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## **Detainee's father has US embassy talks**

Vikram Dodd  
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The father of a British man held in Guantánamo Bay met a senior US diplomat yesterday to plead for the right to visit his son in captivity.

Azmat Begg met the acting US ambassador to London, David Johnson, for an hour.

It was the first time an official from the US government had met the relatives of the Britons held as terrorism suspects in Guantánamo Bay.

Mr Begg said Mr Johnson had listened to his concerns and his request to see his son Moazzam, 36, from Birmingham. He has been held without charge or trial for more than two years after being arrested in Pakistan during the middle of the night.

Mr Begg said of the meeting at the US embassy in London: "There was no positive or negative sign. I want to see my son and see how he is physically and mentally."

Concern has been mounting about the wellbeing of the four Britons still being held in Guantánamo.

The meeting with US officials came about after the British government said the US should allow Mr Begg to see his son.

Mr Begg was accompanied by a doctor and psychiatrist, and by the actor Vanessa Redgrave who has been campaigning for the release of the Britons still held.

Ms Redgrave said the meeting was significant: "It means the doors are open to listen and the next thing is [to open] the doors to Guantánamo Bay."

The father of David Hicks, an Australian man held in Guantánamo, was allowed to visit his son. But he went on to embarrass the US by revealing his son's claims that he had been tortured.