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## **Detainee Held 2 Years Mistreated, Suit Alleges**

Complaint targets detention tactics

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WASHINGTON -- An alleged "enemy combatant" who has been held in US military custody for more than two years filed a lawsuit yesterday alleging that he has suffered "inhumane, degrading, and physically and psychologically abusive treatment" in a military brig in South Carolina.

The 30-page complaint by Ali Saleh Kahlah Marri provides a rare glimpse into one of the most secretive facets of the US government's antiterrorism strategy, which includes a variety of detention tactics aimed at holding suspected terrorists outside the traditional US criminal justice system.

Marri's allegations also coincide with continuing allegations of mistreatment and abuse of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and other US military and intelligence facilities.

Administration officials have repeatedly said that military detainees are treated humanely. The officials did not respond to requests for comment on Marri's lawsuit.

Both Marri and Jose Padilla, a former gang member from Chicago, are alleged Al Qaeda operatives who have been held without charges after being declared enemy combatants by President Bush. Yaser Hamdi, another alleged enemy combatant, was released and allowed to return to Saudi Arabia in October after he renounced his claim to US citizenship.

Unlike Padilla, a US citizen, and Hamdi, who was born in Louisiana, Marri is a citizen of Qatar, a fact that has sharply limited his ability to challenge his detention in US courts.

A federal judge ruled last month that the Bush administration was within its rights to continue holding him.

Marri, 39, has been held in solitary confinement at the Naval Consolidated Brig in Charleston, S.C., since June 2003 and has had no direct contact with his family or anyone outside the prison other than his lawyers and representatives of the International Red Cross, according to the lawsuit.

Held in a 6-by-9-foot cell, Marri has routinely been denied water, soap, a toothbrush, and other necessities and has not been allowed treatment for a possible nerve condition, the lawsuit alleges.

The complaint says US interrogators threatened to turn him over to Egypt or Saudi Arabia, where "he would be tortured and sodomized and where his wife would be raped in front of him." His captors also falsely claimed that his brothers and father had been jailed but would be released if he cooperated, the lawsuit says.

Marri arrived in the United States on Sept. 10, 2001, with his wife and five children and enrolled in graduate school at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., where he had received a bachelor's degree. He was arrested by the FBI in December 2001 as a material witness in connection with the Sept. 11 investigation and -- after initially being charged with a variety of financial crimes -- was declared an enemy combatant in June 2003.

