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## **Torture horror of Bahraini detainee**

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LAWYERS for a Bahraini prisoner at Guantanamo Bay claim he was tortured by US soldiers in Kandahar, Afghanistan, shortly after being captured in December 2001. The allegations include claims that he was made to walk barefoot over broken glass and had his head pushed into the glass before being interrogated.

It is also alleged that he was shocked with an electric device on his face and back during interrogation and had boiling liquid - possibly tea - poured over his head.

The revelations follow a string of allegations that the American military has routinely abused prisoners held in Guantanamo Bay, Iraq and Afghanistan and comes just days after lawyers for 11 Kuwaiti detainees made similar complaints public.

The latest claims have been made by lawyers acting for Juma Mohammed Al Dossary, who is one of six Bahrainis now being held at the US base in Cuba.

Al Dossary, who has an eight-year-old daughter in Bahrain, says he was interrogated several times in Kandahar and on one occasion was beaten to the point of fainting.

When he came to, he claims, he was lying on the ground with his head under a soldier's boot.

"He was returned to the tent by soldiers who were cursing [Prophet] Mohammed," said lawyer Joshua Colangelo-Bryan, who is acting on behalf of Bahrainis at Guantanamo Bay.

Details of the horrific treatment were given to Mr Colangelo-Bryan during a visit to see the six Bahrainis in Cuba last October.

They are only now being made available after the US government inspected his interview notes and declared the information to be unclassified.

Mr Colangelo-Bryan says scars are still visible on Al Dossary's face where he claims it was pushed into the broken glass.

Meanwhile, upon arrival in Kandahar in January 2002, Al Dossary says he was made to lie on the ground while soldiers walked on him, had a soldier's boot put in his mouth, was kicked in the head and hit in the eye and was made to endure a "violent" cavity search.

"At that point Mr Al Dossary began to offer to do anything requested of him - such as admit to being a terrorist or sign a statement - in the hope of preventing further beatings," said Mr Colangelo-Bryan, who works for the New York law firm Dorsey and Whitney.

It is also claimed that during transfer from Pakistan to Kandahar by plane, Al Dossary - who had undergone a stomach operation - was shackled in such a way that caused him pain.

When he complained about the pain he was allegedly hit and kicked in the stomach, causing him to vomit blood.

"During the subsequent two weeks that Mr Al Dossary spent in Kandahar, he was housed in freezing tents," said Mr Colangelo-Bryan.

"Soldiers would line up Mr Al Dossary and other detainees at night and threaten to shoot anyone who moved.

"Then, instead of shooting, the soldiers would beat anyone who moved. "Because of the cold and being awakened by soldiers, sleep was virtually impossible.

"One bucket served as a bathroom for all detainees in a given tent. On one occasion, a soldier took a Quran and put it in the bucket."

A decision by US District Judge Joyce Hens Green to allow the American government to appeal a decision last week has effectively halted legal proceedings.

She ruled that all detainees are entitled to greater protection under the US constitution and the Geneva Convention, but agreed to "stay" all proceedings if an appeal against her decision is launched.

"Right now it is not clear that we will be able to do anything in a US court," said Mr Colangelo-Bryan.

"That is the most troubling aspect of the 'stay'. It means in essence we can't make any request for the court's intervention.

"What we will do is try to continue working with lawyers for other detainees to make public the facts - making public what has been going on."

He added that Al Dossary's allegations are backed up by eye-witness accounts by FBI officers, lawyers of other detainees and former detainees who have since been released.

"If the courts are not open to us in terms of presenting requests that detainees be treated humanely then we will have to try to rally public pressure," said Mr Colangelo-Bryan.

"Of course that kind of pressure has not produced tremendous results from the US government as yet.

"But in light of other documents we know it is not just detainees complaining.

"We have FBI personnel corroborating stories we have heard from detainees regarding abuse they have suffered."

The US Embassy in Bahrain declined to comment.