

# CAGEPRISONERS

## Statement of Saifullah Paracha

26<sup>th</sup> June 2007

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Saifullah A. Paracha deposes and says:

1. I am confined most of the times in a cell measuring approximately 9x7 feet in Camp 5, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The adverse effect of this on my health is making worse because of my old age, serious ailments of life threatening like cardiac, diabetic, blood pressure and prostate enlargement.
2. On April 20, 2007 at approximately 22:00 hours, I had a chest pain and breathing difficulties for almost 12 hours. I immediately reported to the medical staff, but they did not know what to do. It was extremely uncomfortable to sit, walk or lying on the bed.
3. On May 02, 2007, camp physician examined me and [in] his presence ECG was taken, doctor disclosed to me that ECG is not normal and he was very concern also advise me that in the future if I have chest pain/breathing difficulties ask camp medical staff to report me even at 3:00 a.m.
4. On May 03, 2007 while I was with two interrogators at around 15:00 [h]our all of a sudden I felt difficulties of breathing, Greg and Phil interrogators were panic and asked duty guard to call medical staff for the emergency but duty guards showed least concern about my condition. Interrogators were surprised and they advised me they have reported to higher authority about security guards in a meeting on May 10, 2007.
5. On May 15, 2007 at about 19:30 hours, I felt chest pain, at about 20:00 I was taken to the Camp 5 medical room for ECG and at about 22:00 senior physician examined me and serious concern about my heart and lung and nitroglycerine sub-lingual tablet was given in order to open my blood vessels and if comforted me.

I declare that foregoing statement is true and correct.

Executed on May 16, 2007.

[signed] Saifullah A. Paracha

### **Statement of Farhat Paracha, wife of Saifullah Paracha:**

About my husband's health, if anything goes wrong the entire responsibility is the American Government's. Thousands of miles away - in the last four years - I haven't seen him; I haven't talked to him or communicated reasonably through letters. I fail to understand the "laws" - are the decisions being taken by a people lacking common sense? "No Compassion" is their motto. I am a single mother - not widowed nor divorced - separated by totally illegal "laws" through which they think they can seek out information which doesn't exist. We are a shattered family, financially, psychologically and physically. My children are growing up without their father – who, if he returns, will start life again as stranger. This is the last thing I had expected the self imposed superpower's arrogance to reach. It's very disappointing.

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### **Statement of Zahra Paracha, Saifullah Paracha's youngest daughter:**

Through the past 4 years, all I've been hearing is news about my father and brother which, unfortunately is always portraying downfalls in their cases. My father, in particular, has been extremely unwell during the past few years. Till now, I just thought his age was kicking in. But when I heard that he fainted during an interrogation, something in me triggered. Although I've been trying to avoid thinking about the gravity of the situation my family and I are facing, I just couldn't ignore it for too long because he's my father. No matter how many times I stress upon how I don't remember him but yet I still love him, it doesn't seem to affect the people responsible for the situation. It's ironic for me to see how the cruellest of people come from the same country as the people who oppose these actions the most. But from the series of events that occurred after this, I realized that nothing I say or do affects anything in Guantanamo.

I always told reporters and people that I know and have a very strong gut feeling that one day, my whole family will come together and we'll be like any other normal family. My father's condition's severity has changed all that though. Now I keep feeling, "what if he meets God before us?" I think I have as much of a right as any American kid to meet my parent. I don't think the Guantanamo people want that to happen though. I mean, why else would they torture him for five whole years (mentally and physically) to get him to confess to something which never happened? Any sensible person would find this to be irrational, illegal and immoral.

Everyone would agree that life is the most difficult obstacle we have to jump over and the only thing that helps us in life to cope with difficulties are friends and family. But what if your friends and you don't talk about the same stuff you think about? What if your family needs help more than you do? This is my life. My mother's depressed all the time, my sister's working to earn all day and my brother doesn't like to share his feelings. Every single day when people see the look on my face, they assume there's nothing wrong in my life, when in fact I'm crying inside. Whenever my friends tell me about dinner they had with their family at the restaurant together or just how at least their Dad gets to come back home, it hurts me to think of the actual reality my father is facing for something they "*think*" he did. It's strange to see how much difference one person can make in your life.

My father, Saifullah Paracha, is an innocent man facing torture before being proclaimed guilty to confess to an undone crime. His family sits at home praying that he at least stays alive to come back because they miss him so much. They lost hope completely in between because my grandmother died although we prayed to God so much to keep her alive for when my father and brother come back. But, it didn't work the way we hoped it would.

Please, I request everyone out there to do *anything* in your power to stop this injustice and let him come back home soon in good health. Please.