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HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Téléfax: (41-22) 317-0006  
Télégramme: UNATIONS, GENÈVE  
Téléc: 31 23 61  
Téléphone: (41-22) 317-0220  
Internet: www.unhcr.org  
E-mail: unpd@unhcr.org

Amb  
Cc: DCM  
PSA  
LA

B6



0169

Address:  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

8 December 2003

Excellency,

I refer to the meeting I had with Mr. De Laurentis and Mr. Peay of the US Mission on 22 October 2003. I presented them with a letter dated 22 October 2003 containing allegations of torture or ill-treatment of the following French nationals detained at the Guantanamo Bay military base, Cuba: Mr. [redacted] 31 years old; Mr. [redacted] 24 years old; Mr. [redacted] 35 years old; and Mr. [redacted] 22 years old. I kindly repeat my request to your Government to clarify the substance of these allegations.

At the meeting, Mr. De Laurentis and Mr. Peay had undertaken to provide me with information on the system of military justice applied to the detainees, including controls, regulations and procedures, as well as information on how the authorities had dealt with allegations of torture or ill-treatment. I would be most grateful if this information could also be provided to me.

Finally, I have received information that the US authorities may be preparing to release around 100 detainees of different nationalities, notably also persons of Chinese origins, from Guantanamo Bay. While the release of the detainees is welcome, concern has been expressed that some detainees may face human rights abuses, including torture and execution, upon return to their countries. I would appreciate receiving the comments of your Government on these concerns.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Theo van Boven  
Special Rapporteur on torture

H.E. Mr. K. Moley  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the United States of America  
Route de Pregny 11  
1292 Chambésy  
Fax: 022-748-4880

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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