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## **Newscast: Federal Court Order Forces Pentagon to Reveal Closely**

NBC News: Nightly News  
March 4, 2006

JOHN SEIGENTHALER, anchor:

After years of secrecy, a federal court order has forced the Pentagon to reveal closely guarded information about those held at the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. It includes the names of those held at Guantanamo for years, and thousands of pages of documents. The release comes as a result of a Freedom of Information Act request by the Associated Press. NBC's Rosiland Jordan has that story.

ROSILAND JORDAN reporting:

They come from Asia, Europe and Africa. Now a first look at the transcripts of secret military hearings to determine if the Guantanamo detainees are enemy combatants. Human rights activists have wanted these papers released for years. Today they say this is proof the war on terror may be aimed at the wrong people.

Mr. TOM MALINOWSKI (Human Rights Watch): They were small fish or people who really weren't involved with the Taliban or al-Qaeda at all.

JORDAN: What's included among the thousands of pages, a petition from a British man who was later let go, handwritten statements, and testimony the men gave at their hearings. "I'm just a little shocked because they told me I would be an enemy combatant to America." "I want to add that we were not the Taliban and didn't need to be afraid of the Americans." One man named Hamut, simply asked for mercy. "I hope I can get just and fair treatment. I never fought the Americans. I have no way of fighting the Americans." NBC News military analyst Jack Jacobs says the US has now lost a tactical advantage against al-Qaeda.

Mr. JACK JACOBS: In the intelligence business, you never want the enemy to know what you know, know that you know anything at all them.

JORDAN: But detainee attorney Kristine Husky says it's just as important to make sure the defendants rights are protected.

Ms. KRISTINE HUSKEY: Many of the lawyers didn't know this information, didn't know the actual allegations against them. And so, of course, that's, you know, trying to represent somebody with your hands tied.

JORDAN: The military is still facing a legal challenge to release the names of all the detainees at Guantanamo. Experts say it will do all it can to protect that information in the name of fighting al-Qaeda. Rosiland Jordan, NBC News, the White House.