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## **Amnesty Plea to Free Juma**

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Gulf Daily News  
April 16, 2006

AN international human rights agency has launched an urgent appeal on behalf of a Bahraini detainee at Guantanamo Bay.

Amnesty International's US-based Urgent Action office issued a worldwide "health concern and torture" web appeal on behalf of Juma Al Dossari, 32, who has tried to commit suicide 12 times.

It was made after Mr Al Dossari's lawyers revealed last week that the US military had ignored their repeated attempts to find out if he had slashed his own throat in his most distressing suicide attempt to date.

The appeal asks individuals to contact top US military and government figures and diplomatic corps, including US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld and Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander Admiral Harry Harris.

Fax numbers and e-mail addresses are provided in the appeal.

Individuals are encouraged to express their concern about Mr Al Dossari's condition and previous allegations of torture, seek assurance that he is being given access to "appropriate and independent medical care" and ask the US military to provide his lawyers with a detailed medical report written by independent doctors.

It also urges individuals to call for Mr Al Dossari and other prisoners at Guantanamo Bay to be released unless they are given fair trials in US courts.

Bahrainis Mr Al Dossari, Salah Abdulrasool Al Blooshi, 24, and Isa Abdulla Al Murbati, 42, have been held at the US prison base in Cuba for almost five years.

Former Bahraini Guantanamo detainees Abdulla Majid Al Nuaimi, 24, Adel Kamel Hajee, 41, and Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, 27, were returned to Bahrain in November last year.

New York-based Dorsey & Whitney lawyers who have been representing Bahraini detainees at Guantanamo Bay for almost three years were here last week to step up efforts being made towards the release of the remaining three prisoners.

Lawyers Joshua Colangelo-Bryan, Christopher Karagheuzoff and Mark Sullivan are currently embroiled in a court battle in the US over whether Guantanamo detainees have rights to be tried.

They have joined with other lawyers for Guantanamo detainees in challenging a law passed on December 30, which limits detainees access to US federal courts, and allows the use of evidence obtained through torture.

"Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language," asks the appeal.

"Guantanamo detainee Jumah Al Dossari attempted suicide in March.

"He says he has been tortured in custody, and is believed to have made numerous suicide attempts since he was detained, in January 2001.

"US officials have refused to give his lawyers any information about his current condition."