

Embassy of the United States of America



[redacted]

August 13, 2004

LF124C

The Ambassador

RELEASED IN PART
B7(A), B6

00762

[redacted]

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Dear [redacted]

I am responding to your letter of July 23 and your request for information on the six individuals detained earlier this year in [redacted]

B7(A)

My government has stated on numerous occasions that U.S. military forces, working in close cooperation with the [redacted] took control last January of these six [redacted] nationals. That action was taken because these individuals posed a credible security threat to American personnel and facilities here as well as to the people of [redacted]. [redacted] U.S. forces transported the six from [redacted] on January 19 to Guantanamo Bay.

I am not in a position to address the particular circumstances of the detention or the activities that led to the detention of any of the individuals at Guantanamo. My government views individuals detained in Guantanamo as enemy combatants captured in connection with an on-going armed conflict and related attacks against the United States, its citizens and citizens of numerous other nations. Enemy combatants continue to pose a serious security threat to the United States and its coalition partners. They are being held in accordance with the international law of armed conflict, which permits the United States to hold enemy combatants at least for the duration of hostilities.

I can assure you that the United States is treating these individuals humanely and in a manner consistent with the principles of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross are at Guantanamo and meet with detainees individually and privately. All detainees are provided three meals a day that meet Muslim dietary laws, as well as medical care, clothing, shelter, showers, and opportunities to worship.

Under the law of armed conflict, captured enemy combatants have no right to counsel or to the courts to challenge their detention. If and when a detainee is charged with a crime, he would have the right to counsel and fundamental procedural safeguards. To date, no detainee at Guantanamo has been charged with a crime. As for communication with family members,

detainees are allowed to correspond by mail with family members, subject to screening for security and operational purposes. Not all detainees have been sent mail, and not all elect to write letters home. Telephone calls and visits are not possible for operational reasons.

I hope this information is helpful. As my Embassy receives any further information, we will forward it to you as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact the signature of the sender.

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