

REPRIEVE

REPORT ON TORTUROUS METHODS USED TO FORCE FEED GUANTANAMO BAY PRISONERS

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**REPRIEVE REPORT ON
THE GUANTÁNAMO HUNGER STRIKE AND
ABUSIVE TREATMENT OF HUNGER STRIKING PRISONERS**

Executive Summary

- Authorities at Guantanamo Bay prison are attempting to cover up the truth of the new hunger strike by refusing to give out numbers of those on strike and those being force-fed. The truth is this:
 - Today, **thirty-three** prisoners are on hunger strike. **Sixteen** are being force-fed. **Six** of the tube fed prisoners are being forced to go to the Chair – in other words, the FCE (Forcible Cell Extraction) team is using physical violence to make them go to the Chair.
- The Guantánamo authorities have also issued a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that governs their treatment of detainees on hunger strike. The previous version of this was available to the public, yet this version has been designated as ‘protected’ meaning that only lawyers can read it and they cannot reveal its contents to the public.
- According to prisoners, the new SOP requires that any prisoner who goes on a peaceful hunger strike should be punished by being sent to Camp V Echo, the strictest disciplinary camp in the prison. All hunger striking detainees being brought from Camp VI, including six in a recent transfer, have been required to spend their first few days in the draconian conditions of Camp V Echo.
 - Ahmed Rabbani told his lawyer: “My cell in the dreadful Camp V Echo is constructed in a strange manner. It is designed to torture the person who is held there. All the surfaces made of steel. The bed is steel. The walls are steel. The floor is steel. The ceiling is steel. There is no toilet, but the hole in the ground is made of steel.”
- The Guantánamo authorities are employing a force feeding procedure that is intentionally painful in order to ‘dissuade’ detainees from their peaceful hunger strike.
 - Cleared Yemeni Emad Hassan has been force fed since 2007. His right nostril has become permanently blocked, and his left nostril is extremely painful, yet the tube is forced into him twice a day, and pulled back out.
- In an unclassified statement, cleared British resident Shaker Aamer wrote:

“I suspended my hunger strike briefly when my lawyers got an independent doctor in to see me from December 16th to 20th. However, on December 21st, my forty-seventh birthday, I resumed my hunger strike. I was weighed that day and again a week later, and I had dropped 14 pounds (one stone). I do not wish to die, and my health has been very bad.”

Introduction

TWELVE years into the detentions at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, two things have become clear. First, the vast majority of the detainees have been shown *not* to have been the “worst of the worst” – as originally claimed. Indeed, of the 779 prisoners known to have been held there to date, 624 have been released. A further 77 of the 155 who remain have been cleared – meaning that a total of 700 (or 90%) have been released or concededly should have been. The current Periodic Review Board (PRB) process will doubtless clear more, pushing over ninety percent the number of prisoners who the US has found not to pose a threat to the US or its allies.

Second, the pattern of systematic prisoner abuse, first documented by released British prisoners in 2004, continues in new and more sophisticated ways. The very fact that half of the prisoners who remain have long been told they are cleared, and yet they cannot leave, is psychological abuse itself, and has resulted in a radical increase in the mental health problems among the detainees. The combination of abuse and wrongful detention without trial has driven many of the prisoners to desperation. More prisoners have died, some by their own hand, than have been tried.

Last year there was a major hunger strike where the prisoners demanded either a fair trial or their freedom. This is hardly a radical claim and, given that President Barack Obama has long advocated the closure of the prison altogether, it would seem to be one that is shared by Americans at the highest level of government. Many others reached that conclusion a decade ago. For example, on November 21, 2005, giving evidence to senior British parliamentarians, Prime Minister Tony Blair (a staunch ally of the US) said that detention at the camp “has got to be brought to an end”; on January 13, 2006, Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel asked President Bush to close the base; on February 16, 2006, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan joined the call. This sentiment has been echoed around the world.

President Obama promised to close the base as his first act in office; sadly, when he gave his second inaugural address in 2013, the issue of Guantánamo did not receive a mention. The last hunger strike did achieve its purpose in part – it prompted President Obama to put the closure of the base back on the political agenda. In the last three months, prisoners have been released to Algeria (4), Sudan (2), Saudi Arabia (2) and Slovakia (3 Uighurs who had been cleared for almost a decade). Yet the releases are still coming too slowly, and with little regard for the future of the prisoners who are released.

In 2013, the Guantánamo authorities did what they had always done, and released information about the number of detainees who they deemed to be on hunger strike, as well as the number of detainees who were being force fed. However, recently the authorities have announced that henceforth they will not be releasing such information – because, they admitted, they felt it advanced the detainees’ claims. Thus Guantánamo attempts to retreat to form – where the facts are kept from the public.

The burden now rests, then, on the lawyers and NGO’s to ensure that the truth about the detainees’ plight does indeed escape the shadows of Guantánamo Bay. Hence this report and the periodic releases that will be made based on the facts that are legitimately released from Guantánamo Bay through the legal process.

1. Attempts to cover up the truth

The hunger strikes have entered a new phase. For the first time, the Guantánamo authorities refuse to give out numbers of those on strike, and those being force fed. This is concededly being done in order to try to hide the truth.

The truth is as follows:

*Today, **thirty-three** prisoners are on hunger strike. **Sixteen** are being force-fed. **Six** of the tube fed prisoners are being forced to go to the Chair – in other words, the FCE (Forcible Cell Extraction) team is using physical violence to make them go to the chair.*

Reprieve calls on the Obama Administration to instruct JTF-GTMO to be honest about what is being done and cease the physical violence at once.

The Guantánamo authorities have also issued a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that governs their treatment of detainees on hunger strike. Having done this, the US Government has designated the SOP as “protected” so that the lawyers litigating against it cannot reveal its contents to the public. While the SOP is available to lawyers working at *Reprieve*, since the litigation involves several *Reprieve* clients, this report has been written by those who have not read the SOP, so as to ensure absolute respect for the rules of court.

However, various observations may be made concerning the apparent contents of the SOP based on revelations made in the public court documents, as well as by the changes in procedures reported by the clients in Guantánamo Bay.

First, the Obama Administration has arrogantly adopted the position that they are not even subject to the rule of law. “[T]he Government [has] explained ‘the revisions do not affect the courts’ lack of jurisdiction over petitioners’ habeas challenge to the conditions of their confinement...’” See *Respondents’ [Unclassified] Opposition To Petitioners’ Motion For Order Directing Respondents To Disclose And File Complete Copies Of Revised Protocols On Force-Feeding And The Associated Use Of Restraints* at 4 (filed December 30, 2013). In plain English this means that the Government not only does not want the public to know what is going on in Guantánamo Bay, but they also do not want the Courts taking any steps to protect prisoners from mistreatment.

Second, the Government has refused even to file the full SOP with the Court, claiming that the prisoners’ should do this. But this is a half-truth: the prisoners “can only file the limited set of revised protocols that the Government has disclosed to us. We *cannot* file the revised protocols that the Government has concealed from us—the still-secret new protocols governing the associated use of *restraints*.” So why is the Government afraid to tell even the court what the SOP actually is? Is this merely again arrogance, or does it reflect something that the government lawyers believe is indefensible about the new regulations?

Reprieve calls upon the Obama Administration to instruct its lawyers immediately to make public the SOP’s in their entirety.

Nothing else of substance may be gleaned from the public pleadings, but significant changes in the SOP’s may be seen from the current practice (either that, or the military is

not even following its own rules).

2. The government has apparently decided that any prisoner who goes on a peaceful hunger strike should be punished by being sent to Camp V Echo, the strictest disciplinary camp in the prison

A new procedure has been introduced where any prisoner who goes on strike is immediately taken to the harshest punishment block in the prison, in order to deter him from continuing.

The 140 prisoners who are not “High Value Detainees” (HVD’s) are held in Camps V and VI. Camp VI currently allows for some communal living, and greater privileges, for ‘compliant’ detainees. Camp V is for non-compliant detainees. Within Camp V there is one particularly harsh block which is designated Camp V Echo.

There has already been significant litigation over conditions in Camp V Echo, and for several months the authorities ceased using it. Now it is back with a vengeance. Indeed, Ahmed Rabbani (ISN 1461) is currently held there, and reported on January 3, 2014, that all detainees in the relative comfort of Camp VI who go on a peaceful hunger strike are now immediately being brought to Camp V Echo for four days so that they can get a taste of the kind of mistreatment that they will receive if they continue their strike. Six prisoners were transferred there from Camp VI just before the New Year.

It is bad enough that a peaceful, competent hunger striker should be force fed in the first place, since that violates the Declaration of Tokyo of 1975 (see below). The punishment of people who go on strike is both immoral and illegal. Indeed, the US purports to treat prisoners “consistent” with the Geneva Conventions, which specifically condemn any punishment of a prisoner without a fair trial process.

Ahmed Rabbani has given the following description of the current conditions in Camp V Echo:

The dreaded Camp V Echo block is back in use. There are ten of us being held there, mainly disciplinary punishment for being on hunger strike. I am here for being on hunger strike. It is a peaceful protest that merely asks that each person should get a fair trial, or be set free. That does not sound too much to ask. Indeed, President Obama says that Guantánamo Bay should be closed altogether, so he takes a stronger position than this. But that is no reason for Colonel John Bogdan to respect our right to peaceful protest.

Everyone brought in from Camp VI for going on strike gets a few days here, to taste what it is like to disobey Colonel Bogdan’s wishes, before being moved to another part of Camp V. Six new men were brought in a few days ago from Camp VI for their boot camp here.

My cell in the dreadful Camp V Echo is constructed in a strange manner. It is designed to torture the person who is held there. All the surfaces made of steel. The bed is steel. The walls are steel. The floor is steel. The ceiling is steel. There is no toilet, but the hole in the ground is made of steel.

I sent a letter to my lawyer with a drawing of the cell, but this was apparently censored because somehow it would be a threat to national security for anyone to know where I am in Guantánamo – as if they could break me out of here with thousands of heavily armed American troops all around!

I have to sleep on a steel slab. For the last 3 months I have been asking for an isomat, but I have not had one for three months. Even the doctor prescribed that I should have not one but two isomats. Indeed, then another doctor agreed with him, so two doctors said this. They repeatedly said it. But the Colonel here refused to let me have them. Colonel John Bogdan overrules doctors when it comes to medical matters.

It is also very cold. I can only sleep by putting a blanket below me. The guards wear a thick uniform, and so they put the temperature down to make themselves comfortable. It is sometimes as low as 63 or 64 degrees, which is good for them, but very, very cold for us.

It is all very hard on me, but particularly on my back. I have severe back pain creating a serious problem with using the toilet. The pain I am having is very strange. I like to exercise and play different sports. I have never had this pain. It has come on because of the cold, because of the steel bed, and because of the very strange toilet facilities in Camp V Echo.

There is only a hole in the ground. For the last ten years, even here in Guantánamo, I have been using the normal modern toilet seat, the style that is used all over the world. Back in Pakistan, which is considered a Third World country by the United States, I had a modern toilet before I was locked up by the Americans. Now, because I am on hunger strike, I am being forced to use a hole in the ground.

Even that is not one that a normal person can use. It is built in so close to the wall that there is no space to put one foot on one side of the hole. Therefore I have to find some other way to do this. It is truly terrible, but the method I had to use to relieve myself was to use the food container. I can place that underneath me so I can put both feet either side. I have to use the food container!

All I am asking is for a stool so I can sit on it over the hole. Imagine for the last three months I have been asking for a stool like this, but the only thing I can do is to give them a polystyrene plate every three or four days, full of my number two. I have no other choice. It is disgusting for them, and more disgusting for me, but that is what I am reduced to doing. I wish it was not so, but I have no choice. Doubtless, Colonel Bogdan views this as more evidence of my ‘resistance’ to his will.

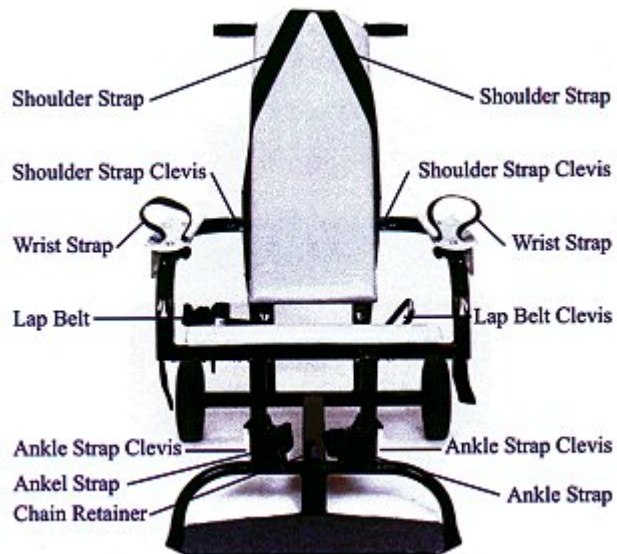
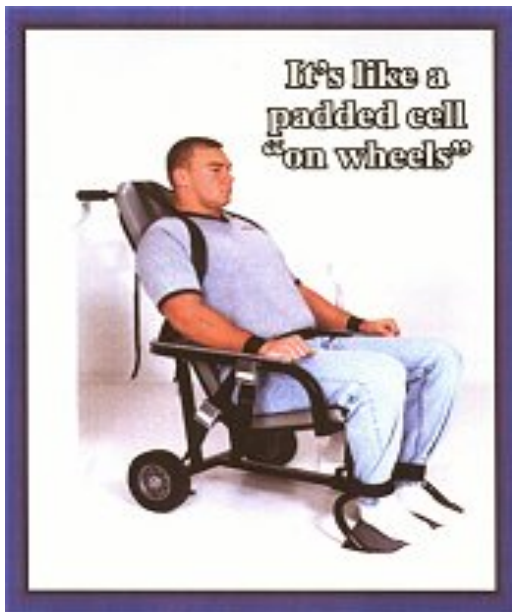
A few days ago I woke up and saw the entire wall was covered with condensation as it was so cold. It was like dew on a winter morning. I found the blanket wet. I shouted to the detainee next door to me (I cannot tell you his name as that is apparently classified): What’s wrong? Why is it so wet? He said his blanket was soaked too. It was the cold and the humidity.

(Statement of Ahmed Rabbani, ISN 1461, January 3, 2014.)

Reprieve calls upon President Obama to order an immediate end to the punishment of detainees who go on a peaceful hunger strike.

3. The Guantánamo authorities are employing a force feeding procedure that is intentionally painful in order to ‘dissuade’ detainees from their peaceful hunger strike

In an attempt to break the hunger strike, the U.S. military uses the ‘chair’ (dubbed by the prisoners the ‘Torture Chair’) with the acknowledged purpose of making the process of force feeding prisoners particularly painful. The prisoner is strapped into the ‘chair’ for hours, using the manufacturers’ built-in 12-point restraints and additional straps immobilizing the prisoner’s head. The prisoner is then forcibly intubated so that the military can make him take liquid nutrients.



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This is not a new practice. However, it is still very wrong. Furthermore, the previous SOP was specifically amended to end the practice of leaving the enteral tube in the detainee for days on end. The procedure was altered so that the 110 cm tube would be forced in and pulled out at each feeding – twice a day. The detainees report that this is particularly painful.

Emad Hassan (ISN 680) has long been cleared for release back to his home in Yemen. Indeed, his case involves one of the most risible mistakes in Guantánamo intelligence: when he was originally asked whether he was familiar with Al Qaida, he said he was – because he knew a small town called Al Qaida not far from his home near Aden. The US mistook this as an admission that he was somehow linked to the terror group. Emad Hassan has been force fed since 2007. His right nostril has become permanently blocked, and his left nostril is extremely painful, yet the tube is forced into him twice a day, and pulled back out.

“Please stop doing this to me!” Emad Hassan demanded recently. “I do not

¹ Photos of “Chair” from website of manufacturer E.R.C., Inc., <http://www.restraintchair.com/>

want to die, but it is my human right to protest the fact that I have long been cleared and yet I am still here, unable to see my family, unable to live my life.”

General Bantz J. Craddock was previously in charge of the U.S. Southern Command, the force with authority over Guantánamo. He admitted that the method of force feeding was altered with the specific goal of making it so painful that the prisoners will give up their non-violent protest. General Craddock said he had reviewed the use of the restraint chairs, and had decided to break the strikes by force: he was going to convince the detainees that a hunger strike was not “convenient”. (*New York Times*, Feb. 22, 2006).

The military forces each hunger striker into the ‘chair’ and shoves a 110 cm tube up his nostril, down his throat and into his stomach. The prisoner is kept in the chair for hours at a time, despite a statement by the chair’s manufacturer that “Detainees should not be left in the Emergency Restraint Chair for more than two hours.”²

*If force feeding is to be used at all in Guantánamo Bay, **Reprieve** calls on President Obama to order the military to use the most humane procedure available.*

4. A new force feeding SOP is being used that does not take account of the prisoner’s health

The detainees report another aspect of the new procedure, which is to keep putting prisoners on the force feeding process and taking them off it. Ahmed Rabbani (ISN 1461) reported on January 3, 2014, as follows:

They have a new regime which is particularly unpleasant and torturous. They stop force feeding you if you gain weight. Under the old rules I would have had to reach 143 pounds before they would stop force feeding me. Now, it is much lower, and they stop if the force feeding gets your weight up a little bit. A few days ago they stopped force feeding me once I reached 111.5 pounds. They said that I was now heavy enough. They stopped force feeding me for 10 days until my weight went to 105 pounds. Two days ago, on New Year’s Day, they weighed me and I was 109 pounds again. So presumably if they get me up a couple more pounds I will be considered okay again.

This is the strangest kind of torture. They force feed me two times a day for days, weeks or months. They then stop for ten days. They then start again. They do not let me live or die.

As a result of force feeding, they fill my stomach so that I live, but although I am living my whole body is being damaged. They know that we will have permanent damage in our bodies forever, although they are trying to keep the shell of our bodies alive. The new process of torture – if you start to refuse they force you in and out of force feeding like a yo-yo.

Regardless of the ethics of force feeding, this is not a procedure designed to take account of the prisoner’s health. Indeed, it has a deleterious impact on the prisoner both mentally and physically.

² <http://www.restraintchair.com/diagram.htm>.

Shaker Aamer reports (on December 30, 2013) that the doctors now affirmatively accept that their actions are dictated by Colonel John Bogdan. They cannot take necessary medical steps without permission from the prison authorities.

Reprieve calls upon the Obama Administration immediately to institute a policy where all medical treatment is entirely independent of the prison authorities, so that the detainees may receive independent and appropriate medical care.

5. Only medical professionals who agree that their military orders should override their medical ethics are now allowed to work at Guantánamo Bay, and their identities are being protected so that they cannot face appropriate sanctions for their actions

International guidelines demand that prisoners who refuse nourishment be treated humanely, and that their decision to engage in political protest be respected. The World Medical Association Declaration of Tokyo requires that a prisoner who competently and rationally refuses nourishment not be subjected to force-feeding:

Where a prisoner refuses nourishment and is considered by the physician as capable of forming an unimpaired and rational judgment concerning the consequences of such a voluntary refusal of nourishment, he or she shall not be fed artificially.³

In other words, it is unethical for a medical professional to take part in the force feeding of a competent hunger striker in the first place.

In a 2006 letter published in the renowned British medical journal, *The Lancet*, doctors from around the world reaffirmed this rule and called on the U.S. military to cease force-feeding detainees at Guantánamo. Physicians are not obligated to agree with the choice of the prisoner, but they are required to respect their informed decision to cease eating. Anything less “is not defensible in law.” (Nicholl, David J., et al., “Forcefeeding and restraint of Guantánamo Bay hunger strikers,” *Lancet* (Mar. 11, 2006).)

Reprieve demands that the forced feeding of prisoners who are competent to make their own decisions is unethical and must stop.

That is not to say that prisoners should die. Naturally, we are strongly opposed to the senseless sacrifice of human life. But, the prisoners’ complaints are real, the protests entirely valid. The prisoners’ complaints must be addressed, rather than suppressed.

When the force feeding issue first came up at Guantánamo Bay, the doctors were split on whether they were willing to take part in a process that put them in obvious jeopardy of professional sanction. Indeed, Dr. John Edmondson, who agreed to comply with his orders, was subsequently reported to his medical board.

³ Guidelines for Physicians Concerning Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Relation to Detention and Imprisonment, adopted by the 29th World Medical Assembly, Tokyo, Japan, October 1975 and editorially revised at the 170th Council Session, Divonne-les-Bains, France, May 2005, para. 5.

In order to avoid this, the Guantánamo authorities have taken another step to hide the truth from public view: it is no longer legal for anyone to publish the names of the medical professionals who work in Guantánamo Bay. Initially, the authorities took the rather risible step of letting each professional choose the name of a Shakespearean character as his or her pseudonym. This was detailed in the London Review of Books.⁴

Recently, the medical professionals have taken to calling themselves by the names of US cities. On December 30, 2013, Shaker Aamer reported being confronted by Corpsman Philadelphia and Corpsman Richmond.

*There being absolutely no evidence that inappropriate recriminations have been exacted by ‘extremists’ on any person who has worked at Guantánamo in twelve years, **Reprieve demands** that the proper names of personnel be made available so that anyone who commits an offense may be held responsible for it.*

6. The hunger strike is a peaceful protest

The hunger strikers have been very clear in why they are on strike. Shaker Aamer (ISN 239), one of the most vocal detainees, states the goal clearly:

“We are on hunger strike in order to ensure justice for all the detainees. Roughly half of the prisoners here have been cleared for release, and they should clearly be released. Anyone else should be given a fair trial before an impartial tribunal – rather than the military commissions which were condemned by President Obama himself.

“We draw on the experience of others when we peacefully refuse food. This means of protest has been used by those challenging unjust regimes for decades – certainly going back to Gandhi and his successful protest against British colonialism. We have no power to take any other action against those who oppress us. We are surrounded by thousands of heavily armed soldiers who have been ordered to use physical violence to suppress us. We mean no harm to these soldiers who are merely acting on the misguided orders of their superiors. However, we assert that it is wrong to use physical violence against prisoners to try to coerce them out of their peaceful protest.”

The refusal on the part of the military to accept that this is a legitimate form of protest is, in the opinion of *Reprieve* and many others, both hypocritical and wrong. On November 1, 2005, then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said Guantánamo prisoners who go on hunger strike were going “on a diet” to get press attention, and argued that such actions prove the men are members of al Qaida. Such comments demean the sanctity of the rule of law and the United States itself.

Reprieve reminds those who are critical of a hunger strike as a non-violent means of raising moral issues that on July 12, 2005, the Administration applauded the “valiant efforts” of Akbar Ganji, an imprisoned Iranian journalist who refused sustenance in order to draw attention to human rights abuses in his country. White House press secretary Scott

⁴ The London Review of Books, *Short Cuts: Dominic Dromgoole and Clive Stafford Smith*, Vol. 35 No. 21, 7 November, 2013, <http://www.lrb.co.uk/v35/n21/dominic-dromgoole/short-cuts>

McClellan called on Iran to release the hunger striking Ganji “immediately and unconditionally”:

“Mr. Ganji is sadly only one victim of a wave of repression and human rights violations engaged in by the Iranian regime. His calls for freedom deserve to be heard. His valiant efforts should not go in vain. The president calls on all supporters of human rights and freedom, and the United Nations, to take up Ganji’s case and the overall human rights situation in Iran.”

“Mr. Ganji, please know that as you stand for your own liberty, America stands with you . . . Through his now monthlong hunger strike, Mr. Ganji is demonstrating that he is willing to die for his right to express his opinion. President Bush is saddened by recent reports that Mr. Ganji’s health has been failing and deeply concerned that the Iranian government has denied him access to his family, medical treatment and legal representation.”

The Bush administration likewise recognized the validity of the hunger strike initiated by imprisoned Burmese dissident Aung San Suu Kyi in 2003, expressing “deep concern[]” over Suu Kyi’s well-being and urging the Burmese government to release her.

A hunger strike is a respected, non-violent method of challenging unfair treatment, used by many from the Suffragettes (challenging the denial of the vote to women) to Mahatma Gandhi (challenging the denial of freedom to India). The striking prisoners in Guantánamo have valid complaints – that they be provided due process and be held without abuse. The U.S. government is obligated to treat them humanely, which includes respecting their decision to refuse sustenance in order for them to advance their demands.

7. Case Study: Shaker Aamer, the British resident who is starving to death for his principles



Shaker Aamer is a long term British resident. His British wife Zennira and their four British children, who live in South London, have been hoping for his release for more than

five years. The British government has not raised a finger either to secure his release or even to prevent the inhumanity of his treatment.

Shaker is a highly educated, very eloquent man, who has incurred the wrath of the military by standing up for the rights of the other prisoners. He was selected for the short-lived Prisoners' Council in July 2005, which sought to enforce the Geneva Conventions in Guantanamo. When the military disbanded the Council (after just one week), Shaker was taken to isolation in Camp Echo for many months. He has been force fed with the 'Chair' on numerous occasions.

Shaker secured details about the liquid food that they were giving him. This information has been unclassified. It is Dextrose 5% in 0.45% Sodium 1,000 ml, with Potassium Chloride 20 MEQ, Magnesium Sulfate 500 MG, Folic Acid 1MG.

Shaker provided his counsel with the written "*Camp Echo Detainee Rules*" such as were previously unclassified. They included various overt punishments for hunger striking prisoners, such as (para. 6):

While on hunger strike, you are not allowed to go to recreation with other prisoners. If you come off of [sic] the hunger strike, you may conduct recreation with one other prisoner. However, that prisoner must also be off the hunger strike.

While, for a long time, the military insisted publicly that the prisoners are not "force fed", the rules prove this assertion to be false:

"You will receive re-feeding in accordance with your feeding schedule. You MUST take your re-feeding when instructed to do so." (para. 10) (emphasis in original)

The previous rules also admit that the Department of Defense continues to use consistent artificial lighting to deprive prisoners of sleep: "At no time will all the lights in your cell be completely off. While you are sleeping, you may have your lights dimmed to a comfortable level *in accordance with your current Detainee level.*" (para. 12) (emphasis supplied).

The reality of the force feeding is far worse than even this might suggest. In the hospital, Shaker reports:

"[I was] strapped to the bed for 24 hours except to use the toilet. The tube was in 24 hours a day. We would be fed for 30-40 minutes each time, with Ensure cans, two cans, three times a day. Some of the prisoners became zombies, as if they were already dead. I dropped weight to 130 pounds. I told the doctors, 'I want to die peacefully. I want no intervention.' But they refused this."

Shaker describes the full range of harassment and punishment that he has been subjected to as a result of his non-violent protest:

"They put a loud fan on 24 hours a day making so much noise that it is hard to pray, and you cannot sleep. They add to the noise in many ways.

They have been playing The Eagles at loud volume, shouting during prayer times, and so on. They have continued to desecrate the Qur'an when they come in for their searches. We must wash before we pray. They don't give us cups or water, so we have to do our ablutions in the toilet, which is disgusting. They have the cameras on us 24 hours a day, so I have to cover myself with the sleeping mat when I use the toilet."

While Shaker Aamer is currently not being force fed, the Government has stated in court that he is "eligible" for this abuse, under whatever secretive SOP the military wants to apply:

As the Government would have it, appellant Shaker Aamer is no longer a "hunger striker" threatened with force-feeding under physical restraint, but is merely "experiencing clinically significant weight loss" which earns him "approv[al] for "enteral feeding."

Shaker Aamer Reply Brief (filed January 7, 2014), quoting *Government Brief* at 3-4 & n.1.

In an unclassified statement, Shaker Aamer states:

"I suspended my hunger strike briefly when my lawyers got an independent doctor in to see me from December 16th to 20th. However, on December 21st, my forty-seventh birthday, I resumed my hunger strike. I was weighed that day and again a week later, and I had dropped 14 pounds (one stone). I do not wish to die, and my health has been very bad. But I have now been held by the US for more than twelve years without charge. I was cleared in 2007 by the Bush Administration. I was cleared again in 2009 by the Obama Administration. Six separate US intelligence agencies came to the conclusion that I was not a threat to the United States or its allies. And yet I am still here. I am either going to die by medical malpractice here, or take my fate into my own hands. I must also make my protest on behalf of other prisoners here. I therefore demand that I not be force fed by the US military authorities."

Reprieve calls upon the Obama Administration to release Shaker Aamer back to his family in London.

Reprieve calls upon the British government immediately to demand appropriate medical care for Shaker Aamer.

Reprieve calls upon the Obama Administration to send an independent monitor to Guantánamo Bay to observe and report on the force feeding practices.

-- ENDS --