

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

LAKHDAR BOUMEDIENE, et al.)	
)	
	<i>Petitioners,</i>)
v.)) Civil Action No. 04-cv-1166(RJL)
)	
GEORGE WALKER BUSH, et al.)	
)	
	<i>Respondents.</i>)
)	

DECLARATION OF MAMDOUH AHMED HABIB

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746, I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the following is true and correct:

1. My name is Mamdouh Ahmed Habib. I was a prisoner at Guantánamo from early May 2002 until late January 2005. In United States custody I was given ISN # 661.
2. I was born June 3, 1955, in Egypt. I live in Sydney, Australia. I have lived in Australia since 1982, and have been an Australian citizen since 1984.
3. I am married to Maha Habib. We have four children—two boys and two girls. My eldest, a son, was born in 1985, and my youngest, a daughter, was born in 2000.
4. Before my kidnapping in early October 2001, we owned a cleaning business and operated a coffee shop in Lakemba, in Sydney.
5. My lawyer in the United States has asked me to examine photos of the Bosnian-Algerian petitioners before the Court in *Boumediene v. Bush*, 04-cv-1166. I can state with absolute certainty that I never saw any of these men at any time prior to my incarceration at Guantánamo. I recognize them as fellow prisoners at Guantánamo, but I am absolutely certain I never saw them before I arrived at Guantánamo.
6. My lawyer has also explained that he is not allowed to tell me precisely what the U.S. Government claims I said about one or more of these prisoners, which makes it very difficult for me to respond to any allegation. Since I do not know what the U.S. Government alleges, I can only say that I made up a great many stories while I was in U.S., Pakistani, and Egyptian custody, and to understand why I would do


that, you need to understand what was done to me. What follows is a partial account of the torture and abuse I suffered.

7. On July 29, 2001, I traveled to Pakistan on a three month visa to look for work. On or about October 1, 2001, I was traveling to Karachi when the ISI stopped the bus and kidnapped me. They took me to a facility in Islamabad, Pakistan, where I was repeatedly tortured by Pakistani officials. For instance, on one occasion I was suspended from hooks on the wall, with my feet resting on the side of a large cylindrical drum. Down the middle of this drum ran a metal rod, with wires attached at both ends. The wires ran to what appeared to be an electrical battery.
8. When I did not give the answer the interrogators wanted, they threw a switch and a jolt of electricity ran through the rod, electrifying the drum on which I stood. The action of me "dancing" on the drum forced it to rotate, and my feet constantly slipped, leaving me suspended by only the hooks on the wall. My instinctive struggle to regain my balance forced me to place my feet on the drum, which only sent another excruciating jolt of electricity into my feet. Eventually, I was forced to raise my legs, leaving myself to hang by my outstretched arms until I could not tolerate it. Exhausted I would drop my legs back onto the electrified drum. This would last hours, until I fainted.
9. I do not know exactly how long I was in Islamabad, but in late October 2001 I was transferred by American and Australian officials to Egypt, where I was held for approximately 6 months. Throughout my imprisonment in Egypt, I was confined to a barren cell, roughly 6' x 8'. The windowless cell was illuminated by a single, yellow bulb that hung from the ceiling. I slept on a concrete floor with nothing but a single blanket. Apart from my interrogations, I was confined to my cell 24 hours per day. For weeks on end, I did not see natural light. Three times a day, my captors gave me a single glass of milk and a scrap of bread. Rats, cockroaches, and other insects constantly crawled along the floors and walls. I spent most of my imprisonment in Egypt blind-folded.
10. The only time I was released from my cell in Egypt was for interrogations. An interrogation session would last for hours. During the interrogations I was always handcuffed, and sometimes suspended from hooks on the wall. I was kicked, punched, beaten with a stick, and rammed with an electric cattle prod. If I lapsed into unconsciousness, I would be revived and the beating would continue. If I fell asleep, the Egyptians doused me with cold water or kicked me in my ribs and started the interrogation again. The interrogations usually only ended when I admitted whatever they were questioning me about at the time—whatever it was.
11. At the place of my imprisonment, there were three water-filled rooms. I was



locked in one of these rooms on a number of occasions. The guards would gradually fill the room with water. The water continued to rise until it was just below my chin as I stood on the tips of toes. I was left in this room for hours. In another, the room was filled with water to my knees. This room had an extremely low ceiling and I could not stoop. The guards would force me to my feet if I tried to sit in the water or rest my knees. I was left in this room for hours. In a third room the water only came up to my ankles, but in this room, I could see through a window to another room containing a large lever or switch. I was told that this switch was wired with an electric current. I was told that if I did not confess, I would be electrocuted.

12. My captors also administered drugs. But the so-called "confessions" I made to my captors in Egypt were made only to stop or reduce the torture I was receiving.
13. Approximately six months after being taken to Egypt, I was transferred to Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan, where I was kept for about two weeks. Then, I was transferred to Kandahar for about 11 days. In Bagram I was beaten severely, but it was not nearly as bad as Egypt. Then I was transferred to Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.
14. I was repeatedly interrogated at Guantánamo Bay, beginning very shortly after my arrival. I was still weak and exhausted from my prior imprisonments in Pakistan, Egypt, and Afghanistan, but the interrogation sessions at Guantánamo were excruciating. They lasted for hours. Recently the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Justice disclosed that an FBI Agent witnessed an interrogation "in which [I] repeatedly vomited during the course of a lengthy interrogation." OIG Report at p. 194. The same agent "said that she observed two" interrogation sessions with me "and that both lasted 15 hours with only a short break in between."
15. Note that the OIG Report says these interviews took place in early April. That is not correct. I did not arrive at Guantánamo until early May. The worst abuses, including these marathon interrogations, took place in the first months of my imprisonment at Guantánamo. During these sessions, I frequently repeated what I had said to the Egyptians merely in order to end the interrogations.
16. I was not allowed to see a lawyer or speak to my family until the very end of my imprisonment at Guantánamo at the end of 2004. On January 28, 2005, the U.S Government released me and returned me to Australia where I was reunited with my wife and children. I was never charged or detained since my return.
17. I currently live in Australia, where I am still recovering from the psychological

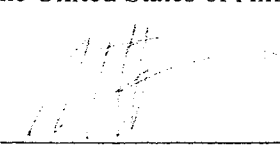


trauma of my illegal imprisonments. In 2005, after returning to Australia, I was examined by Dr. Christopher Tennant, a leading trauma psychiatrist. Dr. Tennant told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that he believes I was tortured and found clear mental and physical evidence to support my claims.

18. Again, it is impossible for me to rebut allegations that I cannot see. But I can state with 100% certainty that I never saw any of the petitioners in this case prior to my detention at Guantánamo.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: October 14, 2008



Mamdouh Ahmed Habib