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Bahrain Working Hard for Bay Three's Release

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BAHRAIN is working hard to secure the release of its three remaining detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa told MPs yesterday.

He stressed that he was personally keen on their release, as well as the leadership and the government.

"Every day we think about them in every meeting we hold with any American organisation or authority and if MPs are eager on their release, we are too," said the Foreign Minister.

"We are still working on their release, not by letters as MPs think, but through our continuous moves to get them out.

"We will send a petition to the US Congress soon and hopefully with our joint effort with you, we will be able to reach somewhere.

The minister said that it was saddening to hear that one of three detainees, Juma Al Dossary, 32, had repeatedly tried to commit suicide. "I hope that he is fine and would be back with his family soon," he said.

Al Dossari, Salah Abdulrasool Al Blooshi, 24, and Isa Abdulla Al Murbati, 42, have been held at the US prison base in Cuba for more than four 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 last November.

National Release Campaign Committee president, MP Shaikh Mohammed Khalid Mohammed, thanked everyone involved in the release of three, but said Bahrain was not doing enough for the others.

"Until when will the Bahraini government wait, until we get our boys in American coffins?" he asked.

"Mr Al Dossary has repeatedly attempted suicide, because the American criminals have forced him to chose death with their ill treatment.

He then read out parliament's demands, which were later voted on and sent to the government.

The detainees should be visited to ensure that they are being provided with medical care and are away from any harm.

The government should pressurise the US Congress to release the prisoners.

They should be compensated and employed when released.

The government should pay for their lawyers.

It should also give financial aid to the families of those still detained

It should interview the freed detainees on television and radio about their experiences singers.

A national conference on the plight of the detainees should be held.

Children of the detainees and other family members were present at the session, holding placards in English calling for the release of their loved ones.

Al Asala Bloc vice-president Shaikh Ali Al Mohannadi set up a placard on his table, which said 'Free Our Brothers'.

Parliament chairman Khalifa Al Dhahrani said that MPs had nothing against the American people, just actions taken by its officials, which were unacceptable.