

Secret US prisons exist, says UN expert

Investigator Demands Access To Detainees

Geneva: The UN special investigator on torture said he wanted access to alleged secret US prisons in Europe, adding that he was "100 per cent sure" they existed.

Manfred Nowak, who refused to accept a US invitation to visit Guantanamo Bay because he was denied private interviews with detainees, announced that he would go to Chechnya this year because Russia had accepted his condition of direct access to prisoners.

In an interview on Thursday with The Associated Press, Nowak said he hoped Washington would reconsider its policy on terror suspects and allow him to investigate allegations of torture in detention centres outside the US.

"The US should allow UN special rapporteurs access to all places where suspected terrorists are held outside of US territory," Nowak said. This includes detention centres in Afghanistan and Iraq, he said.

He said he had evidence of the existence of secret prisons in Europe, citing US re-



Al Masri (left), who says CIA abducted him, at a hearing of the European committee

fusal to provide details or records of interrogations later used in terrorism trials in Germany.

"I am 100 per cent sure. I have evidence," Nowak said.

Allegations of clandestine US detention centres in Europe have sparked separate investigations by the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, the continent's leading human rights watchdog.

"It is totally unacceptable, even in the fight against terrorism, that a highly democratic country such as the United States of America is keeping secret places of detention," said Nowak, an

Austrian law professor who reports on torture allegations to UN rights bodies and the General Assembly.

"Secret means that nobody knows who is there, where the people are, families have no access, and not even the (International Red Cross) has access," he said. "This is not only unacceptable in Europe. It is unacceptable anywhere in the world."

US officials in Geneva were not immediately available to comment.

The US says that it respects the sovereignty of other countries. It neither confirms nor denies the allegations of secret prisons, because it refuses to comment on intelligence matters, but notes that the European report found no evidence to support claims of the existence of detention centres in Europe like the one in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In a report last month, Nowak and four other UN experts asked the US "to close down the Guantanamo Bay centre. The US, however, slammed the report. AP

9 1 ADD 2006

THE UNITED STATES

14 European countries colluded on CIA prisons

Rights Watchdog Report Says Europe Played A Role In US Network

Paris: Fourteen European countries colluded in a "global spider's web" of secret CIA prisons and transfers of terrorism suspects, a European rights watchdog said in a report released on Wednesday.

European states played an active or passive role in the network run by the US Central Intelligence Agency and were not unwitting victims of the operation, the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe said in the report on its web site.

"It is now clear—although we are still far from having established the whole truth—that authorities in several European countries actively participated with the CIA in these unlawful activities," Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty said.

"Other countries ignored them knowingly, or did not want to know," he said in the conclusions of the 65-page report that he is due to present at a news conference.

The report fingered a number of states for collusion with



Members of the US military stand watch in a guard tower at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

CIA secret flights and secret transfers known as renditions. They include:

■ Poland and Romania on the running of secret detention centres.

■ Germany, Turkey, Spain and Cyprus for being "staging points" for flights involving the unlawful transfer of detainees.

■ Ireland, Britain, Portugal, Greece and Italy for being "stopovers" for flights in-

volving the unlawful transfer of detainees.

■ Sweden, Bosnia, Britain, the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Germany and Turkey were cited in relation to cases involving specific individuals.

Marty said more cases could yet come to light.

The former Swiss investigating magistrate denied setting himself up as judge and jury, saying hard evidence was

"still not forthcoming".

However, he said there were "a number of coherent and converging elements (that) indicated secret detention centres have indeed existed and unlawful interstate transfers have taken place in Europe".

The Council of Europe, a pan-European body, has struggled to gain information from its member states and while it can name and shame countries it cannot launch legal proceedings. The allegations of CIA abuses, first made by newspapers and human rights groups late last year, fanned concerns in Europe about US anti-terror tactics.

But European governments are now under scrutiny due to mounting evidence they at best turned a blind eye to illegal activities. Washington insists it acted with the full knowledge of the governments concerned, acknowledges the secret transfer of some suspects and denies any wrongdoing. REUTERS

3 Guantanamo detainees end lives

Saudi Arabia Identifies Victims, Wants Bodies Back. US Says Suicide An Act Of 'Warfare'

San Juan (Puerto Rico): Three Guantanamo Bay detainees hanged themselves using nooses made of sheets and clothes, the commander of the detention center said, in the first reported deaths among hundreds of men held at the base.

The suicides, which military officials said were coordinated, triggered further condemnation of the isolated detention center, which holds some 460 men on suspicion of links to Al Qaida and the Taliban. Only 10 have been charged with crimes and there has been growing international pressure on the US to close the prison.

Two men from Saudi Arabia and one from Yemen were found dead shortly after midnight Saturday in separate cells, said the Miami-based US Southern Command, which has jurisdiction over the prison. Attempts were made to revive them, but they failed.

"They hung themselves with fabricated nooses made out of clothes and bed sheets," base commander Navy Rear Adm. Harry Harris told reporters in a conference call from the US base in southeastern Cuba. "They have no regard for human life," he said. "Neither ours nor their own. I believe this was not an act of desperation but an act of asymmetric warfare against us."

Military officials said the men, whose names were not released, had been held in Guantanamo Bay for about four years.



LIVING IN HELL: Guantanamo officials have reported 41 unsuccessful suicide attempts by 25 detainees since the US began taking prisoners to the base in January 2002

All three detainees had engaged in a hunger strike to protest their indefinite incarceration and had been force-fed before quitting their protest, base commander Navy Rear Adm. Harry Harris said in a conference call from Guantanamo Bay. One of the detainees was a mid-level operative, base commander Al Qaida operative, while an-

other had been captured in Afghanistan and participated in a riot at a prison there, Harris said. The third belonged to a splinter group, he added. Detainees have not been allowed to know about classified evidence of allegations against them and thus are unable to respond.

Meanwhile, the Saudi authorities released the names on Sunday of two nationals who committed suicide at Guantanamo Bay and said it had set in motion procedures to repatriate the bodies.

The official SPA news agency identified the dead as Maniy bin Shaman Al Otaibi and Yasser Tala Al Zahrani.

"After we were informed, we immediately made all the calls and started the official procedures to repatriate their bodies," an interior ministry spokesman told the news agency US Rear Admiral Harry Harris, commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, described the incident as a "planned event, not a spontaneous event."

He described the men, whose names were not released, as committed jihadists captured on the battlefield. "I believe this was not an act of desperation, rather an act of asymmetric warfare waged against us," Harris said.

"Asymmetrical warfare" is defined as "conflict in which a much weaker opponent uses unorthodox or surprise tactics to attack the weak points of the much stronger opponent." AGENCIES

12 JUN 2008

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Guantanamo: U.S. hard line provokes censure

Renewed calls to bring inmates to trial or close down the camp

Suzanne Goldenberg and Hugh Muir

WASHINGTON/LONDON: The Bush administration has stared down a new wave of international condemnation of Guantanamo, dismissing the suicide of three inmates at the prison camp as a "good PR move" and an "act of asymmetrical warfare."

The deaths of two Saudis and a

confinement. It does sound like this is part of a strategy in that they don't value their own lives, and they certainly don't value ours and they use suicide bombings as a tactic," Colleen Graffy, deputy assistant secretary of state for public diplomacy, told BBC's Newshour.

"Asymmetrical warfare"

"Taking their own lives was not necessary, but it certainly is a good PR move to draw attention."

On Saturday, the camp's commander, Navy Rear Admi-

ral Harry Harris, said the three suicides were an Al-Qaeda tactic. "They have no regard for life, neither ours nor their own. I believe this was not an act of desperation, but an act of asymmetrical warfare waged against us," he told a conference call of reporters.

The hard line from an administration official comes at a time of increasing international criticism at the handling of terror suspects at Guantanamo.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, a staunch ally of the U.S. in Iraq,

Guantanamo were closed down," he told CNN.

In Stockholm, Sweden's Foreign Minister Jan Eliasson voiced similar concerns about the lack of due process.

Inayat Bunglawala, of the Muslim Council of Britain, said he deplored the "incredibly insensitive and callous" comments. President George Bush has said he would like to see the camp emptied, and at the weekend expressed "serious concern" about the suicides. —

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• Bush regime says suicides are an Al-Qaeda strategy

• Global criticism about Guantanamo increases

said Guantanamo was damaging America's image in the world, and undermining the global war on terror.

"I think it would be to the benefit of our cause and our fight for freedom and for democracy if the facilities at

washingtonpost.com

Europeans Cheer Ruling on Guantanamo Trials

U.S. Court's Decision Raises Hopes Prison Will Close but Underscores Problems With Repatriation

By Craig Whitlock
Washington Post Foreign Service
Friday, June 30, 2006; A08

BERLIN, June 29 -- In Europe, where the Bush administration has taken a diplomatic beating over its prison at Guantanamo Bay, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling Thursday was received with cheers and fueled hopes that the detention center's days are numbered.

At the same time, European leaders acknowledged that the court's decision would also increase pressure on their own governments to help their U.S. ally find a solution to an increasingly thorny problem: what to do with the prisoners who are no longer considered a threat but effectively have nowhere to go.

Although a long list of European lawmakers and human rights groups have demanded that the U.S. government shut down the Guantanamo prison as soon as possible, three European countries -- Britain, Bosnia and Germany - - have balked at requests to accept citizens or former residents who are stuck in Cuba, even though there is evidence they do not pose a security risk.

The State Department struggled for almost two years to find a place to resettle ethnic Uighur Muslims held at Guantanamo, after determining that they could be unfairly prosecuted in their native China. Last month, five Uighurs were sent to the Balkan nation of Albania, after most other European nations had rejected the U.S. request for help.

Calls in Europe to shutter Guantanamo have become louder in recent months, particularly since U.S. officials announced that three detainees had committed suicide at the camp on June 10. Last week, during a summit with European Union leaders in Vienna, President Bush preempted what was expected to be a public squabble over Guantanamo by saying he, too, wanted to close the detention center but was waiting for guidance from the Supreme Court on how to proceed.

At least 19 detainees from Europe have been released and sent to their home countries, where some have been arrested. A dozen others who have citizenship or residency status in Europe remain at Guantanamo, in part because their governments don't want them or have declined to intervene on their behalf.

Manfred Nowak, an Austrian law professor and the U.N. special rapporteur on torture, predicted that the Supreme Court decision would clear the way for Guantanamo to close by the end of the year.

"Europe should help empty it," said Nowak, who issued a strongly critical report on conditions at

Guantanamo for the United Nations in February. "No country is eager to accept people who are accused of having al-Qaeda links. But there should be burden-sharing."

"I would agree with President Bush on this: Criticism is fine, but it should be constructive criticism and that means Europe should help the U.S. develop a plan of action," he said.

The difficulty of sending some detainees back to their native countries was underscored Thursday when Nowak declared on a fact-finding mission to Amman, Jordan, that "torture is systematically practiced" by the Jordanian intelligence and security agencies. Four Jordanian citizens remain at Guantanamo, and human rights groups have warned that they could be abused if returned home.

Anne-Marie Lizin, president of the Belgian Senate and leader of a European inspection team that visited Guantanamo in March, said it would be possible to "dismantle" the detention center by the end of the year. But she said Europe would have to help.

"It's easy to put all the blame on the U.S.," said Lizin, who is scheduled to present findings of her trip Friday in Washington on behalf of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. "Europe is also responsible. In the first year of the Afghan war, everyone was in favor of being strong. The problem came in 2004, when it became clear that the question of what would happen to Guantanamo would not be so easy to answer."

Although European political leaders have pressed their U.S. counterparts to close Guantanamo, members of their intelligence agencies are regular visitors to the prison and have been allowed to conduct interrogations there. In some cases, European intelligence agencies assisted in the capture of terrorism suspects later taken to Guantanamo.

For instance, the British security service known as MI5 played an instrumental role in the arrest of two British residents, Jamil el-Banna and Bisher al-Rawi, who are imprisoned at Guantanamo. According to documents and interviews, MI5 agents tipped off the CIA that the two men were on their way to the West African nation of Gambia for a business trip in November 2002.

The men were taken into custody as soon as they landed on a flight from London, then were taken by the CIA to a secret prison in Afghanistan and then to Cuba. Documents suggest that both men were abducted after MI5 pressured them into working for the British government as informants, but they refused.

Despite pleas from their families, who say the men are innocent of any wrongdoing, Britain refused for years to intervene on their behalf on the grounds that they are not British citizens, only longtime residents. Under pressure from a lawsuit, the British government agreed in March to seek Rawi's release, but his relatives said officials are still dragging their feet.

"I think from the American standpoint, the Americans want to release him, but the British do not want to play the same game," Wahab al-Rawi, the brother of Bisher al-Rawi, said in a telephone interview. "It's one of two things. Either the British government is embarrassed by what it has done, or else it is a matter of malice. It's one or the other."

News researcher Julie Tate in Washington contributed to this report.

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চুক্তিভঙ্গের চিঠি পর্তুগালের

আব্দুল সালেমের উপরে শারীরিক

নির্ঘাতনের খবর পেয়েই ভারতের বিরুদ্ধে চুক্তিভঙ্গের অভিযোগ আনল পর্তুগাল। বিদেশ মন্ত্রকে চিঠি পাঠিয়ে পর্তুগাল বলেছে, শারীরিক নির্ঘাতন করা হবে না বা মৃত্যুদণ্ড দেওয়া হবে না, এ রকম শর্তেই সালেমকে ভারতে পাঠানোর চুক্তি হয়। স্পষ্টতই ভারত সেই চুক্তি ভেঙেছে। প্রতিবেদনের অংশটুকু কেটে চিঠির সঙ্গে জুড়েও দিয়েছে পর্তুগিজ সরকার। চিঠি পেয়ে বিদেশমন্ত্রক বিস্মিত। সিবিআই অভিযোগ অস্বীকার করেছে।

রামডসের নামে এফআইআর

এক এডমকে কর্মীকে খুন করায় উস্কানি দেওয়ার অভিযোগে কেন্দ্রীয় স্বাস্থ্যমন্ত্রী অম্বুগণি রামডস এবং তাঁর বাবা, পিএমকে নেতা এস রামডসের বিরুদ্ধে এফ আই আর দায়ের হয়েছে। পুলিশ জানায়, সোমবার রাতে শিক্ষামন্ত্রী সি ভি ষম্মুগমের সামনেই কয়েক জন পিএমকে কর্মী ক্রিকেট ব্যাট, ছুরি নিয়ে চড়াও হয় মুরুগানন্দম নামে ওই কর্মীর উপরে। খুন হন তিনি। পুরো ঘটনাটাই রাজনৈতিক উদ্দেশ্য প্রণোদিত, বলেছেন রামডস।

10 MAY 2005

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

Guantanamo trial a test for Bush

Osama's ex-driver denies he is a terrorist

WASHINGTON: His wartime powers undercut once before by the Supreme Court, U.S. President George W. Bush could take a second hit in a case in which Osama bin Laden's former driver is seeking to head off a trial before military officers.

At stake is more than whether Salim Ahmed Hamdan, after nearly four years at the Navy prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, goes on trial for war crimes before a special military commission.

Analysts say if the High Court rejects Mr. Bush's plan to hold such trials for the first time since the aftermath of World War II, it could rein in the President's expanded powers in pursuing and punishing suspected terrorists.

Military trial

In addition to special military trials for Hamdan and others, the Bush administration since the attacks of September 11, 2001, has claimed it has the authority to eavesdrop on telephone conversations without court oversight, aggressively interrogate foreigners and imprison people without giving them traditional legal rights.

Hamdan was one of hundreds of persons captured during the 2001 U.S.-led war that drove the ruling Taliban from power in Afghanistan. The native of Yemen denies that he is a terrorist and claims he took the driving job to provide for his young family.

Hamdan's appeal, set for arguments on Tuesday, is one of

the biggest cases of the court's current term, the first for Chief Justice John Roberts. He, however, will not participate in the Hamdan case. Last year, Mr. Roberts was on a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that ruled unanimously against Hamdan.

It is that ruling that the Supreme Court now is reviewing.

With Mr. Roberts withdrawing from the case, the court could split 4-4, leaving the appeals court ruling in place. A ruling is expected before July.

"The stakes are very high for this administration because it has predicated all of its policies in this war on terror on the principle that the President as commander in chief cannot be constrained by Congress or the courts," said Scott Silliman, a former military lawyer who teaches at Duke University.

"If the court in any way limits presidential authority with regard to military commissions, it will spill over into other areas of his authority in this new type of war," he said.

A second element of Mr. Bush's terrorism-fighting measures is under scrutiny as the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday examines the President's domestic eavesdropping programme. Since shortly after the attacks of September 11, 2001, the National Security Agency has monitored the international communications of people inside the U.S. when their calls are believed to be linked to Al-Qaeda. — AP

27 MAR 2006

THE HINDU

US to pull out of Abu Ghraib

SUZANNE Goldenberg
Washington, March 10

ABU GHRAIB, the prison which will be forever linked with images of Iraqi detainees stripped naked and humiliated by their American jailors, is to be closed, US military officials said on Thursday. The sprawling prison in the western suburbs of Baghdad, a torture chamber under Saddam Hussein that gained even more notoriety with photographs of abuse by US troops, is likely to close within three months.

Iraqi authorities said on Friday that it would turn the prison into a warehouse. Its 4,500 inmates will be transferred to other jails in Iraq — including Camp Cropper, the facility at Baghdad airport where Saddam is being held. Lt-Col Keir-Kevin Curry, spokesman for US detention operations in Iraq, told Reuters, "No precise dates have been set, but the handover would take place in phases, beginning with training of Iraqi prison guards."

The buildings at Abu Ghraib, built by a British contractor in the 1960s, and the tented camp thrown up by US forces in

17 killed as Washington pushes for end to stalemate

BOMBINGS AND shootings killed at least 17 people in Iraq on Friday. Seven among them died when a suicide truck bomb ripped through a line of vehicles waiting at a checkpoint in Fallujah. In Baghdad, police found the bodies of six men who were blindfolded, handcuffed and shot in the back of the

head. Car bombs killed three in Samarra, where an attack on a Shia shrine last month ignited two weeks of sectarian violence. The US ambassador to Iraq pressed the country's divided leaders end a political deadlock that has stalled the formation of a grand coalition

AP, Baghdad

best hope for a troop withdrawal. As the Shia Alliance said it would not succumb to pressure from Kurds, Sunnis and others to drop its nomination for prime minister, Zalmay Khalilzad called for a special conference, possibly outside Iraq, to break the stalemate.

2003 to hold the overflow of detainees, are to be handed over to the Iraqi regime.

In April 2003, a few days after the fall of Saddam Hussein, *The Guardian* visited the prison and was led through punishment units, windowless cinder block cells one metre by 50cm, the yellow holding pen where men fought to sleep next to the stinking latrine because it gave them a few centimetres more space, and the courtyard, where hangings were

held on Mondays and Wednesdays. But, in the Arab world at least, that terrifying reputation has been obscured by the horrors perpetrated by US troops that came to light in April 2004 when CBS television and *The New Yorker* published searing images of abuse.

The abuse scandal deeply shocked Americans' sense of pride, and deepened the world's anger at US. Investigations produced a mountain of evidence of abuse committed be-

tween October and December 2003: thousands of photographs and dozens of video clips showed the ritualised humiliation of Iraqi detainees. Some have become iconic: the figure in a cloak and a hood standing on a box with wires attached to his limbs; the naked human pyramids of Iraqi detainees and their gloating jailors giving the thumbs-up sign; the pixie-like female soldier tugging a detainee on a dog leash.

There were photographs of Iraqis forced to masturbate in front of female prison guards, or simulate sex acts upon each other. There were photographs of Iraqis cowering before prison dogs.

There were photographs of Iraqis with women's underwear on their heads. The Bush administration insists the mistreatment of detainees was the work of a handful of troops.

To date, seven soldiers have been sent to court martial and convicted of their role in the abuse scandal. The most senior officer linked to the scandal, the commander of the prison, Brigadier James Karpinski, was demoted to the rank of colonel last year.

The Guardian

washingtonpost.com

Details of Some Guantanamo Hearings

By The Associated Press

The Associated Press

Monday, March 6, 2006; 2:03 AM

-- Details from transcripts of "enemy combatant" hearings involving Guantanamo detainees:

_ Hafizullah Shah, from the village of Galdon in Afghanistan, was being held based on classified evidence he was not allowed to see. The farmer said he was walking to a bazaar when he was arrested. The United States said Shah was wearing an olive green jacket and was seen by soldiers with a group caching weapons. "I was just walking in the street and I was captured," Shah said. "The next thing I found out is that I am sitting here" in Guantanamo Bay.

_ Mohammed Barak Salem Al-Qurbi, of Saudi Arabia, was identified as an al-Qaida operative by one of Osama bin Laden's bodyguards, according to the U.S. military tribunal. His passport shows he spent time in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates in 2001. The tribunal said he used a trick to hide his stay in Afghanistan. Al-Qurbi also was alleged to be an operative linked to the suicide bombing of the USS Cole, which killed 17 sailors on Oct. 12, 2000, in Yemen, and to have managed a hostel for the extremist Islamic Taliban movement.

_ Abdur Sayed Rahman, of Pakistan, identified himself as a poor chicken farmer. The United States alleged he was in the Taliban, either as a military judge or deputy foreign minister. It emerged during the hearing that the deputy minister is Abdur Zahid Rahman, a near homonym of the detainee. Police searched Abdur Sayed Rahman's home in Pakistan in the fall of 2001 and arrested him. "An American told me I was wrongfully taken and that in a couple of days I'd be freed," Rahman said. "I never saw that American again and I'm still here."

_ Zakirjan Asam traveled from Tajikistan to Afghanistan in the spring of 2001. He was accused of being a member of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, which allegedly has ties to the Taliban. Asam said he came to Afghanistan as a refugee and was turned over to U.S. forces because he could not afford to pay a bribe.

_ Salih Uyar, 24 at the time of his tribunal hearing, traveled to Afghanistan from Turkey in 2000. He was accused of living with a known al-Qaida member for two months just before raids began in Kabul, Afghanistan, and of associating with Turkish radical religious groups. At the time of his capture, he had a Casio watch _ a model that authorities say was used in bombings. "If it's a crime to carry this watch, your own military personnel also carry this watch, too," Uyar told the military tribunal. "Does that mean that they're just terrorists as well?" Uyar also went to Syria but said his purpose was to study Arabic.

_ Abdalaziz Kareem Salim Al Noofayee, 27 or 28, originally from Saudi Arabia, said he was a student

of Arabic, English and physics in the city of Taif who left school at 19 and sold vegetables. He traveled to Pakistan sometime in 2001, saying he went for inexpensive medical treatments for a bad back, and was arrested March 2002 by police in a raid in Faisalabad, Pakistan. He told the tribunal he had been at Guantanamo for three years. He is accused of attending a terrorist training camp in 1997 and of being "captured with a Casio F-91W watch, known to be used by members of al-Qaida." He responded by saying that "the watch I had is like the watch even some of the guards here have. So does that mean they are Taliban and al-Qaida?"

_ Janat Gul ran Afghanistan's Ariana Airline when the Taliban government was in power. Gul, who previously had owned a shop and a mill, said he only took the job to avoid being forced to go to combat for the Taliban. He said the airline was not under government control and denied it provided Taliban fighters free flights to battle the Northern Alliance in the north. Gul said he quit his job several days after Sept. 11. "I was released from the oppression of a government, the Taliban government. I came out of the darkness into the light. ... I had left my job; even before the Americans came I was in my own house and in my own land," he said. He was arrested in January 2003 in Lashkargar, Afghanistan.

_ Abdul Majid Muhammad, an Iranian identified as a "watchman" for the Taliban who went on patrols and acted as a guard. He says he was a poor well-digger in Iran who occasionally bought and sold opium and hashish. He was arrested twice in Iran. He said he went to Afghanistan after Sept. 11, 2001, because he wanted to get rich quick trading drugs, not to join the Taliban or fight Americans. "My plan was to get rich then put it behind me and leave it aside," he said. He says he was picked up by the Northern Alliance near the city of Ghazni.

_ Abdul Aziz Sa'ad Alfaldi. Transcript says one family name is missing. The detainee says his arrest may have been a case of mistaken identity. The Saudi national is accused of being an enemy combatant and fighting coalition forces in Afghanistan. He denied fighting or having any ties to al-Qaida. He said he went to Afghanistan to talk his brother into coming back to Saudi Arabia, not to fight.

_ Hani Abdul Muslih al Shulan, from Yemen. U.S. officials allege he supported the Taliban and was found with a Casio watch. Accused of being in Tora Bora during U.S. air campaign. He said he was just passing through Tora Bora on his way to Pakistan. He said he did not receive military training and was a student who went to Afghanistan to find a job and save money. He found work as a chef's assistant north of Kabul, he said.

_ Assem Matruq Mohammad Al Aasami, a sometime restaurant worker who says he traveled from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and then Afghanistan to find work, not fight a holy war. He acknowledged that he did attend an al-Qaida-linked training camp, but said he did not realize what kind of camp it was. He said he was in the camp when the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks took place. He is accused of being an enemy combatant.

_ Gholam Ruhani, "about 26" years old, from Ghazni, Afghanistan, was accused of being a driver and a clerk for the Taliban Intelligence Service. "The Taliban law was that young people had to join the Taliban," he said. "I had to join, but protested several times that I had an old father and I wanted to go back to my family. ... If I had not cooperated with the Taliban Intelligence service member, I would have been sent to the front lines. I was afraid I would be killed." He complained about the delays at Guantanamo. "My complaint is whether guilty or not, (my case) is supposed to go to a tribunal or court at the time of capture. I've been here three years and I'm going through the process now."

_ Mohammed Rasoul, an Afghan who had lived in Pakistan for 25 years, returned to Afghanistan in September 2001. He was accused of associating with the Taliban and participating in military operations

against the United States. Authorities believe he used a rocket launcher against U.S. forces. Rasoul said his reason for returning to Afghanistan was to open a medical clinic. His brother, Naquibullah, a doctor who was also detained, told the tribunal that they operated the clinic together.

_ Taj Mohammed, an Afghan goat herder, was accused of being a member of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, a group alleged to have ties with al-Qaida. He denied involvement with the group. "I was a shepherd," he said. "These are all lies about me."

_ Yunis Abdurrahman Shokuri, a Moroccan, was involved in starting a house for young Moroccans in Afghanistan. Authorities accused him of obtaining AK-47 rifles from the Taliban. He said they had an AK-47 for protection but didn't fight anyone. The house was closed after Sept. 11 and he left for Pakistan, where he was arrested. He's also accused of helping form the Moroccan Islamic Fighting Group and associating with a former Afghan-Arab linked to an al-Qaida sleeper cell in Morocco. He said he never heard of the group and did not know anyone from al-Qaida. He told the tribunal that the U.S. government, in its search for terrorists, was arbitrarily rounding up people of Arabic descent.

_ Abdullah Mujahid, an Afghan, said he was head of security for the city of Gardez and the Paktia province in post-Taliban Afghanistan when he was arrested in July 2003 and accused of an attack on U.S. forces in Gardez. Mujahid was also accused of associating with al-Qaida. He said he had actually aided coalition forces. "I invited them to come to Gardez, and I even rented the camp that they are in right now ... And, instead of appreciation, or thankfulness, they punish me, and I get sent to Cuba."

_ Fahed Abdullah Ahmad Ghazi, from Yemen, accused of being an al-Qaida fighter who trained at al-Farouq camp in Afghanistan and was later chosen to go to Tora Bora and become one of Osama Bin Laden's bodyguards. "I was not in Tora Bora by choice," he said. "I had no knowledge of how to get out of Afghanistan. The only choice I had was to listen to the people who led me from one place to another." He said he went to Afghanistan not to join the jihad but to escape problems in Yemen and received weapons training for self-defense. "It would have been impossible for Osama bin Laden to trust a 17-year-old with only nine days of training to become a trusted bodyguard," he said.

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Pentagon releases Guantanamo inmate list

ASSOCIATED Press

Guantanamo Bay, March 4

THE PENTAGON finally offered the world a glimpse into the top-secret world of Guantanamo Bay, releasing on Friday the names and home countries of many detainees who have been held at the isolated prison for up to four years.

A Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by the AP forced the Department of Defense to turn over some 5,000 pages of transcripts from closed-door hearings on the detainees, most of whom were accused of having links to the Taliban or al-Qaida.

While the Pentagon has not provided the full roster of detainees, transcripts give the most detailed picture to date of who has been held at the prison

on a US base in eastern Cuba, which has become the focus of international criticism.

Jamie Fellner, director of the US programme for Human Rights Watch, said the disclosure represents a "major breach" in that secrecy. "It will add to our understanding of who is there and what are the reasons that the U.S. alleges they are there for," Fellner said.

The Pentagon released the documents after a federal judge rejected arguments by the Bush administration that releasing names, home countries and other information would violate the detainees' privacy and could endanger them and their families.

The names are scattered throughout the transcripts of hearings, and it was unclear how many names the documents contained. In most of the transcripts, the person is identified only as "detainee." In some cases, even having the name did not clarify the identity.

In one document, the tribunal president asks a detainee if his name is Jumma Jan. The detainee responds that no, his name is Zain Ul Abedin.

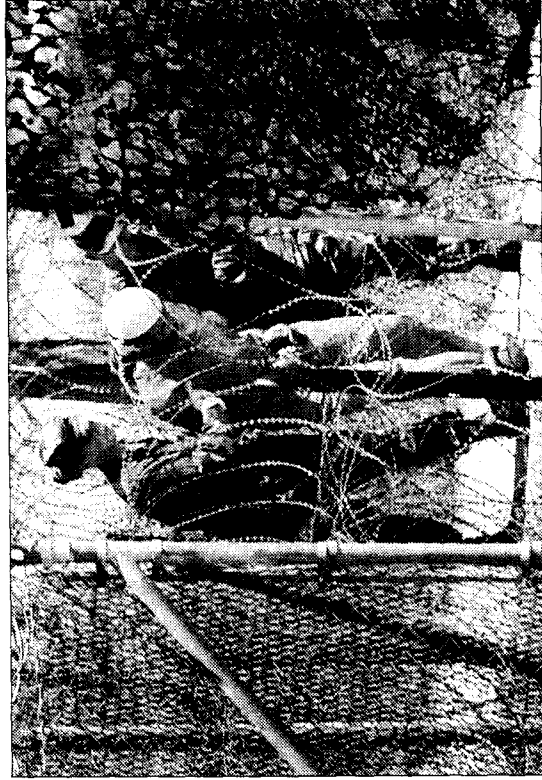
The men were mostly captured during the 2001 US-led war that drove al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden deeper into hiding, and the new documents shed light on some of the detainees' explanations.

In one unedited transcript,

Zahir Shah, an Afghan accused of belonging to an Islamic militant group and of having a rocket-propelled grenade launcher in his house, admits having rifles. He says they were for protection — he had a running feud with a cousin — and insists he did not fight US troops.

"What are we going to do with RPGs?" he asks, adding. "The only thing I did in Afghanistan was farming. ... We grew wheat, corn, vegetables and watermelons."

Most of the Guantanamo hearings were held to determine whether detainees were "enemy combatants." That classification, lawyers say, deprives the detainees of Geneva Convention POW protections and allows them to be held indefinitely without charges.



A detainee is escorted to interrogation by US military guards at Guantanamo Bay prison in this 2002 file photograph. AP

Torture charge

A BRITISH Muslim, Feroz Ali Abbasi, released from Guantanamo Bay on a British government request last year, has claimed that military police had sex in front of him, and also tried to force-feed him pork.

Documents released on Friday show that Abbasi was captured in Afghanistan in 2001, and has admitted to having undergone terror training in Afghanistan, although he denies being an al-Qaida member. Abbasi said that two couples, apparently from the military police, forced him to watch as they had sex on two separate occasions. Once, he alleged, it happened while he was praying.

HTC, London

US acknowledges force-feeding Guantanamo Bay detainees

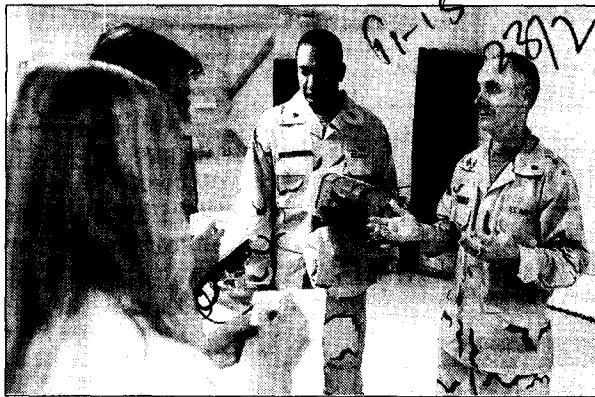
By Eric Schmitt & Tim Golden

Washington: The military commander responsible for the American detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, confirmed on Tuesday that officials there last month turned to more aggressive methods to deter prisoners who were carrying out long-term hunger strikes to protest their incarceration.

The commander, Gen Bantz J Craddock, head of the United States Southern Command, said soldiers at Guantanamo began strapping some of the detainees into "restraint chairs" to force-feed them and isolate them from one another after finding that some were deliberately vomiting or siphoning out the liquid they had been fed.

"It was causing problems because some of these hardcore guys were getting worse," Gen Craddock said in a meeting with reporters. Explaining the use of the restraint chairs, he added, "The way around that is you have to make sure that purging doesn't happen."

After The New York Times reported on February 9 that the military had



TRUE LIES: US doctors in-charge of force-feeding the detainees talk to the media on the condition of anonymity

begun using restraint chairs and other harsh methods, military spokesmen insisted that the procedures for dealing with the hunger strikes at Guantanamo had not changed. They also said they could not confirm that the chairs had been used.

On Tuesday, Gen Craddock said he had reviewed the use of the restraint chairs, as had senior officials at the Department of Defence, and they concluded that the practice was "not inhumane". Gen Craddock left no doubt, however, that commanders had de-

cid-ed to try to make life less comfortable for the strikers, and that the measures were seen as successful.

"Pretty soon it wasn't convenient, and they decided it wasn't worth it," he said of the hunger strikers. "A lot of the detainees said: 'I don't want to put up with this. This is too much of a hassle.'"

A spokesman for the Southern Command, Lt Col James Marshall, said that restraint chairs had been used in the feeding of 35 of the detainees so far, and that 3 were still being fed that way. He said the num-

ber of prisoners refusing to eat had fallen from 41 on December 15 when the restraint chairs were first used on a trial basis to 5, according to a military spokesman.

According to newly declassified interview notes, several detainees who had been on hunger strikes told their lawyers during visits late last month that the military had begun using harsher methods more widely in the second week of January. One Yemeni detainee, Emad Hassan, described the chair to lawyers in interviews on January 24 and 25.

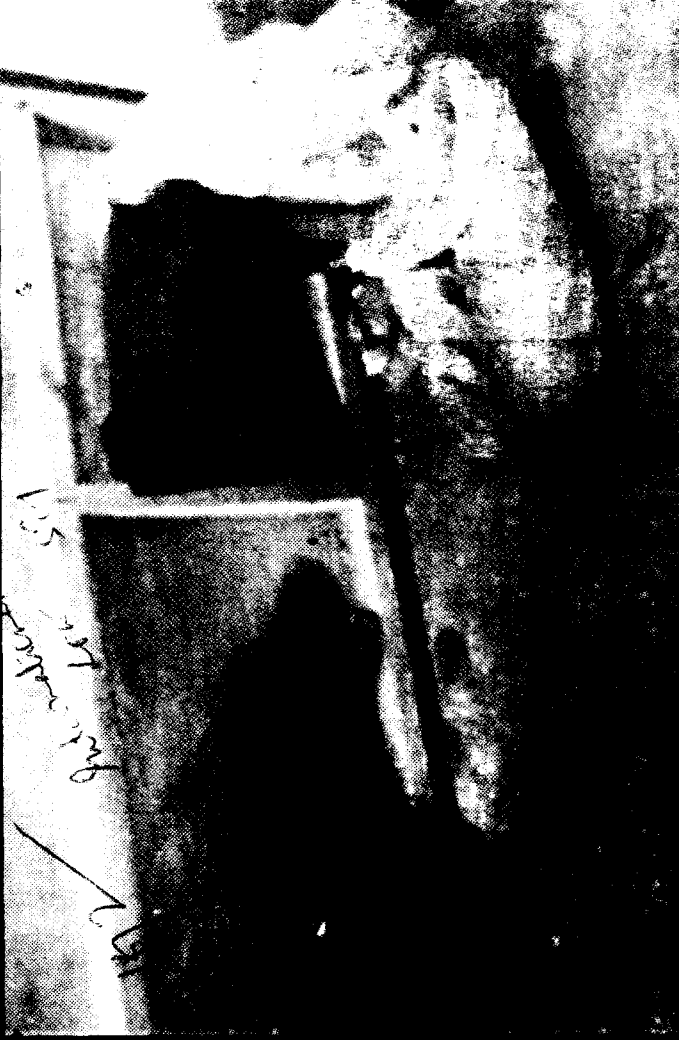
"The head is immobilised by a strap so it can't be moved, their hands are cuffed to the chair and the legs are shackled," the notes quote Hassan as saying. "They ask, 'Are you going to eat or not?' and if not, they insert the tube. People have been urinating and defecating on themselves in these feedings and vomiting and bleeding. They ask to be allowed to go to the bathroom, but they will not let them go. They have sometimes put diapers on them." NYT News Service

ABU GHARIB AGAIN

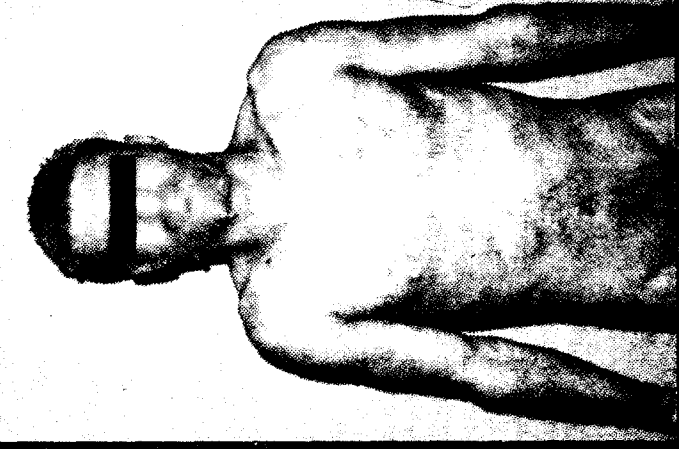
These handouts from the Australian government-funded Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) were aired on Wednesday showing how US forces had treated Iraqi and Al-Qaida prisoners at the notorious Abu Gharib prison in 2004. — AFP (Pictures speak a thousand words, page 2)



UPSIDE DOWN: A prisoner languishes in a cell.



CANINE CRUELTY: A military dog set upon a prisoner.



MORE THAN MUCK: A detainee smeared with faeces after being beaten up.



WIRE WOUND: Electric cables tied to the fingers and genitals of an inmate.



LEFT TO DIE: An Iraqi national, apparently cast aside after being tortured.

NECK LINE: A US soldier points at a man whose throat has been slit.



Abu Ghraib horror is back



A picture taken from Australian TV channel Special Broadcasting Service shows a prisoner with burn and torture marks at the Abu Ghraib prison, Iraq. (AFP)

Sydney, Feb. 15 (Reuters): An Australian television station broadcast today what it said were previously unpublished images of abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison, fuelling more Arab anger against the US.

The Special Broadcasting Service's *Dateline* current affairs programme said the images were recorded at the same time as the now-infamous pictures of US soldiers abusing Abu Ghraib detainees which sparked international outrage in 2004. Some of the newly broadcast pictures suggest further abuse such as killing, torture and sexual humiliation, *Dateline* said.

The grainy, still photographs and video images show prisoners, some bleeding or hooded, bound to beds and doors, sometimes with a smiling guard beside them.

They include two naked men handcuffed together, a pile of five naked detainees photographed from the rear, and a dog straining at a leash close to the face of a crouching man wearing a bright orange jumpsuit.

The images were swiftly re-broadcast by Arab satellite tel-

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Date: 2/15/05
vision stations and several news organisations, including American ABC News television, showed them on their websites.

They stirred up more anger among Arabs, already incensed by the publication on Sunday of images of British soldiers apparently beating Iraqi youths and by cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad printed in European papers.

"This is truly American ugliness that no other country in the world can compete with," journalist Saleh al-Humaidi said in Yemen.

"The Americans ought to apologise to mankind for their government's lie to the world that it is fighting for freedom and that it came to Iraq to save it from Saddam Hussein's oppression," he said.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the abuses at Abu Ghraib had already been fully investigated and publication of the latest pictures would trigger needless violence. "The department believes that the release of all of these images will further inflame and cause unnecessary violence in the world," Whitman said.

Military forcefeeds striking detainees at Guantanamo

By Tim Golden

United States military authorities have taken tougher measures to force-feed detainees engaged in hunger strikes at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, after concluding that some were determined to commit suicide to protest their indefinite confinement, military officials have said.

In recent weeks, the officials said, guards have begun strapping recalcitrant detainees into "restraint chairs," sometimes for hours a day, to feed them through tubes and prevent them from deliberately vomiting afterward. Detainees who refuse to eat have also been placed in isolation for extended periods in what the officials said was an effort to keep them from being encouraged by other hunger strikers. The measures appear to have had drastic effects. The chief military spokesman at Guantanamo, Lt Col Jeremy M Martin, said on Wednesday that the number of detainees on hunger strike had dropped to 4 from 84 at the end of December.

Some officials said the new actions reflected concern at Guantanamo and the Pentagon that the protests were becoming difficult to control and that the



The Guantanamo prison has been beset by periodic hunger strikes almost since it was established in 2002

death of one or more prisoners could intensify international criticism of the detention centre. Lawyers who have visited clients in recent weeks criticised the latest measures, particularly the use of the restraint chair, as abusive.

"It is clear that the government has ended the hunger strike through the use of force and through the most brutal and inhumane types of treatment," said Thomas B Wilner, a lawyer at Shearman & Sterling in Washington, who last week visited the six Kuwaiti detainees he represents. "It is a disgrace."

The lawyers said other measures used to dissuade the hunger strikers included placing them in uncomfortably cold air-conditioned isolation cells, depriving them of "comfort items" like blankets and books and sometimes using riot-control soldiers to compel the prisoners to sit still while long plastic tubes were threaded down their nasal passages and into their stomachs.

Officials of the military and the defence department strongly disputed that they were taking punitive measures to break the strike. They said that they were sensitive to the ethical issues raised by feeding the detainees involuntarily and that their procedures were consistent with those of federal prisons in the US.

Those prisons authorise the involuntary treatment of hunger strikers when there is a threat to an inmate's life or health. NYT News Service

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