

Guantanamo Prisoners, June 21, 2004, by J.B.Gerald

Summary

Guantanamo's physical isolation, its jurisdictional confusion, and military policies regarding release of information, make Guantanamo a secret holding facility, with enough information about it released to media to frighten the public with evidence of severe injustice. Itself an instrument of psychological warfare, the prison terrifies the public and by the public's cooperation, implicates the public in the prison's crimes. Tactically it may be used as a tool preparing us for a wider war, and it is a likely cover for CIA and DIA covert recruitment and training operations.

Indications that torture is used derive from four sources: media coverage, lawyers for detainees; released detainees, and evidence in other detention centres of endemic military and covert policies of torture.

Of particular concern: the military's lack of transparency provides opportunity for extreme torture, killing of prisoners, "suicides" by prisoners and disappearance of prisoners. This will increase the difficulty of American personnel in proving innocence of charges of war crimes at the facility.

Since the "war on terror" implies psychological warfare one might expect all facets of life at Guantanamo controlled to military purposes. The facts of Guantanamo's environment for detainees are those which would break down prisoners to cooperate with military interrogation. Since results of torture as interrogation are not trustworthy, nor legal evidence, Guantanamo's purpose may be the humiliation of a cultural group, personality destruction of selected individuals, terror, or recruitment.

What Happened ? Allegations :

1. The isolation of prisoners from their cultures, from their land of origin, from their families and people, and often from each other. "Incommunicado detention."
2. Lack of *habeas corpus*.
3. Lack of legal representation or access to courts (Threat of a trial without rights)..
4. Detention of non-specified length (Deprivation of hope for release).
5. Denial of communication with human rights organizations (ie. Amnesty International AI Index AMR 51/114/2003 19 August 2003).
6. Use of solitary confinement for long duration.
7. Intentional sensory deprivation, and in particular the hooding of prisoners, during travel and in captivity and/or interrogation; blackened goggles, surgical masks, earmuffs, mittens (Sunday Mirror, London, 20 January 2002, "Cuffed, masked and humiliated: Outrage over treatment of Cuba prisoners," by Andy Rudd).
8. Forced drugging. (*Revolutionary Worker* Online rwor.org 2003-12-09) ("My Hell in Camp X-Ray," March 12, 2004, by Rosa Prince and Gary Jones, *The Mirror* UK) ("Guantanamo: What the World Should Know," by Michael Ratner and Ellen Ray, *AlterNet*, June 11, 2004).
9. Forced nakedness ("Guantanamo: What the World Should Know," by Michael Ratner and Ellen Ray, *AlterNet*, June 11, 2004).
10. Incarceration of minors. Admitted (*Revolutionary Worker* Online rwor.org 2003-12-09) (Cnn.com, "U.S. frees 3 teens at Guantanamo base," January 29, 2004, Posted: 12:54 PM

EST).

11. Interrogation. Admitted. (“Guantanamo Detainees,” Department of Defense fact sheet, February 2004 “outlining the status of detainees at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay,” posted 16 Mar 2004.”U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs”).

12. A Death row (*Revolutionary Worker* Online rwor.org 2003-12-09).

13. Deprivation of toilet facilities. (National Lawyers Guild Press Release, May 14, 2004).

14. Head forced in toilet (“Guantanamo Discipline Squad on Video,” May 22, 2004, *New Scotsman.com* <http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=2961299>).

15.. Chaining and shackling (“My Hell in Camp X-Ray,” March 12, 2004, by Rosa Prince and Gary Jones, *The Mirror* UK); “short shackling” (National Lawyers Guild Press Release - May 14, 2004).

16. Being kept in cages as animals are.

17. Exposure (this can be a medical condition). Extreme heat. Sun..

18. Intentional inappropriate medical care, particularly in amputation of parts of the prisoner’s bodies (“My Hell in Camp X-Ray” by Rosa Prince and Gary Jones, *The Mirror* UK , 12 March 2004).

19. Use of prisoner’s medical records in conjunction with interrogation (*washingtonpost.com*, “Detainees' Medical Files Shared, Guantanamo Interrogators' Access Criticized,” by Peter Slevin and Joe Stephens, *Washington Post* Staff Writers, June 10, 2004).

20. Physical beatings and display of physically beaten prisoners to encourage cooperation by the others. (“My Hell in Camp X-Ray,” March 12, 2004, by Rosa Prince and Gary Jones, *The Mirror* UK).

21. Intentional sexual and religious humiliation of prisoners (“My Hell in Camp X-Ray,” March 18, 2004 by Rosa Prince and Gary Jones, *The Mirror* UK).

22. Pain relief as a reward for cooperation with interrogation.(ie. Removal from non-privileged levelsto more rewarding levels of daily life because lower levels are in fact painful per se.(“Guantanamo: What the World Should Know,” by Michael Ratner and Ellen Ray, *AlterNet*, June 11, 2004).

23. The use of food and water as tools of interrogation, and denial of food.(National Lawyers Guild Press Release - May 14, 2004).

24. Use of sleep deprivation as a tool of interrogation. (alleged use at Bagram, ref. Alif Khan, SayedAbbasin; confirmed use in Afghanistan; *AI Index*, AMR 51/114/2003, 19 August 2003). Implied use at Guantanamo.

25. Deprivation of self control as the prison claims increasing manipulation of all functions of life.

26. Continual debasement as a human being. “This creeping sickness: So now we know: torture is routinely used by the US in Guantanamo Bay,” Ken Coates, March 13, 2004 , *The Guardian*). De-humanization. degradations, humiliation .(National Lawyers Guild Press Release - May 14, 2004).

27. Mind control games.(“My Hell in Camp X-Ray,” March 12, 2004, by Rosa Prince and Gary Jones, *The Mirror* UK).

28. Use of dogs against prisoners.

29. Guantanamo detainees have reported physical abuse in Kandahar or Bagram as part of the “softening up” process for interrogation. (Amnesty International, AMR 51/075/2004 , 7 May 2004).

30. On base “rendering” (interrogation by the prisoner’s home country).

31. Thirty prisoners have attempted suicide or succeeded in killing themselves (*Revolutionary Worker* Online rwor.org 2003-12-09). Since each is the target of psychological warfare while in captivity, these cannot be called suicides but intentional deaths, or someone forced to prefer death to life. N.B. “32 suicide attempts” (“Int’l Red Cross Calls Guantanamo

Detentions ‘Intolerable,’” Neil A. Lewis, *New York Times*, October 10, 2003). 34th suicide attempt, January 2004 (AI Index: AMR 51/028/2004 11 February 2004).

32. Physical torture, resulting in death; secrecy interferes with verifiable information of this at Guantanamo. Investigations into deaths in custody in both Afghanistan and Iraq are in progress (Amnesty International AMR 51/075/2004 , 7 May 2004).

33. Ghost detainees. Living prisoners have been hidden from any listing at all, by Defense Secretary Rumsfeld’s order. It is more difficult to find evidence of the dead. (Possibly substantiated by ie. Amnesty International AMR 51/075/2004, 7 May 2004, see “ghost detainees.”) “Internal CIA probe on 'ghost detainees' Iraqis jailed without U.S. knowing their charges or names,” Bob Drogin, *Los Angeles Times*, San Francisco Chronicle online Wednesday, May 5, 2004.

34. Living under death threat CIA facility prisoners have been killed. (“Secret World of U.S. Interrogation: Long History of Tactics in Overseas Prisons Is Coming to Light,” by Dana Priest and Joe Stephens, *Washington Post* Staff Writers May 11, 2004).

35. Use of torture endemic in military and covert agency policies.

1. This is recognized by the need for the January 2002 memorandum, “Alberto Gonzales, White House counsel, to President Bush:” this memo counsels Bush to declare the Geneva Convention not applicable to Al-Qaida or the Taliban.

2. Hynes-Walker Report. (*The Wall Street Journal*, June 7, 2004, “Pentagon report Set Framework for Use of Torture, Security or Legal Factors Could Trump Restrictions, Memo to Rumsfeld Argued, “ by Jess Bravin).

3. Courses offered for a generation at the U.S. School of the Americas.

4. Evidence of torture, killing, as interrogation techniques used by U.S. personnel in Vietnam.

5. CIA manual “no touch” torture signatures appear throughout accounts of Guantanamo detainees (“Torture at Abu Ghraib followed CIA’s manual, “by Alfred W. McCoy, *The Boston Globe*, May 14, 2004).

6. Psychology, as applied to selling techniques of management, population and police controls, results in various degrees of perception management which bend individual human need as sought in perception to the uses of the powerful. When it is against the individual’s will, it becomes a psychological hardship; extreme imbalances eventually cause pain. The extreme imbalance is trained into military thinking which is often not able to discern its crime in illegal interrogation.

7. The lessons of Abu Ghraib are that the U.S. Army will scapegoat its enlisted personnel in attempt to cover a national policy. Under current leadership it will sacrifice officers and a woman general, to maintain its claim to the right to torture people. Evasion in dealing overtly with mistakes suggests policies so deeply entrenched that eventually the policies will lead to war crimes trials .

8.”Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, the Commanding US general in Iraq,” condoned use of “military dogs, temperature extremes, reversed sleep patterns, sensory deprivation, and diets of bread and water on detainees whenever they wished.” “Sanchez borrowed heavily from a list of high-pressure tactics used at the detention center at the US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the report said.” (Washington, June 12 (*Xinhuanet*) www.chinaview.cn , quoting from the *Washington Post*).

To whom ?

At least 600 to 700 men and minors, as of this date, were taken as prisoners to Guantanamo since January 11, 2002 . Some individual names are mentioned in press accounts and in legal cases brought by lawyers on their behalf, or noted at the release of prisoners. Complete lists of prisoners are not available. Registration numbers provided the International Red Cross are

apparently incomplete. As of April 2, 2004, there were at least seven detainees missing, unaccounted for. ("Ending Secret Detentions," June 2004, Pearlstein, Posner etc. *Human Rights First (Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, NYCDC)*).

Partial Listing of Accountable Personnel

Gen. Rick Baccus, in "command of the military police units two months after the camp opened" (*New York Times*, nytimes.com, June 21, 2004).

Mr. Rodriguez, "the head of Guantanamo's intelligence-gathering effort" (*ibid.*).

Col. Nelson J. Cannon, "the commander of the joint detention operation" (*ibid.*).

Thomas E. White, supervised a team of senior Pentagon officers at Guantanamo (*New York Times*, nytimes.com, June 21, 2004) (dates ?).

Steve Rodriguez, Guantanamo overseer of interrogation teams (*New York Times*, nytimes.com, June 21, 2004).

Brig. Gen. Jay W. Hood, "Commander of the task force that runs the Guantanamo prison" (*ibid.*)

CIA recruitment operatives. Bill Harlow, the C.I.A. spokesman. (*ibid.*)

Col. Tim Lynch, current chief of staff at Guantanamo (*New York Times*, nytimes.com, June 21, 2004).

Army Maj. Gen. Geoffrey D. Miller, commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo (Nov. 2002 2004).

Paul Butler, "principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low intensity conflict" (February 13, 2004, United States Department of Defense News Transcript); "senior Pentagon official for detainee policy until recently becoming Mr. Rumsfeld's chief of staff" (*New York Times*, nytimes.com, June 21, 2004).

Gen. James Hill (U.S. Army Southern Command in charge of Guantanamo Bay).

Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Jan. 11, 2002. (*New York Times*, nytimes.com, June 21, 2004).

US Ambassador at Large "for War Crimes Issues," Pierre-Richard Prosper.

Hynes, Walker, Pentagon Memorandum Work group condoning uses of torture.

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld .

Attorney General Ashcroft (Molly Ivins, "The Day the Constitution Died, *AlterNet*, June 10, 2004).

Alberto Gonzales, counsel to the President.

President George W. Bush (Commander-in-Chief).

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