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News

Detainee Dies at Guantanamo

By Joint Task Force Guantanamo Public Affairs

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba, Dec. 30, 2007 – Joint Task Force Guantanamo announced that a detainee died today of colorectal cancer.

The detainee, Abdul Razzak of Afghanistan, who was undergoing a chemotherapy course of treatment for cancer, was pronounced dead by a physician this morning.

An International Committee of the Red Cross representative was present to witness the care provided to the detainee prior to and at the time of death.

The detainee had been receiving chemotherapy since October this year after diagnosis in September following symptoms of abdominal pain.

The remains of the deceased detainee are being treated with the utmost respect. A cultural advisor and Imam are ensuring that the remains are handled in a culturally and religiously appropriate manner. Additional information about the disposition of the remains will be provided when details become available.

Abdul Razzak was assessed to be an experienced jihadist with command responsibilities and was assessed to have had multiple links to anti-coalition forces. He was detained in Guantanamo as an enemy combatant, consistent with the international law of Armed Conflict.

The mission of detention and interrogation at Guantanamo continues. This mission is vital to the security of our nation and allies and is being carried out professionally and humanely by the men and women of JTF Guantanamo.

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