes in. Accordingly, we can say that there is a fierce onslaught by the current Bush administration, especially from those officials who have the power, against the values, principles, and legislations of the American people that call for the protection of human rights.

6. Legal situation of detainees between reality and justifications

When the United States selected the island of Guantanamo to be the headquarters for detainees in the so-called War on Terror, such a selection was not accidental. It was a planned act aiming to put those detainees in a legal void so that they can be kept in detention for the longest period possible without judicial review. The island is Cuban by name, but Cuban laws are not implemented there, and American laws and legislation have no effect on this island. The American Administration

5 See Amnesty International, general document 2003/045/51.

gave them a specific description as “enemy combatants” to hinder them from taking any advantage of the Geneva Convention on the protection and treatment of prisoners of war. The American Administration claimed that the prisoners and detainees are not combatants within the Afghan government, and, therefore, they have no rights of prisoners of war according to international treaties and conventions, especially the third Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War.

This is a very strange contradiction. The American Administration gives excuses to the new Afghanistan government to arrest those persons and deport them to their detention camps as Taliban combatants. On the other hand, it says that the Geneva Conventions do not apply in their case. In reality, the Geneva Conventions on Prisoners of War do apply to them. The American Administration went too far in ignoring the laws when it tried to prevent some detainees on the American soil to have the protection of American laws as in the case of the Qatari native Almuri, about whom one Federal Court of Appeal considered that President George Bush was not authorized to issue an indefinite restraint order against him. He is the only “enemy combatant” detained on American soil. The court issued a decision to release him upon his arrest in June 2002, without any accusation. He was remanded in a military prison in South Carolina, suspecting him of being a member of an Al-Qaeda sleeping cell. Al-Muri appealed before a federal court regarding his detention. The US Government denied the request for appeal, considering that the special laws enacted in the case of Guantanamo detainees suspected to be terrorists banned to go to civil courts before being tried by a special military court, may apply to this detainee’s case. But the Federal Court of Appeal said that the new law is not applicable to this detainee, and added that President Bush is not authorized to order the army to detain Almuri indefinitely.

In June 2004, the US Supreme Court determined that Federal Courts are allowed to organize judicial hearings of any appeal by detained foreign natives. However, the legal status of any of Guantanamo detainee has not yet been legally reviewed. Instead, the American administration established judicial agencies to review the status of detainees to determine whether each detainee is singularly arrested or arrested with a group of detainees. In such procedures, neither a detainee nor his attorney is allowed to know the secret evidence used against him. In addition, the special judicial agencies are allowed to accept evidence extracted under torture or other illegal treatments. Upon the decision of the Supreme Court, attorneys representing detainees submitted an appeal to bring detainees before the Washington DC court. The first judge in the court legislated in favor of the executive authority of the President of the United States in times of war, saying that Guantanamo detainees reserve no right to question the legality of their detention. However, after that the County federal judge refused the government's pretext that the detainees have no real rights. She said the detainees have the right as per the constitution of the United States, and should not be deprived of their freedom without availing them of legal procedures. Accordingly, the status of Guantanamo detainees falls within a legal void and outside judicial protection and revision.

It is clear that the Bush Administration excluded all that relates to justice when it authorized military investigation commissions to take fast measures against detainees, since these commissions are not independent, and take their orders from the directives of the Secretary of Defense. Even in the presence of attorneys who did not know much information about their client detainees, these military commissions were satisfied with signs of condemnation of suspects and neglected signs of innocence. In spite of what the American Supreme Court determined concerning the power of judicial federal courts to try detainees, the American administration ignored this procedure, and Guantanamo detention camp remained under the authority of the executive power with

the congress dimming the whole situation.(6) However, the American Supreme Court recently refused the attempt by the Bush Administration to try suspected terrorists and Guantanamo detainees in military courts, and considered any military trial of Guantanamo detainees would harm the Geneva Convention, with five judges favoring the rejection against three.

Under such circumstances, all agree to the right of the American government to provide security to the American people, but such a right should be practiced legally and not by violating the law. Accordingly, Amnesty International requested the American Government to put an end to the legal hell in which it put detainees, direct specific accusations to all detainees, and refer them to a fair trial or release them. They all should have the option to contact attorneys and families, receive humane treatment, be able to practice the rights, and continuously inform their families of their legal rights and situations.

6 Catherine Newall Burman, advisor to the American Program on the Defense of Human Rights, is a member of the Human Rights team in the US, who was allowed by the American administration to visit Guantanamo in 2006.

CHAPTER TWO: Suffering of detainees and their families

1.	Suffering of detainees
2.	Suffering of detainees' families

1. Suffering of detainees

The suffering of detainees in Guantanamo detention camp is almost a tragedy directly from the beginning, at the time of arrest, ending in humiliating and severe treatment in detention. Immediately upon arrest, a detainee is deprived of all his personal belongings, his ID is confiscated, his hands cuffed, his legs chained, his mouth covered, his head put in a bag, and he is thrown on a truck. Most of the time, he is prevented from visiting toilets and left urinating on himself. At the detention stage, a detainee is exposed to many types of physical and psychological torture. He is prevented from using his senses for prolonged periods, and chained so that he gets used to appearing in iron chains, dressed in orange costumes, kneeling before American soldiers, or being carried on a truck, lying on his back to be transferred from one place to another.

Detainees also suffer slapping, kicking, punching, severe beating on the bottom of the foot, being boxed into a tiny cage, or being put in a cell without warm devices when the temperature is below zero, leading to some diseases such as rheumatism. Other torturing techniques include minimization of amount of food, prevention from getting necessary medical care, cutting the detainee's hair in a cross-shaped fashion, prevention from cleanliness for prayer, punishment by sitting on cold cement floor with hands above the head for a prolonged period, insulting the Holy Quran by throwing it in the toilet or writing obscene words onto it or stepping on it, leaving footprints on its holy pages, frightening and terrorizing by police dogs, spraying with hot pepper liquid on detainees' bodies after beating them with sticks and whips, staining faces and heads of some detainees by menstrual blood of female investigators, and deprivation of sleep. Detainees were also prevented from contacting their families except through letters, which the guards at the detention center delay deliberately for the longest period possible. Some detainees were injected with substances whose contents they had

no idea about. Some injections anesthetize detainees, others cause them to have fits of hysteric laughter, and some others were wrapped up in the Israeli flags for more humiliation.

Many international reports disclosed tortuous practices occurring in Guantanamo detention camp.(7) Reports stated that detainees were subjected to the fiercest torture during their detention in the camp, and that they went through very hard times in that they were prevented from sleep for long hours in times where they were not interrogated, and suffered from personality problems and wounds as a result of torture. Moreover, subjecting the detainee for long periods of solitary confinement creates deep worry about the impact of this on their mental balance. This was pointed out by some legal organizations that insisted that the conditions in which detainees were living, apart from being inhumane, may have a serious negative effect on the psychological and physical health of most detainees.

The suffering of detainees from various tortuous practices was confirmed by FBI agents. They confirmed the occurrence of violations, tortuous operations, and disgusting behaviors at Guantanamo detention centers in Cuba, mentioning that violations include chaining detainees for prolonged periods, insulting the Holy Quran, using dogs to terrorize them, and threatening them with sexual abuses. These FBI agents also reported having seen some detainees with bruises and injuries in the face and broken fingers, and talked about pinning down detainees in a fetus-like posture by chains to the ground, leaving them without seat, water, or food. Most of them urinate or defecate on themselves. They are left in such a posture for 18 hours and even 42 hours or so. Some FBI agents said that the temperature inside detention rooms is either too low or too high, and loud music is played to prevent them from sleep. Some FBI agents said that they saw some detainees wrapped up

7 Among these reports is what has been stated by Algerian detainees, the American Robert Kirtsch, and reports by Amnesty International.

in Israeli flags, and that detainees informed them of having been beaten. One detainee complained that one female guard rubbed herself against him and teased him, staining his head with her menstrual blood.(8)

Torture to death occurred when the American authorities declared that some detainees committed suicide, which was suspected by families of detainees, their inmates in the camp, and human rights organization and commissions. In this connection, one Swiss legal association, in a report regarding the death of three detainees in Guantanamo, suspected the American authorities' allegation that they committed suicide. Director of criminal medical institute in Lauzanne University, Switzerland, Professor Patrice Mangin reviewed before the media parts of a report prepared after examining the corpse of a Yemeni detainee. The report was prepared under the request of the Swiss Dignity Association, which is concerned about human rights in the Arab World.

Professor Mangin said: the Swiss physician who inspected the corpse of the Yemeni victim Ahmed Ali Abdullah who died on 10 June 2006, noticed traces of injections on the corpse and nails of hands and feet cut off after death. The medical team added that they noticed the disappearance of parts of the body such as the upper air tract, i.e. the throat, hyoid bone, cartilage of thyroid gland, without any justification to remove these organs from the corpse, signaling that these organs are very important to know whether death occurred by hanging. He said that the same organs were removed from the corpses of the two Saudi victims Yaser Talal Alzahrani and Man'a Alotaibi. These organs were kept by the American authorities.

8 The organism against the violation of American civil freedoms that published the news, filed a case on behalf of Guantanamo detainees who claimed having been subjected to torture. Among the litigants features former American Secretary of Defense Ronald Rumsfeld, who was said to have agreed to a technical tortuous style leaving detainees in dark cells and interrogating them for 24 hours non-stop. It has also become clear that torture orders were known and directed by Rumsfeld, who was described as a first class torture architect.

The Swiss professor also disclosed that there are bruises at the level of the teeth, which is, as confirmed by the medical team, a detail that arouses suspicion as to the circumstances of death and makes it impossible “that it occurred by buttons and clothes” as the American authorities pretended. Mangin pointed that in Guantanamo strict monitoring instructions and follow-up of detainees every five minutes and fixation by monitoring cameras of all their movements, make the suicide story very difficult to believe, because preparation for such an operation requires at least 10 minutes, in addition to 3 minutes for the soul to leave the body. On the other hand, the Algerian attorney, Rashid Musli, head of Dignity Association, said that the findings of the Swiss Team is in conformity with the findings of the Saudi autopsy team, who conducted autopsy on the corpses of the two Saudi victims upon arrival to the Kingdom.

Musli declared that the Association “intends to send this report to the special reporter in charge of cases of illegal execution, execution without trial, or arbitrary execution. The report will also be sent to the independent expert on the protection of human rights and political freedom within the frame of “fighting terror.” Such circumstances show the volume of suffering of detainees in Guantanamo.

2. Suffering of the families of Detainees

When Saudis travelled to Afghanistan during the war against Soviet forces, it was normal and not strange, and even welcomed by the Americans. After the departure of the Soviet forces, some Saudis established business links, friendship, and social and relief relations with the Afghan people. Accordingly, when the US invaded Afghanistan after 9/11, there were many Saudis in Afghanistan and Pakistan, communicating with their families from time to time. In addition, some of them went to Afghanistan at the beginning of the invasion to support the Muslim people of Afghanistan. After the beginning of the war, there

was communication by some of them with their families, saying that they were trying to return to the Kingdom, with some of them reaching Pakistan. Little by little, their communication began to run dry. From this moment, their families started to suffer because of conflicting news regarding the fate of their children. Some news said they were killed, others said they were arrested, and still others said they reached Pakistan. The situation grew more difficult owing to the laxity of some countries to give support to their natives for fear of American tyranny.

This situation continued for a period of time, and their families were confused, helplessly waiting to provide any support to their relatives. Their tragedy became worse when they heard that all the Saudis who reached Pakistan or those who were there from the beginning, were arrested and delivered to America. The American silence regarding the names of detainees, their location, and uncertainty about how they were going to be dealt with, fuelled the tragedy of Saudi families. The situation became worse still when they learnt that they were being deported to Guantanamo. When all detainees reached this detention camp, real tragedy started for their families, especially after the publication of successive scandals regarding the grave violation of the least human rights in this detention camp. Families became more frightened regarding the destiny of their relatives, and doubted whether they would see them again. There are many reasons for the suffering of the families. Some suffering is due to the fact that the names of detainees were not divulged, which caused suspicion about whether their relatives were still alive. Other suffering is due to the complete absence of any information about them.

In spite of all this, the real suffering of the families consisted in their inability to regulate their daily life in the absence of their relative, who may be their only source of livelihood, leaving behind aged parents, or wife and children, who found it difficult as to how to organize their life, where neither the wife could make a decision to file for divorce

owing to absence of the husband, nor could the children fulfill regular procedures to obtain necessary documentation for study and medication. The families were utterly incompetent to make any decision about their detained relatives, which caused them a great deal of harm. In addition to this, the families suffered much when they heard news through different media and legal organizations about violations, torture, and profanation of their faith. Such a situation forced some families of detainees to ask for clemency for the human condition of the families in the long absence of their relatives, and the persistent news that some of them were subjected to torture and humiliation. This clemency consisted in asking for the activation of correspondence between them, whereby they requested that mail should not be crossed, changed or delayed, because it is the only means to follow up the situation of their children and be reassured about their conditions in the detention camp.

Through the relations between members of the Detainees Follow-up Committee and families of detainees, the following poignant cases have been recorded:

1. Knowing that his son was in that horrifying detention camp, a father of one of the detainees went crazy when he heard about the stories of torture against detainees. He was unable to bear the shock, his mental condition deteriorated, became insane two years ago, and died in this state.
2. A mother of one of the detainees had a chronic migraine. She went to many hospitals but did not find the right medication. Physicians told her that the cause of her disease is psychological, and her health only improved when she saw her son five years later.
3. A mother of one of the detainees had a psychological disease that caused her to lose consciousness about her surroundings. She became a maniac, harming herself and hitting her head against the wall. When she is in such

a state, it is very difficult for anyone who happens to be with her to prevent her from doing so. She is still receiving medication for that.

4. A mother of one of the detainees had diabetes. Her blood pressure was so high that her health deteriorated, which caused her leg to be amputated from her upper thigh. She is still receiving medication.

5. A mother of one of the detainees had a blood clot upon hearing about the news regarding harm caused to detainees. She is now nearly crippled, unable to stand up or move.

6. A mother of one of the detainees slipped into a coma when hearing of execution rooms in Guantanamo. She was hoping for her son to return. When she heard such a piece of news, she lost hope, and thought that her son might be executed there.

7. There are many repeated cases of disease that occurred to many families due to the detention of their relatives. No family of detainees is free from diabetes or high blood pressure diseases or both. They were also subject to psychiatric diseases including depression and change of psychological states. All these psychosomatic diseases caused the deterioration of their health conditions and caused them to visit medical clinics for no avail.

8. In addition to the above suffering, the families of detainees suffered from fatigue and deception in following up the news of their detained sons. They were more affected to hear of the different news relating to techniques of investigation, torture, and extracting confessions by force, hunger strike and consequential damage, in addition to news of confrontations between detainees and their captors. The latest news in this direction is the death of four detainees in ambiguous circumstances. The suffering endured by the families of the three Saudi deceased detainees, is greatest since their families were waiting for their return, but to their surprise they received them in coffins. The volume

of the tragedy is beyond description and recording. The suffering of these families increased due to the news broadcast by the American authorities about three detainees committing suicide (two Saudis and one Yemeni), followed by the death of a third Saudi. Families of victims suspected the suicide story, and requested an independent investigation, because the justifications mentioned by American officials were strange and unconvincing. The families of deceased detainees in Guantanamo requested autopsy of the corpses of their sons to determine the cause of death, especially that bruises in their heads were confirmed, which may have been the cause of death. They also said that a trace of rope which was found round their necks is carefully framed by those who killed them. There are on the victims' corpses traces of torture that were difficult to remove, which questions the truth of the American story.

Talal Alzahrani, father of one of the deceased, confirmed that he refused to receive the corpse of his son at the beginning, requesting autopsy, saying that he noticed a trace of a blow on his son's forehead in spite of clear traces in the neck to prove suicide. He confirmed that he refused the American story regarding suicide, and requested autopsy of his son by an independent, unbiased medical team, including Saudi physicians.

Likewise, during inspection of the corpse of their son, Alotaibi's family asked for autopsy of the corpse to determine the cause of death. They also noticed strong bruises on his forehead. One of the relatives of the deceased said that his relative lived for prolonged periods within inhumane detention during which he suffered a series of tortuous acts without any suicide attempt, which discloses the falsehood of the American story. It is noticeable that the families of the deceased detainees suffered the destiny of their sons, after a long period of waiting and hope that they would return home safely.

9. One type of suffering is the fact that the families found themselves compelled to frequently travel within and outside the Kingdom to check with officials and public authorities and related organizations their

sons' situations, urging them to continue pressure on the United States to release them.

10. One suffering has to do with the difficulties regarding communication with their detained sons. Communication was limited to written correspondence, which is repeatedly disconnected. Some sections of text were crossed or concealed. Some families have never received any correspondence from their sons during the whole period of detention. These are short samples of the suffering of the families of detainees in Guantanamo detention camp.

CHAPTER THREE: Guantanamo and the USA

1. International position on Guantanamo detainees

2. Guantanamo's impact on the USA's international image

1. International position on Guantanamo detainees

The raised voice of the United States of America and the terror that reigned throughout the world after 9/11, caused unjust silence that wrapped all the world regarding the on-going violations of human rights in Guantanamo. At the beginning of the American government campaign on the so called “terror” and the famous speech of the American President (“whoever is not with us is against us”), the voices that criticized the United States for blind arrest of many individuals that were sent to Guantanamo were almost absent or went down. But with the passage of time and the media and some legal organizations’ talking about what was going on in this detention camp, including violations and torture, and failure of the American Government to furnish adequate legal justification empowering it to continue detaining those detainees, some efforts and attempts have been made to call for suspension of violations in this detention camp, especially after the scandal of Abu Gharib prison in Iraq and subsequent criticism of the United States. Accordingly, Guantanamo became subject to accusation of human rights violation in the midst of sad pictures of detainees, which affected the credibility of the United States regarding human rights.

These voices and efforts have been coming from within the United States and from without as well. Some outstanding individuals and legal organizations started to request the closure of the detention camp, including former Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Anan, High Commissioner of Human Rights, Louise Arbor, European Parliament, and Presidency of the European Union. From within the United States, one of the voices that called for closure of the detention camp was Bill Clinton, former President of the United States. In an interview with the Financial Times, he said that the detention camp should either be closed or cleaned. He considered that the real test to decide whether to justify the treatment of those who were suspected to have committed terrorist acts, is to check whether such a treatment

contradicts the essence and nature of the American people. He added that it was high time that the bad treatment of detainees was stopped, because maltreatment would stain the American reputation. Former US President Jimmy Carter, winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace, also called for the closure of Guantanamo, saying that such a closure will clearly demonstrate the historical adherence of the United States to the protection of human rights. American journalist Thomas Friedman wrote an article in New York Times, saying that the United States should close Guantanamo owing to the embarrassment and disgrace it brought on the United States. He said that he was fully confident that more Americans are dying and will die if Guantanamo remains as it is, requesting the American President in person to shut down this detention camp.

Five human rights reporters (9) renewed their request for the second time to shut down Guantanamo detention camp in 2006, pointing that the camp accommodates more than 450 detainees, which violates international laws of human rights. In a joint communiqué, the five experts said “they seize this opportunity to reaffirm their worries and recommendations included in their report, pointing to their former report in which they insisted upon the necessity of detaining persons accused of terrorism according to criminal procedures based on international laws. The experts welcomed the decision of the Supreme American Court that stated that establishing special courts to try Guantanamo detainees is in contradiction with the Geneva Conventions and the United States military laws. The experts also welcomed in their communiqué the increasing number of prominent individuals and corporations that are requesting the closure of the camp. They added that they especially “welcome the statements of the American Government, represented by high-level officials, regarding its intention to shut down the camp as soon as possible.” The experts urged the United States to consult with

9 The experts that issued this communiqué are special reporter for arbitrary detention, Leila Zarrouqi, special reporter for independence of the judicial and attorneys, Liandro Dispui, special reporter for torture, Manfred Newak, special reporter for freedom of faith Esma Jihanghir, special reporter for the right of each individual to mental and physical health, Paul Hunt.

the international community on setting up a work plan and a deadline to shut down the camp as soon as possible, requesting the United Nations, specialized organizations, and the Red Cross Commission to constructively cooperate with the United States.

These experts said that if the United States decided to accuse the detainees, it should then deport them to the United States and refer them to a fair and prompt trial according to international law. If such a trial is not to take place, then they should be allowed to return to their home countries or to their place of residence. International Human Rights Organizations have been condemning the record of Washington in maltreating detainees, and compared what's going on in Guantanamo with the events that occurred in the Soviet era detention camps. Amnesty International insisted through its Director-general, William Shultz, on the necessity of an investigation including Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, since, according to Amnesty International, both of them are "the architects of torture in Guantanamo." Such a request for investigation does have its impact on the American Administration to reconsider its position on Guantanamo.

Amnesty International continued calling on the American authorities to close the Guantanamo detention camp, and release all detainees or refer them to a fair trial. It also called for continuous pressure on the United States, and sent a clear message stating that it is high time Guantanamo detention camp was shut down. It warned of "selective slighting of international law by the United States" on so-called terrorism. This organization made big efforts to gain support of governments to act for the benefit of Guantanamo detainees, be they resident there or their own natives. It is worth mentioning that many legal groups within and outside the United States and other opponents of Guantanamo requested the United States to shut down the detention camp, charge detainees with criminal accusations, or release them.

Former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Anan stated that the American Guantanamo detention camp should be shut down sooner or later, expressing his hope that the American government would do this as soon as possible. He insisted that the main point in this problem is that individuals cannot be detained indefinitely, as they should be charged, given the opportunity to defend themselves, and tried, otherwise they should be released.

The United States, which described Guantanamo Detainees as enemy combatants, hurried to reject these calls, emphasizing that detainees received a human treatment. In contrast to the American rejection, the president of the Parliamentary Society for the European Council, Rene van der Linden, declared his support to end detainees' suffering. In a communiqué issued in Strasbourg, France, the European Council joined the European Parliament, which previously requested Washington to immediately shut down the detention camp, and try the detainees as soon as possible, or release them.

The United Nations Commission for the Prohibition of Torture prepared a report which was issued within the frame of a review done by the commission to see the extent to which the United States adheres to the Convention on the Prohibition of Torture. The commission mentioned in its report that the United States should take necessary measures to ensure no detainee should exist in any of its secret detention camps, and should promptly shut down such detention camps. The Commission expressed its fears vis-à-vis the detention of individuals for prolonged periods in the absence of any legal guarantees and without any legal justification for detaining them. Washington minimized the importance of this report, which requested the closure of Guantanamo detention camp, describing it as a “distorted report” serving political purposes.

Washington said that the commission went beyond its responsibilities

when it asked for the closure of Guantanamo detention camp, saying that the commission ignored the improvements that occurred regarding the treatment of detainees by American authorities in recent years, including the implementation of new procedures regarding the treatment of detainees, training of investigators, and trial of those who maltreat detainees. The results of this report reflected many points included in a previous report submitted to the commissariat of the Human Rights at the United Nations, considering that the detention of persons for prolonged periods without any charges will be considered a violation of international covenants.

The European Parliament said, in a non-binding decision, that “any prisoner should be treated according to international laws and tried without delay in a public, fair trial before a specialized, unbiased, and independent court.” Members of the European Parliament urged the United States to suspend violations and tyrannical detention, which represent a violation of international laws and human right standards. They also requested the United States to stop using some interrogation techniques, such as drowning detainees in water and sexual humiliation, and publicly and openly requested the United States to shut down the detention camp.

The more information about the occurrence of serious violation of the least human right in Guantanamo appears, the more the number of parties requesting its closure increases, including many European leaders allied to the United States, stating that the detention of detainees in Guantanamo for indefinite periods constitutes a violation of human rights and contradicts the American principles. Among those leaders is German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and even former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who considered the detention camp as “an odd thing.” The list also includes ambassadors of big countries and members of the US Congress from the House of Representatives or the Senate.

Media-wise, one editorial of New York Times dated 07/06/2007, described Guantanamo detention camp as “a stain on the forehead of Americans,” and asked for its closure. The newspaper added that international organizations compared what is occurring in Guantanamo with what happened in Soviet detention camps. Credibility was given to these comparisons because this detention is one of a suspected series of detention camps, including Abu Gharib prison in Iraq and the military Prison in Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan and others in which nobody knows what is going on.

In an attempt to absorb wide international condemnation of its behavior in Guantanamo, the White House declared that President George Bush suggested a new bill for the trial of detainees of the camp, and the Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum restricting the use of “humiliating” techniques during the interrogation of detainees. But White House spokesman, Tony Snow, pointed out that the suggested bill will not change the status of Guantanamo. This implies a new possible rejection of the calls to shut down the detention camp. He said that the matter relates to a reply to a Supreme Court decision. The Supreme Court, which is the highest judicial instance in the country, has issued a decision that the military courts before which the American Administration intends to try detainees are illegal. In the meantime, the American Secretary of Defense issued an advisory bylaw, requesting the American military personnel to respect the Geneva Conventions regarding the treatment of prisoners of wars. The bylaw states that all detainees should be treated humanely according to American laws and war laws. It requested each concerned person to respect the requirements of laws of war, and to implement the standards specified by the 1949 Geneva Convention.

American law makers agreed that keeping the detention camp harms the credibility of the United States to its allies, requesting the American Secretary of Defense to study the best methods to shut it down and

transfer the detainees to a alternative military prison. Another judicial Senate commission requested that Congress should play a positive role regarding the question of Guantanamo detention camp. The chief of the judicial commission in the Senate Counsel, Senator Arlin Specter, urged the Bush administration to speed up the trial of detainees or release them. He said, “now we have evidence forcing us to request the trial of detainees, and in the event of their condemnation, a decision should be taken against them.” In the same line of thought, the Higher Administrative American Court decided that the detention of persons for prolonged periods without charge or trial is considered as violation of human rights.

These criticisms and others forced President George Bush to declare his willingness to think of alternatives to Guantanamo, saying he is studying all possible solutions regarding the camp. On the other hand, American Foreign Affairs Scott spokesman, McLilan, said that the American President did not want his country to be “the warden of the world.” He added that the American Administration would like, at a stage in the near future, to shut down the camp. The death of three detainees in Guantanamo, followed by the death of a fourth one, attributed by the American authorities to suicide, moved many to request the closure of this detention camp.

The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights said that the suicide of detainees was expected due to the humiliating treatment they suffered. The Center for Constitutional Rights, which assumes the defense of many detainees, said that suicide was a result of despair from hope that detainee would one day be brought before court. Amnesty international blamed suicide cases on Bush’s policies.

It is clear that the death of detainees caused much embarrassment to the American Administration, and forced it to reevaluate the status of the detainees, and pushed President George Bush to sign a decision on 20/

7/2007 against the torture of individuals suspected of involvement in terror acts detained in the secret jails of the CIA, including Guantanamo detention camp. In this respect, the American President requested the CIA to adhere to the Geneva Conventions. The decision forbids “abusive, humiliating, inhumane treatment and punishment,” “dangerous violent acts considered as similar to murder, torture, and disfigurement.” It also restricts deliberately scandalous acts aiming to degrade and humiliate the detainee severely, which any adult would consider as transgressing minimum respect for human kind. The decision also restricts “all acts that aim to degrade religions, religious practices and ideals relating to the religion of detainees.” The decision also insures that detainees should receive necessities of living, including food, water, housing, clothing, and basic medical care.

Talk about the closure of Guantanamo detention camp as a “George Bush’s personal wish and decision” has begun, without specifying any deadline to shut it down, but all expectations point that it will be shut down by the end of 2007 or beginning of 2008. Within this frame and under increasing criticism from international media and legal bodies for Guantanamo’s violations, George Bush declared that he would contact presidents of countries who have detainees in Guantanamo to give some “guarantees” that Washington would like to obtain, to pave the way for the delivery of the detainees to their own countries. This American wish to close Guantanamo detention camps comes as a result of internal and external pressures requesting closure of the camp, especially the pressures exercised by legal organizations, human rights defenders, and international and regional organizations. Accordingly, the American Administration made a comprehensive, detailed evaluation of the violations in Guantanamo and the damage caused to its reputation in the field of human rights.

2. Guantanamo’s impact on the USA’s international image

No doubt, Guantanamo was a stigma on the forehead of the American

Administration and negative propaganda against it. Owing to the violations committed in Guantanamo and other detention camps, the American Administration removed itself from the forefront of countries that respect human rights. A non-human image was drawn for this country that was an example and model for other nations in matters of respect of laws and principles of human rights. All violations caused deep, negative effects on the slogans called for and spread by the United States regarding justice, equality, and human rights. Guantanamo has become a tool in the hand the opponents of the United States to condemn its record in the field of human rights. However, it was feared that it would be a bad example for other countries to follow in matters of human rights infringement. What is being practiced in this detention by the American authorities including insult, torture, and tyranny, is considered by law experts and human rights organizations as disparagement for human rights. This forced some international human rights organizations to compare what was happening in Guantanamo to what happened in Soviet detention camps. When speaking to other countries to respect human rights, American officials feel embarrassment, because the answer of some officials of these countries may point out directly or indirectly to the violations committed by the United States in Guantanamo and other camps. This embarrassment also includes those who have been supporting the United States and adopting its attitudes regarding respect of human rights or fighting for it. Accordingly, there was disapprobation of the declaration of the United States as a champion of democracy and reform à l'Americaine, which violates human rights and practices the worst type of torture.

CHAPTER FOUR: Local efforts vis-à-vis Guantanamo detainees

1. Governmental efforts vis-à-vis Guantanamo detainees
2. Efforts of The National Society for Human Rights vis-à-vis Guantanamo detainees
3. Efforts of the committee for the follow-up of Guantanamo detainees' situations

1. Governmental efforts vis-à-vis Guantanamo detainees

Since the beginning of the case of Saudi detainees in Guantanamo, the Saudi Government tried all political and diplomatic means to bring back its natives. It seems that the Saudi Government realized very early that legal and judicial methods will not be efficient to bring back Saudi detainees from Guantanamo detention camp. It worked silently through its specific channels. The Saudi Government established an office at the Ministry of Interior to follow up the affairs of its native detainees. It worked in two directions: the first concerns following up on the situation of detainees with concerned American authorities; the second relates to meeting the families of detainees and comforting them, which shows that the government did not forget their problem and that they are the focus of attention of the Saudi leadership, in addition to providing material support to needy families who suffered much due to the detention of their relatives for prolonged periods without any charge or trial in a court.

It is not known when serious contact with Americans started, whose result was the return of the first batch of Saudi detainees from Guantanamo in 2005 (14/03/1424H). Upon subsequent returns of other batches of detainees to their home land, the Saudi government emphasized that it would pursue its efforts to bring back all Saudis detained in Guantanamo, backed by commitment to regulations and instructions, which was confirmed by released detainees. Such an adherence represents the basis for all communication that occurred regarding the return of remaining Saudis. His Royal Highness Prince Naief ben Abdulaziz, Minister of Interior, emphasized, in a declaration to the Saudi News Agency, that the Kingdom under the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah ben Abdulaziz, is pursuing its efforts to bring back its natives from Guantanamo. He expressed his happiness and gratitude about the cooperation of concerned authorities in the United States, hoping that such a cooperation and coordination would result in bringing back the remaining detainees as soon as possible.

The Saudi Government, especially officials of the Ministry of Interior, kept confidential bringing back Saudi detainees until their arrival to the Kingdom, then Deputy Minister of Interior for Security Affairs Prince Mohammed ben Naief, would inform the families or relatives of the arrival of their sons. Upon receiving each batch of Guantanamo detainees, the Ministry of Interior would arrange a meeting with the families and their sons, and facilitate their arrival to Riyadh to meet their sons. The Ministry of Interior informs the families of the released detainees and the time of their arrival, after checking the identity of returning detainees. It furnishes them with airfares from their residence to Riyadh city, and hosts them in one of the hotels in Riyadh to visit their relatives and meet with them. The Saudi security authorities insist on opening the door for visits to detainees from the first hours of their arrival up to the evening for many consecutive days, and enabled them to call their families throughout the period of their detention, in addition to a monthly stipend to some of them.

The Ministry of Interior presents many specialized programs for those detainees who returned to Saudi Arabia, in order to reintegrate them in society after years of abusive detention, psychological, and physical subjugation in order to wipe out the traces of those ugly years they spent isolated from their country and the whole world. The Saudi authorities allowed arrested returnees to visit their relatives and stay with their families on some occasions especially during holidays, and then return to prison until legal procedures are achieved. The Saudi authorities released most returnees to Saudi Arabia, and gave some of them the opportunity to stay with their families for some time. The case of Saudi detainees in Guantanamo attracted the attention of governmental human rights organizations.

2. Efforts of The National Society for Human Rights vis-à-vis Guantanamo detainees

Since the foundation of the National Society for Human Rights in

2004 (1425H), it gives a lot of concern to the status of those detainees. It searched the appropriate methods to support them. It started communicating with a group of Saudi attorneys who previously followed the case of those detainees and included them in the society as collaborating members. The society requested Attorney Ahmed Mazhar to evaluate the legal status of the detainees through communicating with American attorneys. In the meantime, the Chairman of the Society Dr. Bander ben Mohammed Hamza Alhajar sent a letter to the American president through the American Ambassador in Riyadh, requesting permission for some members of the National Society for Human Rights to visit the detainees, but no answer was received. The society continued to follow up on the status of Guantanamo detainees through the most appropriate methods to put an end to this human tragedy and to the suffering of detainees and their families.

When it was clear to the society that the legal and judicial channel was very long and costly money-wise without ascertained results, it concluded that the best way to help detainees and their families is to support governmental efforts by bringing up the case of detainees on different levels, especially with American officials who visited the society many times, including Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs for Human Rights, some members of Congress, Union for Religious Freedom, officials in the American Embassy in Riyadh, requesting them to put an end to the suffering of Saudis detained in Guantanamo, and to clarify to them that the insistence of the American Government on the so-called war on terror is not sufficient to justify the arrest of detainees without any trial, thus contradicting all principles, human values, and legal rules. Such a case is considered negative propaganda against the United States, thus contradicting the principles and values of the American nation.

The society continued its keenness to keep the case of Guantanamo detainees alive and updated on all levels, and made efforts to communicate with societies and international organizations concerned

with this case. The Society, represented by some of its members, visited a batch of Saudi released detainees from Guantanamo to inquire of them about their conditions, and to listen to them and to make sure that they have been receiving a good treatment. The care provided by the Ministry of Interior upon their return is noticeable. They were provided with necessary medical care, and enabled to meet with their families and phone them. In contrast to the rumors that the American were spreading that detainees would be subjected to torture or severe treatment if returned home, the society conveyed to the American officials who visited the society that the detainees received a good treatment, reassuring them that it is not permissible to use the pretext that detainees might be subjected to torture if they were returned to their home country, because it is proved that that was not true of Saudi detainees.

As a wish of the society to establish a special committee concerned with the conditions of Guantanamo detainees and communication with their families, the society asked for a meeting with a number of persons from families of detainees, in addition to legal personnel. As a result of this meeting, the members of this committee were selected. The efforts made by this committee in this field will be mentioned later.

While efforts were made by the society to help the detainees and their families, the society was surprised to learn from the declaration of the American authorities and Guantanamo detention camp officials that three Saudi detainees committed suicide. The Society and families of the victims doubted the American story, and requested an independent investigation into this case, because the justifications given by the American official were completely unsatisfactory. The American administration as a whole and the detention administration especially were blamed for the death of those three detainees, because it is illegal to detain a group of people for periods of more than five years without any charge or trial.

3. Efforts of the committee for the follow-up of Guantanamo detainees' situations

In 2006 (Thursday 05/05/1427H), the National Society for Human Rights held an extended meeting with a number of Saudi detainees' families, and a Saudi team of attorneys "formed previously and dissolved," and a number of officials of the Society at the headquarters of the Society in Riyadh. After prolonged discussions and debates, the assembly reached an agreement to form a committee including the Society, the public, and those concerned with the case of Saudi detainees in Guantanamo. The role of this committee is to follow up on the affairs of Saudi detainees, contact their families, and make all the legal and media efforts to release them.

The committee is formed of permanent members of families of detainees as follows:

1. Abdulaziz ben Fahad Al-Sibayel (relative)
2. Mohammed ben Saad Al-Awshan (relative)
3. Abdullah ben Auid Al-Jaed (relative)
4. Abdulaziz ben Suliman Al-Rubaish (relative)
5. Abdullah ben Hasan Al-Qahtani (relative)
6. Talal ben Abdullah Al-Zahrani (relative)
7. Abdulwahab ben Abdulaziz al-Musa

In addition to a number of attorneys concerned about the case, the committee is chaired by Dr. Bander ben Mohammed Hamza Alhajjar (Chairmen of the Society) and Dr. Muflih ben Rabeen Alqahtani (Vice Chairman of the Society). The committee assumed the responsibility of following up on the subject of Saudi detainees at Guantanamo detention camp, at home, abroad, through the media, as well as legally.

During the first year, the committee held 13 meetings at the headquarters

of the National Society for Human Rights in Riyadh. In those meetings, the new developments of the case and steps proposed were discussed to step up the case media-wise and politically. Practically, the committee took in this regard the following initiatives:

First: sending letters to the organizations and individuals relating to the case, including:

- Letter in the name of relatives of detainees addressed to the American President (George W. Bush) regarding the death of two Saudi detainees. The letter was sent to the United States Embassy and published in a number of daily newspapers.

- Letter to His Excellency Chief of the Consultative Council Sheikh Saleh ben Humayed in which it was suggested that the subject of Guantanamo detainees be one of the assignments of the foreign affairs commission at the counsel. The committee would address councils and international committees it participates in to request the release of detainees, in addition to requesting the Council to send a letter to the American Congress in the name of the Saudi Consultative Council to emphasize the links between the two countries and the impact of detention on these links.

- Letter to his Excellency President of the Human Rights Agency (Turki ben Khaled Alsadeeri) inviting him to place the case of Saudi detainees of Guantanamo Detention on the agenda of meetings held by the Agency within and outside the Kingdom, especially in the Council for Human Rights at the United Nations. The letter also includes a suggestion to assign one member of the organization to the follow-up of the case, and to communicate at home with the concerned authorities (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Assembly for Human Rights and others), and abroad (with human rights organizations, offices of attorneys concerned with the case, etc.).

- Letter to Senator “Lih” in the judicial commission, and support him in his endeavors to invalidate the special law that relates to investigating Guantanamo detainees.
- A letter to the new American Secretary of Defense, requesting him not to continue violations which were committed by his predecessor.
- Letter of support to the American and German attorneys who filed a lawsuit against former American Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld.
- Letter to the American Ambassador regarding the follow-up of request of information about the death of the two detainees Yaser Alzahrani and Man’a Alotaibi.
- The committee wrote many letters and sent them to detainees through a team of American attorneys.
- Corresponding with many famous authors through the Internet to step up the case in the appropriate fashion.

Second: visits and meetings

- Visiting His Excellency Chief of the Consultative Council by citizens, members of the committee.
- Visiting his Excellency President of the Human Right Agency, Turki Alsadeeri in his office more than once.
- Meeting with a delegation of Human Rights Watch at the Headquarters of Human Rights Agency.
- Attending a session of the Consultative Council.

Third: Activities and Events

- On the occasion of the International Day for Closure of Guantanamo Bay detention camp, on 15/07/2006, the committee activated the case through local media and through a letter from the National Society for Human Rights to the American President and through the electronic board of the society, in addition to the articles related to the case published in “Rights Publication” of the National Society for Human Rights, distributed to more than 700 government officials. A big amount of messages were sent also through sms messages in support of the detainees.

- The Committee addressed a number of concerned governmental authorities within the Kingdom to obtain their approval to schedule an international conference about Guantanamo to be held in the Kingdom.

- The Committee launched a special website to Saudi detainees in Guantanamo at (www.saudica.com). It is a site independent of the National Society for Human Rights, containing the following items: overview of the Committee, Information about the Committee, Saudi detainees, Saudi detainees, Letters from detainees, What they said about the detention camp, Latest news, What can you do?, Communicate with us, Your participation, Take your copy, Private club for members of the Committee.

- The Committee reviewed one letter sent by a Saudi detainee, which includes the suffering of detainees regarding opening fire on them and using poisonous and burning gases. Discussion was held regarding the way to engage the discussion of the subject of torture through concerned parties.

- Continuous contact is being made with local and international media

to cover different issues about Guantanamo.

- Contacts were made with parties concerned with Guantanamo Bay detention camp, such as American Bureau of Constitutional Rights, Human Rights Watch, Kuwaiti Detainees Society, in addition to some detainees who returned from Guantanamo to their home in Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, and U.K.

- Coordination was set up with many TV channels to include the issue of Guantanamo in their programs.

- The issue of defending detainees before American courts was discussed through specialized legal offices, according to the following steps: ascertaining the usefulness of pleading, determining which detainee will be pleaded for, assigning appropriate attorneys, requesting an approximate cost for pleading, determining the style of representation and its writing, determining financial method, starting pleading, media coverage of pleading.

Conclusion

We conclude this report with a recommendation to the American Administration to close Guantanamo detention camp after this long period during which detainees remained isolated from the world and deprived of their least rights. Each day in the existence of this detention camp constitutes negative propaganda against human rights, and a disgraceful stain on the forehead of the American Administration. Its existence might tempt others to commit similar violations under the pretext that America has committed that violation. The latest tendency of the United States towards returning some detainees to their home countries might constitute the beginning of the end of the closure of this notorious detention camp.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Detainees and released names
Appendix 2: Statements made by the Society about Guantanamo detainees
Appendix 3: Correspondence issued by the Society and follow-up committee to official parties

Appendix 1: Detainees and released names

The number of declared Saudi detained at Guantanamo reached 130 detainees, many of whom returned in batches as follows:

First batch of returnees (2003: 14/03/1424H):

1. Fahed ben Abdullah Al-Shabani
2. Mishal ben Mohammed Al-Shudookhi
3. Ibrahim ben Abdullah Al-Omar
4. Saad ben Ibrahim Al-Zahrani
5. Ibrahim Al-Sahalli

Second batch of returnees (2005: 14/06/1426H):

1. Mishal Al-Harbi
2. Khaled Al-Juhani
3. Saleh ben Abdullah Al-Awshan

Third batch of returnees (2005: 3/10/1426H):

Majed Affas Radi Al-Shammari

Fourth batch of returnees (2006: 21/04/1427H):

1. Saad Farhan Khatem Al-Maliki
2. Khaled Abullah Abdulrahman Al-Muriki
3. Ibrahim Daifullah Muayman Al-Sahalli
4. Khaled Rashed Ali Al-Muri
5. Adel Uklah Hasan Al-Nusairi Al-Ruwaili
6. Saud Bazan Ishq Al-Shibani Al-Otaibi
7. Abdulhadi ben Mohammed Baden Al-Subayi
8. Mohammed ben Jayed Hadi Al-Subayi
9. Fahed Saleh Suliman Al-Jutali
10. Abdullah Ibrahim Abdullah Al-Rashidan
11. Abdulrahman Uthamn Ahmed Al-Qamidi
12. Abdullah Hamed Mohammed Al-Qahtani
13. Nawaf ben Fahed Hamud Al-Otaibi
14. Rashed Awad Rashed Al-Owaidah
15. Adnan Mohammed Ali Al-Sayiq

In 2006 (21/05/1427), two detainees died inside Guantanamo detention camp:

1. Mani ben Shaman Al-Otaibi
2. Yaser Talal Al-Zahrani

Fifth batch of returnees (2006: 29/05/1427):

1. Musa Abdulwahab Abdulqader Al-Hawsawi
2. Yousef Khalil Abdullah Al-Sulimani
3. Mohammed Surur Dakhilullah Al-Otaibi
4. Abdulsalam Ghaithan Mareef Al-Shihri
5. Uthman Ahmed Uthman Al-Ghamidi
6. Saleh Ali Zaheed Al-Qathami
7. Abdulaziz Abdulrahman Abdulaziz Al-Baddah
8. Wasem Awad Omar Al-Wasem

9. Rashed Abdullah Al-Muslih Ghayed Al-Ghayed
10. Tariq Shallah Hasan Al-Harbi
11. Abdullah Mohammed Saleh Al-Ghanimi
12. Ibrahim Bin Mohammed Saleh Al-Naser
13. Saad Ibrahim Saad Al-Badneh
14. Siddiq Ahmed Siddiq Turkstani (a national from Turkistan residing in Saudi Arabia)

Sixth batch of returnees (2006: 23/11/1427H):

1. Mohammed Yahya Mohsen Al-Zayali
2. Saleem Salman Awadallah Al-Harbi
3. Yousuf Abdullah Saleh Al-Rubaish
4. Suliman Saad Mohammed Al-Awshan
5. Jaber Jabran Ali Al-Fi
6. Ibrahim Suliman Mohammed Al-Rubaish
7. Abdullah Mohammed Al-Udaini Al-Yamani
8. Anwar Hamdan Mohammed Al-Noor
9. Haji Hajjaj Awad Al-Sulami
10. Abdulaziz Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Naser
11. Ziad Saeed Faraj Al-Jahdali
12. Majed Hamed Abdulrahman Al-Furaih
13. Bassam Mohammed Saleh Al-Dubaikhi
14. Saeed Ali Al-Farhah Al-Ghamidi
15. Sultan Sari Sayel Al-Anazi
16. Abdulrahman Mohammed Hussain Khulani

Seventh batch of returnees (2007: 03/02/1428H):

1. Majed Abdullah Hussain Al-Harbi
2. Rashed Awad Khalaf Al-Balkhair Al-Ghamidi
3. Faisal Saleh Buraikan Al-Naser
4. Mohammed Abdilah Saqr Al-Alawi Al-Harbi

5. Naser Mazeed Abdullah Al-Subayi
6. Majed abdullah Al-Judi
7. Majed Aidah Mohammed Al-Qurashi

In 2007 (16/05/1428H), one detainee died inside Guantanamo detention camp.

Abdulrahman Madah Zafer Al-Umari

Eighth batch of returnees (2007: 01/07/1428H):

1. Fahad Naser Mohammed Al-Sultan Al-Qahtani
2. Saud Dakheelullah Muslih Al-Juhani
3. Mohammed Naji Subhi Al-Mahyawi Al-Juhani
4. Yahya Samel Suwaimil Al-Aliyani Al-Sulami
5. Bejad Daifullah Huwaimil Al-Otaibi
6. Mazen Saleh Musaad Al-Oafi
7. Abdulrahman Uwaid Mohammed Al-Juaid
8. Bander Ahmed Mubarak Al-Jabri
9. Saad Ibrahim Ramzi Al-Jundubi
10. Mohammed Abdulrahman Abid Al-Qurashi
11. Hamud Dakheel Hamud Al-Jadani
12. Khaled Mohammed Ali Al-Zahrani
13. Jumah Mohammed Abdullatif Al-Dosari
14. Bander Ayed Hamud Al-Otaibi
15. Abdullah Hussain Saad Al-Hazani
16. Ghanim Abdulrahman Ghanim Al-Harbi

Ninth batch of returnees (2007: 24/08/1428H):

1. Abdulhadi Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Sharikh
2. Abdulrazzaque Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Sharikh
3. Fahad Atiyah Hamzah Al-Harazi
4. Rami Saad Ghalib Al-Juaid

5. Abdulhakeem Abdulkarim Ameen Bukhari
6. Khaled Hasan Hussain Al-Barakati Al-Shareef
7. Majed Abdullah Saeed Barban
8. Mohammed Mubarak Salem Al-Shadakh Al-Kurbi
9. Abdullah Thani Faris Al-Sulami Al-Anazi
10. Zaban Zaher Zaban Al-Shammary
11. Abdulaziz Saad Mohammed Al-Awshan
12. Musa Ali Saeed Al-Saeed Al-Umari
13. Salem Abdullah Saeed Al-Baheesh Al-Shihri
14. Fahad Mohammed Abdullah Al-Fawzan
15. Imran Bakr Mohammed Hawsawi
16. Bakri Awad Bakri Al-Sumairi

Tenth batch of returnees (2007: 29/10/1428H):

1. Fahad Umar Abdulmajeed Al-Umari Al-Shareef
2. Yousuf Mohammed Mubarak Al-Jubairi Al-Shihri
3. Fahad Sultan Obaid Al-Osaimi Al-Otaibi
4. Turki Mashoori Zayed Al-Jabali Aseeri
5. Sultan Ahmed ben Al-Dirdir Uwaidah
6. Nife Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Nakheelan
7. Abdullah Abdulmueen Mali Alwafi Al-Harbi
8. Mohammed Ateeq Uwaid Al-Oafi Al-Harbi
9. Saeed Ali Jaber Al-Khuthaim Al-Shihri
10. Hani Saeed Mohammed Al-Khalaf Al-Qamidi
11. Khaled Saud Abdulrahman Al-Buwardi
12. Murtadah Ali Saeed Maghram
13. Jaber Hasan Mohammed Al-Jabrah Al-Qahtani
14. Zaid Mohammed Saad Al-Hussain Al-Ghamidi

Eleventh Batch of returnees (December 2007: 19/12/1428H):

1. Ziad Salah Mohammed Al Baahouth

2. Mishaal Saad Abdulaziz Al Rasheed
3. Jamil Ali Atyan Al Kaabi
4. Khalid Malooh Shaaya Al Qahtani
5. Naief Fahd Mutlaq Al Atibi
6. Abdullah Ayda Abdullah Al Matrafi
7. Abdullah Aali Naief Al Atibi
8. Bandar Ali Abdulaziz Al Rimihi
9. Abderrahman Nashi Baadi Al Atibi
10. Abdulhakeem Abderraahman Abdulaziz Al Moosa

Names of Saudi detainees who are still detained at Guantanamo detention camp:

1. Ahmed Zaid Salem Zuhair
2. Jabran Saad Wazi Al-Nashit Al-Qahtani
3. Khaled Mohammed Ali Al-Zahrani
4. Khaled Mohammed Saad Al-Saif
5. Saad Mohammed Hussain Al-Muflih Al-Qahtani
6. Shakir Abdulraheem oammed Amer
7. Abdulrahman Shalabi Issa Uwaidah
8. Abdulazeem Kadeem Salem Al-Ayli
9. Ghassan Aidah Ghazi Al-Shurbi
10. Mohammed Abdulrahman Oan Al-Shumrani
11. Mohammed Mani Al-Shalan Al-Qahtani
12. Mohammed Mardi Issa Al-Mufdali Al-Zahrani
13. Yousuf Khalil Abdullah Noor

Appendix 2: Statements made by the Society about Guantanamo detainees

First Statement:

The National Society for Human Rights appreciates and praises the efforts made by the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for bringing back Saudi detainees from Guantanamo detention

camp. It welcomes the return of a new batch of Saudi detainees from that detention camp that violates Human Rights principles.

The National Society for Human Rights renews its request to the American authorities to speed up the return of the remaining detainees to their countries, and shut down the detention camp, which constitutes a flagrant violation of all covenants and international conventions on Human Rights.

Second statement:

The National Society for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes the decision to return from Guantanamo detention camp a new batch of Saudi detainees, who stayed for years in this detention camp without any charge or fair trial.

The Society commends and values the continuous efforts made by the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for the return of detainees to their home country. The National Society for Human Rights renews its request to the American authority to speed up the return of the remaining detainees to their countries and shut down the detention camp, which constitutes a flagrant violation of all covenants and international conventions on Human Rights.

Third Statement:

The National Society for Human Rights received with sorrow and resentment the news of the death of three detainees in Guantanamo detention camp. While the Society prays Allah to have mercy upon them and forgive them, and sends its sincere condolences to their families and declares its full solidarity with them, it requests opening an immediate investigation into the cause of death with the participation of independent international parties. It urges the American authorities to deliver their

bodies as soon as possible to their family to do the necessary prayers and bury them. This tragic event reconfirmed the legitimacy of repeated requests issued by International Judicial Organizations to release all detainees, who remained for years in detention without any legal justification, and to immediately shut down the detention camp, whose existence and the physical and psychological torture practiced within it represent a disgraceful stain on the forehead of humanity. Recently, some western governments started to realize this truth, and called for the closure of the detention camp and the release of all detainees.

The National Society for Human Rights continually emphasizes its participation in the efforts made to release the remaining Saudi detainees and their return to their home country.

Fourth Statement:

The National Society for Human Rights received with sorrow and resentment the news broadcast in different media regarding the death of one Saudi detainee in Guantanamo detention camp. It prays Allah to have mercy on him, and presents its sincere condolences to his family. Regardless of the credibility of the American suicide allegation, the circumstances in which those detainees were put, the practices and torture caused to them, and their detention for more than five years without trial or release, represent a flagrant violation of the principles of Human Rights. The American authorities shall assume full responsibility for this death. The responsibility of the American administration has grown bigger after the death of the latest Saudi detainee because of the occurrence of previous deaths within the same detention camp in the same fashion. The detention camp management should have taken the necessary precautions to prevent such cases. The society requests an independent and unbiased investigation into the circumstances of the death of the detainee owing to existing evidence that such a death would not have happened without the knowledge of the management

of the camp. The society also requests the management of the camp to deliver the corpse of the deceased as soon as possible to his family after determining of the cause of death. The Society also reiterates its previous requests, together with other organizations and international human rights bodies, about the necessity of releasing all detainees, who have been detained for years without any legal evidence, and requests immediate closure of the detention camp and the suspension of physical and psychological torture, which represents a disgraceful stain on the forehead of humanity.

Fifth Statement:

The National Society for Human Rights welcomes the return of a new batch of Saudi detainees from Guantanamo detention camp. It values the efforts made by the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to bring those detainees back from that detention camp, which violates principles of human rights. It also praises the program prepared by the Ministry of Interior for the treatment of returnees at the health, social, and human levels according to the directions of Minister of Interior His Royal Highness Prince Naief ben Abdulaziz. The National Society for Human Rights renews its requests to the American authorities to speed up the return of remaining detainees and the closure of the detention camp, which constitutes a flagrant violation of all covenants and international conventions on human rights.

Appendix 3: Correspondence issued by the Society and follow-up committee to official parties

The National Society for Human Rights addressed many officials concerned with circumstances of Saudi detainees in Guantanamo detention camp, and expected to influence public opinion and the stance of the American government in this regard. The Society addressed letters to the following parties:

1. Letter from the families of Saudi detainees at Guantanamo detention camp to the American Secretary of Defense who succeeded Rumsfield.
2. Letter from the Follow-up Committee of Saudi detainees at Guantanamo detention camp to the American Ambassador.
3. Letter from Detainees Follow-up Committee to Senator Lehi.
4. Letter from Detainees Follow-up Committee to the American and German attorneys.
5. Letter from his Excellency Dr. Bander ben Mohammad Hamza Alhajjar, President of the National Society for Human Rights to the Ambassador of the USA in Riyadh.
6. Letter from Dr. Bander ben Mohammad Hamza Alhajjar, President of the National Society for Human Rights to President George Bush.
7. Letter from the families of Saudi detainees at Guantanamo detention camp to President George Bush:

1. His Excellency President of the USA (sent on 11/07/2006)

Greetings,

The National Society for Human Rights sends you its profound greetings, and would like to inform you that it follows up extremely well on new developments about the conditions of Saudi detainees in Guantanamo detention camp. The Society rejoiced at the beginning of release of some detainees, but the suicide of two Saudi detainees in Guantanamo detention camp left negative impacts on their families, who expressed their sadness for separating from their sons all this period. They feel that such a matter cannot come from a country that claims for the protection of human rights, and a country that has binding ties with the people of Saudi Arabia. Such matters forced the National Society for Human Rights to convene a meeting with the families of detainees to look into their suffering. The meeting ended with many recommendations including requesting the American leadership to release detainees owing to the friendship that binds the Saudi society with its American counterpart, and to allow some members of the National Society for Human Rights and some families of detainees to visit them in the detention camp, and to shut it down, especially after the suicide of three detainees. Accordingly, the National Society for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and families of detainees request your Excellency to release those detainees and shut down the detention camp or give detainees a fair trial before a civil court, taking into consideration that they were not charged with any guilty. The National Society for Human Rights also would like you to take the necessary steps to respect international conventions and covenants that ensure the rights of those detainees and puts an end to the suffering of their families.

Regards

Dr. Bander ben Mohammed Hamza Alhajjar
President of the National Society for Human Rights

2. Letter to the USA Ambassador regarding Guantanamo detainees (sent on 11/07/2006)

Greetings,

We are pleased in the National Society of Human Rights & Follow-up Committee of Detainees Affairs, to write this letter on the occasion of the resignation of American Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, whose Ministry was responsible for the detention of our sons in Guantanamo Bay. The family members of the Committee have already written to the American Ambassador requesting the release of our children detained there.

The practice within the detention camp, including detention without trial, and numerous violations of the rights of detainees throughout the past five years of their detention, is considered a violation of international and American laws. We realize that the majority of Americans line up with us against this serious transgression and violation of the rights of those detainees, which distorts the image of the United States as a protector of human rights world-wide.

We, therefore, request you under this big change at the top of the leadership of the Secretary of Defense, to accept our request, and to end the unfair treatment of those detainees, who have remained for prolonged periods of time in detention. Their families, children, and wives suffered the gravest psychological, financial, and social damage, and request you to take the right steps to relieve their suffering.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Regards,

Members of the Follow-up Committee of Saudi detainees at Guantanamo

3. Letter to the New American Secretary of Defense (sent on 5/12/2006)

His Excellency, Secretary of Defense

Greetings,

It is our pleasure in the National Society for Human Rights and Follow-up Committee for Saudi detainees in Guantanamo, to write you this letter on the occasion of your nomination as Secretary of Defense as a successor to the resigning Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld. During his time as Secretary of Defense, grave violations were committed against our sons detained in Guantanamo.

The reputation and image of the United States were greatly damaged and distorted world-wide owing to the deliberate violations of the rights of those detainees. The practices within Guantanamo detention camp from the start of detention without any trial and the numerous violations of the rights of those detainees for the past five years, are in violation of international and American laws.

We expect you and the majority of Americans to stand against these transgressions and serious violations of the rights of these detainees. We request you, since you stand as the Secretary of Defense, to stop the unfair treatment of these detainees, who stayed for prolonged periods of time in detention. Serious damage was caused to them, their families, children, and wives. They all suffered psychologically, financially, and socially. We would also request you to promptly take the right steps to relieve their suffering.

Thanks you for your collaboration.

Regards

Members of the Follow-up Committee of Saudi Detainees at Guantanamo

4. Letter to Senator Lehi of the Judicial Commission (Sent on 5/12/2006)

His Excellency Senator Lehi

Dear Sir,

We have the pleasure at the National Society for Human Rights and Follow-up Committee of Saudi Detainee in Guantanamo, to thank you for your kind efforts in Congress, which aimed to invalidate the investigation law of Guantanamo detainees.

We are convinced that the practices within Guantanamo detention camp starting from detention without trial and ending with the numerous violations of those detainees for the last five years, violate both international and American laws. We realize that the majority of Americans and their deputies in Congress line up with us against these transgressions and violations of the rights of those detainees, which will distort the mental image of the United States as a protector of human rights in the world.

Accordingly, we line up with you, requesting that injustice be lifted from those detainees who stayed for long periods of time in detention. All detainees, their families, children, and wives suffered much psychological, financial, and social damage.

Hoping you all the success,

Regards,

Members of Follow-up Committee of Saudi Detainees at Guantanamo

5. Letter to the American and German attorneys who filed a case against Rumsfield (sent on 5/12/2006)

His Excellency, American attorney

His Excellency, German attorney,

Greetings,

We, in the National Society for Human Rights and the Follow-up Committee of Saudi detainees in Guantanamo, are grateful to write you this letter after your filing a case against former American Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfield, on violations and flagrant transgressions committed by the Secretary of Defense against our children detained in Guantanamo detention camp when he was responsible for the Ministry.

These transgressions distort the reputation of the US world-wide because the practices in Guantanamo detention camp, including detention without trial and ending with numerous violations of the rights of detainees for the past five years, violate both international and American laws.

Accordingly we stand beside you to request a trial for Rumsfield for detaining those people and prolonging the period of their detention. Severe psychological, financial, and social damage was undergone by the detainees, their families, children, and wives.

We thank you for your efforts and strongly shake your hand, hoping for your success in your fair endeavors.

Regards,

Members of the Follow-up Committee of Saudi Detainees at Guantanamo

6. U.S. Ambassador, Riyadh (21/3/2007)

Greetings,

The National Committee for Human Rights would like to send your Excellency its profound greetings, and would like to inform you of its wish that your embassy, in coordination with concerned authorities in the American Government, enabled some members of the National Society for Human Rights to visit Guantanamo Bay detention camp during this summer to meet Saudi detainees and be acquainted with their circumstances and inform their families of their conditions. Their families submitted repeated complaints to the Society, requesting intervention from the Society and follow-up on the conditions of their sons and verification of the credibility of the stories broadcast in different media regarding transgressions and violation of their rights.

The news that some of the detainees have been subjected to physical and psychological torture contradicts all international covenants and international human laws protecting the rights of individuals and providing them with necessary guarantees.

Times magazine, published on 22 June 2005, mentioned that one Saudi detainee was subjected to psychological and physical torture, and was forced to bark. Cold water was poured on his head, loud music was turned on, and photos of semi-naked women were hung on his neck. These acts completely contradict the image of the US throughout the world, as guardian of democracy, freedom, and human rights.

What was also published recently about profaning the Holy Quran by some prison workers was confirmed by a report issued by the Pentagon. Such an act does not only contradict religious rights of detainees, but also insults the religious rights of a whole nation. At this point, the National Society for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

wishes to visit the detention camp to see how far those Saudi detainees enjoyed their rights as stated in a number of international covenants.

Needless to discuss how far the Geneva Convention for the treatment of prisoners of war is implemented in the case of detainees. What was repeated in the media about insults and transgression of their rights is a serious drawback of foreign American policy in the Islamic world. This required the American government to either refer those detainees to courts if there is evidence against them or release them and return them to their home countries.

The National Society for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is looking forward to the American administration to take necessary steps to respect conventions and international covenants, which maintain all the rights of detainees and take necessary measures to restrain and charge individual violations.

The Society understands the concern of the Ambassador to correct the distorted image caused by maltreating the detainees in Guantanamo, but that will not be achieved unless their rights were respected and a final decision be made about their status.

Possibly your support to the request of the Society to visit the detainees in Guantanamo Detention, will participate in improving that image.

We are looking forward to your answer.

Regards,

Dr. Bander ben Mohammad Hamza Alhajjar, President of National Society for Human Rights

7. His Excellency George W. Bush, President of the United States of America (sent on 17/5/1427H)

We received with great grief the bad news of the death of the two Saudis detained at Guantanamo, Yaser Talal Al-Zahrani and Mani Shaman Al-Otaibi, and the Yemeni detainee Ahmad Abdullah, who died while in illegal detention, which contradicts all covenants and International principles.

As we entirely doubt the version of the detention administration regarding their suicide, because their adherence to Islam prevents them from committing suicide, we lay responsibility of their death on the American administration. We also condemn all techniques of investigation and treatment practiced with the detainees at Guantanamo, which might force them under pressure of despair and lack of trickery to do anything to hasten their release, publicize their case, and make their grievance known.

As families of the suicide detainees at Guantanamo, we request setting up an international investigation committee to determine the cause of death and motivation of the alleged suicide and to examine all the facts regarding the violation faced by our children in detention. We also ask for the immediate, unconditional release of all our children detained in this notorious detention camp, and hold you responsible before Allah and the whole world for delaying their release and for ensuing repercussions on their psychological and health status on the one hand, and for the increasing deterioration of the conditions of their families and children due to the disclosure of the cruel techniques through which the detainees were treated, on the other. These detainees did not have any chance for a fair trial, communication with the external world, or enjoyment of their human rights.

It is a shame for the American government and American people who

spread the culture of human rights and made efforts to implement it throughout the world to keep this detention camp in Guantanamo as witness to a flagrant violation of human rights. In the meantime, commissions and organizations hold meetings about protecting and caring for animals.

We request whoever has an atom-weight of mercy and humanity in his heart to do what he could do to legally speed up the release of these victims, who have been staying for approximately five years in these inhumane detention camps with the whole world knowing.

Singed by some family members of Saudi detainees in Guantanamo