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## **Bahraini Government Inquires US About its Guantanamo Detainees**

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MANAMA - Bahraini officials said on Wednesday they will be inquiring about six Bahraini detainees held at the US Guantanamo Bay detention centre in Cuba after hunger strike reports.

Detainees' lawyers had expressed concern that some of their clients were taking part in a hunger strike of extended duration.

The lawyers sent a letter to the Bahraini Foreign Ministry late on Tuesday asking them to inquire about their clients' health.

The move came after US authorities refused to answer requests for information concerning the six and barred communication until the lawyers' fourth scheduled visit to the camp, set for October 13.

Lawyer Joshua Colangelo-Bryan said he was concerned about the physical condition of his clients after some participated in an earlier hunger strike that required hospitalisation for at least one.

"Our clients told us that if the promises made by the (US) government to stop the earlier hunger strike were not kept, a subsequent hunger strike would be undertaken that would not stop until detainees died," Colangelo-Bryan said in a statement.

"We believe that the detainees are now undertaking this hunger strike."

Nabeel Rajab, the former vice president of the now dissolved Bahrain Centre for Human Rights, said the detainees during their June-July hunger strike had put forward six demands to improve their detention conditions, expressing at the same time strong conviction that these are the same demands fuelling the present hunger strike.

"We are almost certain that failure by the camp authorities to make good on promises they had previously made...has led to this current strike," he said.

Bahraini Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa said: "We intend to have the inquiries about the detainees' health presented to the US authorities by today or tomorrow (Thursday)."

Khalifa added that his government was monitoring the situation and working to resolve the matter.