

The following text may be printed, copy/pasted, or downloaded and emailed.

Military policeman 'threatened rape..!'

ABDULRAHMAN FAKHRI
Gulf Daily News
March 15, 2005

A Bahraini detainee was allegedly drugged and harassed on several occasions while in custody at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The latest claims were made by Abdulla Majid Al Nuaimi during an interview with lawyers, who visited him in Camp Delta last October.

According to the report, Mr Al Nuaimi was told by interrogators and military personnel that it was confirmed he was not a threat and could be released as early as March last year.

The report has been released after the US Defence Department re-viewed their notes and deemed the information to be unclassified.

The Sanaa Committee, which is acting as a channel of communication between lawyers in the Gulf region and their counterparts elsewhere, made the reports available.

The committee, which operates under Amnesty International, is composed of a number of volunteers from the Gulf region, including the president of the now dissolved Bahrain Centre for Human Rights Nabeel Rajab.

According to the lawyer's report, Mr Al Dossary said he continued to suffer from maltreatment during the trip to Guantanamo Bay in 2001.

Mr Al Nuaimi was flown to the high-security prison, while being handcuffed and shackled for the entire flight.

"During the trip, he had severe pain in his bladder due to the urinary tract infection," the lawyers reported.

"When he complained about the pain, he was laughed at by US military personnel."

While in custody at Camp Delta, Mr Al Nuaimi said a military police (MP) threatened to rape him.

According to the lawyers, the incident occurred while he was in his cell alone.

"MPs were not allowed in the cells generally but the MP attempted to enter while another MP stood on the lookout," they reported.

"Apparently the MP feared detection, considering that, after entering the cell, he left abruptly."

Mr Al Nuaimi also claimed that female MPs often searched him and other detainees, touching their bodies.

"On one occasion, he was escorted to interrogations by a female MP, who rubbed his body and smiled at him suggestively."

On Christmas Day 2002, during the swing shift, a corpsman came and spoke to Mr Al Nuaimi about another detainee from Bahrain.

According to the report, upon seeing this, two MPs approached Mr Al Nuaimi and asked: "Who do you think you are, talking to a medic?"

"The MPs told him to drop to his knees, put his hands on his head, pushed his face to the wall, handcuffed and shackled him," said the report.

"They stepped on the chain of the shackles and tripped him so that he fell on his face."

The MPs then put Mr Al Nuaimi on his knees and told him not to move.

He told the lawyers that a captain later came and Mr Nuaimi informed him of what had occurred.

"The captain ordered the MPs to return Mr Al Nuaimi to his cell, after they told him that he was going to stay in Guantanamo Bay for his whole life."

Mr Al Nuaimi also took part in a hunger strike that involved approximately 400 detainees across 19 cell blocks.

The hunger strike was initiated to protest against the detainees' incarceration and their conditions.

"He didn't eat for 11 days and drank no water for several days," the lawyers reported, adding that Mr Al Nuaimi later fell unconscious, was taken for medical care and given intravenous fluids for three to four days.

During one interrogation, Mr Al Nuaimi was injected with an unknown substance, which he said made him depressed and despondent.

He told the lawyers that he was unable to control his thoughts and his mind raced, adding that he also was unable to control his body and fell to the floor. "Mr Al Nuaimi was asked if he wanted to hurt himself and he replied that he did not," they reported.

He was also asked if he wanted to be shot and he replied, "go ahead", following which he was put in isolation for three days.

Mr Al Nuaimi told the lawyers that he was the subject of countless subsequent interrogations and that some interrogators wore military clothing and others wore civilian clothing.

"At a certain point, Mr Al Nuaimi decided not to speak with interrogators and during his next session, the interrogator began to yell at him for not talking," said the lawyer's report.

"When Mr Al Nuaimi asked: 'Why am I here?' The interrogator hit the chair in which he sat and screamed into his ear: 'You're here because you are a dog. Cages are for dogs like you.'"

On another occasion, an interrogator - whom Mr Al Nuaimi believed was of Lebanese origin because of his accent - told him that he would be taken to an FBI prison that would "turn him into a woman."

The medical staff also administered an unknown medicine to Mr Al Nuaimi that made him feel drunk and after several days he refused to take the medicine, according to the report.

During one session, an interrogator forced him to write a letter to a friend in which he stated that he had gone to Afghanistan to be a martyr.

"Mr Al Nuaimi reported this to the Red Cross and was told that he could not be forced to write the

letter, but the letter had already been written," said the report.

"Under duress, Mr Al Nuaimi was forced to say that he went to Afghanistan to join the Taliban and for jihad," it added.

In January or February 2004, Mr Al Nuaimi was given a polygraph examination, which was administered by a purported FBI agent.

During the polygraph, he was asked whether he had connections with any terrorist organisations, whether he had received money from them, whether he had played any role in the attacks on the USS Cole in Yemen, whether he had stolen anything for which he would be judged, whether he had ever lied to family or friends and whether he had done anything against the Quran.

"Following the polygraph, Mr Al Nuaimi's shackles were removed and he was told by an interrogator that he would be released within 60 days."

He was also told that a report had been prepared, concluding that he was not a threat.

Mr Al Nuaimi told the lawyers that he was given general "advice" about leaving the camp, including that he should not allow himself to be used by others.

"Mr Al Nuaimi was not seriously interrogated again following the polygraph, although he did meet individuals who identified themselves as being members of the FBI," said the report.

The lawyers reported that one of these individuals urged him to pursue his education and told him that the US government knew that he had not received military training in Afghanistan.

Mr Al Nuaimi has been detained for over three years as an "enemy combatant" along with Essa Ali Abdulla Al Murbati, Salah Abdul Rasool Al Blooshi, Adel Kamel Hajee, Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa and Juma Mohammed Abdul Latif Al Dossary.

They are being represented by Dorsey and Whitney, as part of a global effort to provide free legal support to all Camp Delta prisoners.