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Yemeni detainee reveals mistreatment in Guantanamo

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A Yemeni detainee said that U.S. forces have mistreated him in Guantanamo.

A Yemeni detainee appeared before a review hearing Wednesday and reported that U.S. forces have mistreated him in Guantanamo and Afghanistan.

The prisoner had been detained for almost three years and had been accused of being Osama bin Laden's errand boy and training at an al-Qaeda camp in Afghanistan in 1995.

The man, who reporters are banned from identifying, denied belonging to al-Qaeda or having links with the Taliban regime. He said that he never fought against U.S. forces and never received weapons training.

"I stayed in Afghanistan for about a year," the 25-year-old told the panel. "I don't understand how a person in a year can become such an important person, a guard or someone who runs errands. You know more about the Taliban than me."

"We were tortured in Kandahar," he said. "As soon as we were brought to Cuba, and up until now, we're still being pressured and mentally coerced. I had heard the United States was a friend of human rights, a friend of justice, but since we've been imprisoned, we've seen the exact opposite of that. We've found no justice here."

The panel is charged with deciding whether some 550 detainees are being properly held as enemy combatants, a classification with fewer legal protections than prisoners of war. Every case is to be reviewed by year's end.

The man is one of 60 detainees who have filed federal lawsuits challenging their detention.

More than 134 cases have gone before the tribunals since they started July 30. Only one man was released.

Kuwaitis mark 'day 1,000' in Guantanamo

Tomorrow marks the 1,000th day in captivity for 12 Kuwaiti detainees who have been held without being charged in Guantanamo.

All of the Kuwaiti prisoners have been held in isolation without legal representation or visits from friends or family since they were imprisoned in 2002.

Up till now, none has been accused of any crime or given their rights under due process of U.S. law, despite the Supreme Court decisions that reaffirmed their right to trial and their right to legally challenge their imprisonment.

The detention has been decried by political and social leaders throughout the world.

"This injustice has now reached the sad but important milestone of 1,000 days. At this point in time, we ask again that the U.S. government honor the basic human rights of the detainees and apply the rule of law," said Khalid Al-Odah, father of detainee Fawzi Al-Odah and head of the Kuwaiti Family Committee, an organization established two years ago by relatives of the prisoners to advocate for their just treatment under the U.S. judicial system.

"These prisoners are human beings," said Al-Odah. "They are sons, husbands, brothers, and fathers who haven't seen their loved ones in three years. Either charge them with a crime or set them free."

U.S. Defense Department officials have acknowledged that the Kuwaitis and at least one-third of the Guantanamo prisoners are innocent. Earlier this week, Archbishop Desmond Tutu called the Guantanamo prison a "disgrace."

"For the sake of the mothers and fathers and other family members who await the resolution of the detainees' plight, we must continue making our case to the administration and to the American people until justice is served and the rule of law is restored," Al-Odah said. "Until then, we cannot rest."