



# SOLIDARITY

WITH **GUANTÁNAMO  
DETAINEES**

COUNTER TERROR  
WITH JUSTICE

**AMNESTY**  
INTERNATIONAL



# VOICES FROM GUANTÁNAMO

Following the first transfers to the detention facility at the US Naval Base in Guantánamo Bay in Cuba in January 2002, pictures of silenced, shackled men in cages filled television screens around the world. Since then, more than 700 detainees have been held at the camp, most subjected to conditions that violate the international prohibition against cruel, inhuman and

degrading treatment, including solitary confinement. At times with no link to the outside world. Some were tortured and otherwise ill-treated in secret detention before they arrived. After limited access to lawyers and writing materials was granted to the detainees, some of their words have merged, often in the form of poems and letters.

They have monuments to liberty  
And freedom of opinion, which is well and good.  
But I explained to them that  
Architecture is not justice.

Excerpt from "Humiliated in the Shackles"  
by Sami al Hajj



"Myself, my son Mohammed and my wife Asma thank all Amnesty International members for supporting me and for supporting human rights. We will work hard with them together until we achieve peace for all people in the world."

Message from Sami al Hajj

Sami al Hajj, a Sudanese national, was in Afghanistan in 2001 working as a journalist for al-Jazeera television when he was taken into custody. He was handed over to US forces in January 2002, tortured and otherwise ill-treated in Afghanistan at Bagram air base and Kandahar, and then transferred to Guantánamo in June 2002. He was released nearly six years later without charge.



Omar Khadr, a Canadian national, was taken into custody in Afghanistan in July 2002 when only 15 years old. Instead of receiving treatment appropriate for a child, as required by international law, he was designated as an "enemy combatant" and held in harsh conditions in Bagram air base before being transferred to Guantánamo, where he remains. He is now 22 and facing unfair trial by military commission.

Let them bear the burden  
Of this wasted, sinless  
Of this soul which has

Excerpt from "Death Poem"

Jumah al-Dossari, a dual Saudi national, was held at Guantánamo for nearly 18 months he was held in solitary confinement in Camp 5, for up to 24 hours a day before being transferred to Saudi Arabia in

DETAINEE JJ (SFF) 605 (66)  
CAMP DELTA  
Washington, DC 20353  
USA

SENDER	TO
NAME (Last, First, MI) <u>Khadr, Omar, Ahmed</u>	<u>THEA SWEARENS</u>
INTERMENT SERIAL NUMBER <u>JJ (SFF) 605 (66)</u>	STREET <u>9 avenue winterberg, 8</u>
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH <u>19 Sep. 1984 Canada</u>	CITY <u>1330 Avenue</u>
NAME OF CAMP	COUNTRY <u>Belgium</u>
	PROVINCE OR DEPARTMENT

DA FORM 2006 JAN 2004

Binyam Mohamed, an Ethiopian national and former UK resident now aged 30, was arrested at Karachi airport in Pakistan in April 2002 and handed over to US custody three months later. He was transferred first to Morocco and then to Afghanistan, where he says he was tortured. In September 2004 he was flown to Guantánamo where he is currently held in isolation in Guantánamo's Camp 5.



"It was pitch black, no lights on in the rooms for most of the time. They hung me up for two days. My legs had swollen. My wrists and hands had gone numb. There was loud music, Slim Shady [by Eminem] and Dr. Dre for 20 days. Then they changed the sounds to horrible ghost laughter and Halloween sounds. At one point, I was chained to the rails for a fortnight. The CIA worked on people, including me, day and night. Plenty lost their minds. I could hear people knocking their heads against the walls and the doors, screaming their heads off."

Binyam Mohamed to his lawyer

len, before their children and before history,  
s soul,  
s suffered at the hands of "protectors of peace".  
" by Jumah al-Dossari

Arabian/Bahraini national with a young daughter,  
more than five years without charge. For over  
ary confinement in  
day. He was  
July 2007.



"I am so happy to receive such a letter from the people from Japan... know that your letter it presents to me an opportunity that no money can buy. Thanks for your help. I appreciate it lots."

Letter sent by Mustafa Ait Idir to Yoshiko Koshimizu in December 2007

Mustafa Ait Idir, a Bosnian national, has been held at Guantánamo for more than six years without charge. He says that guards beat him, bent his fingers back so they broke, and jumped on him leaving part of his face paralysed. On 20 November 2008, a US federal judge ordered the government to release Mustafa Ait Idir.



POST CARD  
DATE: SEP 14 2007  
POWER SERVED  
WRITE BETWEEN LINES AND AS LEGIBLY AS POSSIBLE  
very much and your friends for the  
the Card and all my wishes to  
life and future and about Isha  
keeping us strong in every hardship  
Omar

# SUPPORT THE DETAINEES

Many of the men in Guantánamo have now been held unlawfully for over six years. Some have had no contact with their family; others receive occasional, often heavily censored, letters.

Detainees who have been released have told Amnesty International that the letters of solidarity they receive boosted their morale, often worn down by the indefinite nature and the conditions of detention in Guantánamo.

"If you have any evidence against me that shows I am an enemy of the United States or that I fought against the United States, I am willing to face that trial."

Abdel Malik Abdel Wahab, a Yemeni national in his twenties and married with one daughter, was taken into custody in 2001 by officials in Pakistan who he says "sold" him to US authorities. Soon after, he was transferred to Guantánamo where he says he has been tortured and otherwise ill-treated, including with threats of transfer to Egypt or Jordan for torture.



"I want to inform you that I received your letter on June 26th. Thank you very much. I read your letter and it made me very happy, that you are well and that you received my letter and post card. I hope that I will be able to see your pleasant face and kind smile in the near future, and then I'll be able to ask you how you and your family are doing."

Omar Hamzayavich Abdulayev (ISN 257)

Omar Hamzayavich Abdulayev states he was living in a refugee camp near Peshawar, when he was arrested in November 2001 in a bazaar by Pakistan intelligence agents. He says he was tortured into copying out incriminating documents. He was transferred to another prison before being handed over to US custody and flown to Kandahar air base in Afghanistan.

"I received 130 letters when I was in detention from Amnesty International people, mainly from Spain but also France and Italy. I thank them very much for what they did. I feel how big help they bring to people in this situation. It's a great job."



Mohammed al-Amin, a Mauritian national transferred from Guantánamo to Mauritania in September 2007, speaking to Amnesty International after his release.

Fawzi Khaled Abdullah Fahad al-Odah, a Kuwaiti national, says he went to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border area in 2001 to do charitable work. In September 2001 he fled Afghanistan, hoping to return to Kuwait, but was captured in Pakistan by bounty hunters. He was handed over to US custody and has been held in Guantánamo since 2002 without charge.

Thanks to University of Iowa Press for permission to use extracts from *Poems from Guantánamo: The Detainees Speak*, ed. Marc Falkoff, and to Reprieve for the quote from Binyam Mohamed.

## ACT NOW

Please write to any or all of the following Guantánamo detainees, expressing in your own words your solidarity with them. Unless otherwise specified, letters should be written in short and simple English.

See above:

Omar Hamzayavich Abdulayev (ISN No.257)  
Fawzi Khaled Abdullah Fahad al-Odah (ISN No.232 – please write in Arabic only)

See centre spread:

Omar Khadr (ISN No.766) and  
Binyam Muhamed (ISN No.1458)

## WRITE TO:

Detainee name (ISN No.)  
Camp Delta  
U.S. Naval Base Guantánamo Bay  
Washington, D.C. 20355  
USA

COUNTER TERROR  
WITH JUSTICE

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Amnesty International is a global movement of 2.2 million people in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion – funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

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