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Guantanamo Briton Makes Fresh Torture Allegations

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A Briton held at Guantanamo Bay has made fresh allegations of torture, according to reports.

Martin Mubanga alleges that an interviewer stood on his hair, he was threatened and kept in temperatures of more than 90F, and he was even forced to clean up his own urine when he wet himself after being kept in chains.

According to the Guardian, the 31-year-old was shackled to the floor by his feet during a welfare visit from a British official.

He also claimed he did not have enough food, and had lost more than a stone in weight while incarcerated as one of hundreds of "enemy combatants" held without charge by the US in Cuba.

Mr Mubanga is one of four Britons imprisoned by the US in Cuba, as part of a counter-terrorism offensive which has produced outrage around the world.

His claims are believed to date from a few months ago and, according to the paper, were made in a letter from the Foreign Office to his family following a visit in June.

The Guardian quoted the letter as saying: "Martin told the official ... he had been interrogated, shackled and not allowed to go to the toilet.

"He said he had wet himself and had been forced to clean up the mess himself. Martin said that in another incident in June, he had been put in a room with the temperature at 97F ... he knew the temperature because he had seen the dial.

"Martin said that there had been a struggle and he had had his hair stood on by the interrogator."

Earlier this year, father-of-three Jamal al Harith, 37, from Manchester, accused the US military of punishment beatings and psychological torture.

He was one of five Britons released from the camp in Cuba after being incarcerated for more than two years.

A Foreign Office spokeswoman said tonight of Mr Mubanga's allegations: "We have raised with the US authorities the allegations of maltreatment raise with us by Mr Mubanga during a welfare visit. The US authorities have investigated them and their response is that they are without merit.

"At this stage we would not propose to pursue this further."

She added: "We take all these allegations seriously, and we do pursue them with the US authorities. None of the detainees have alleged systematic abuse.

"We continue our discussions with the US and in the absence of the prospect of a fair trial for the detainees at Guantanamo, our position remains that they should be returned to the UK.

"The Prime Minister did raise the issue of Guantanamo during his last visit to Washington with President Bush."

As well as Mr Mubanga, from Wembley, north-west London, Feroz Abbasi, 23, from Croydon, south London; Moazzam Begg, 36, from Sparkhill, Birmingham; and Richard Belmar, 23, from Maida Vale, west London, are also being held at Guantanamo Bay.

The US Government has insisted Guantanamo is an essential part of the so-called war on terror.