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## **Lawyers to Meet Detainees for 2 days; Three Kuwaitis Among 300 Gitmos on Hunger Strike**

Arab Times  
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KUWAIT CITY (Agencies): Head of the Committee of Kuwaiti Families of Detainees in Guantanamo, Khaled Al-Oudah was recently quoted as saying three Kuwaiti detainees - Mohammad Al-Dihani, Sa'ad Al-Azmi and his son Fawzi Al-Oudah - are among the 300 detainees who are on a hunger strike in Guantanamo prison protesting their maltreatment. Al-Oudah said his son Fawzi was rushed to hospital after his health deteriorated because he had been on a hunger strike for a long time. Al-Oudah pointed out lawyers defending the inmates will be allowed to meet the Kuwaiti detainees for two days from Sept 12, 2005. Earlier in the week lawyers for the detainees had said at least 210 men had been on hunger strike for the last three weeks. However, officials at Guantanamo said there were 76, but refused to say when the hunger strike started.

"Since January 2002, the (Defense Department) has denied prisoners access to the courts or legal counsel in an effort to avoid justifying the basis for the detentions. This policy has driven detainees to strike until they die or are afforded a fair hearing and humane treatment," said attorney Gitanjali Gutierrez, of the New York-based Center for Constitutional rights, which represents some of the prisoners. A spokeswoman for Joint Task force at Guantanamo said, "They're 76. The numbers change every day." She did not say when the strike began. "They are treated to the best of our ability."

There are about 505 detainees at the detention camp on the US naval base in Cuba. On July 21, 52 prisoners launched a hunger strike at Guantanamo, apparently in protest at their detention, refusing nine consecutive meals. Prisoners who refused food were treated with intravenous drips, and oral dehydration solutions including Gatorade energy drinks, water and oral nutritional supplements. The US military admitted to the hunger strike a day after one of two Afghan men released from the camp after three years said after arriving back in Kabul that 105 prisoners had just staged a hunger strike. Meanwhile, European officials say the United States wants to internationalize the US detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a report said Sunday.

The response from Europe has been negative, the report said. Saudi Arabia's semi-official al-Watan daily quoted an unidentified European security official as saying that Washington has proposed that European countries to turn Guantanamo prison in Cuba into "an international prison for terrorism." The source said the US suggestion included referring the 'dangerous suspects involved in terrorism or those who pose a security threat to these countries' to Guantanamo. He added the prison would be supervised by international forces in accordance with a security agreement among the participating states.

The official said US officials were also thinking of sending prisoners arrested in Iraq to Guantanamo prison. He added that European officials saw the US proposal as an attempt to contain the growing criticism over alleged abuse of prisoners currently held in US custody in the Cuban base. The official said the proposal did not receive positive response from the European countries, which he said prefer that the Guantanamo prison be under UN supervision should it become internationalized, and that only those who have already been convicted of terrorism crimes should be held there.