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U.S. Quran Desecration at Guantanamo Sparks Outrage

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U.S. Military Police walks in to a cellblock in Camp Delta at the Guantanamo

Pakistan said Sunday it was "deeply dismayed" and called for a probe over reports that copies of the Qur'an, the Muslims' holy book, were desecrated at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"The government of Pakistan is deeply dismayed by a news item carried by the latest edition of Newsweek magazine about the reported desecration of the holy Qur'an," foreign office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jilani said on Sunday.

Mr. Jilani described as "highly objectionable and regrettable, treatment meted out to the detainees at Guantanamo Bay detention centre."

The American Newsweek magazine said those tactics were used to rattle detainees held at Guantanamo.

In one incident a U.S. personnel flushed a copy of holy Qur'an "down the toilet", the magazine said.

"The reported act of sacrilege shocked people of every faith around the world", Mr. Jilani said.

"The government of Pakistan condemns the incident and demands that an inquiry should be conducted to bring to justice the perpetrators of this shameful act," he said.

Insulting the Qur'an is considered blasphemy and punishable by death.

In an interview last week with the BBC's Haroon Rashid, Abdul Rahim Muslim Dost, a former Afghan detainee who was held at Guantanamo, revealed that several Arab prisoners haven't spoken to their investigators after three years to protest at the desecration of the Qur'an by U.S. soldiers.

Muslim detainees' beards were shaved and they were shouted at during interrogations, Mr. Dost said.

Currently, about 520 inmates, most captured in Pakistan and Afghanistan after the 11 September 2001 attacks on the U.S., are held as "enemy combatants" at Guantanamo.