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SWII

30. Treatment of Detainees at Guantanamo

Q. What is being done about accusations of mistreatment or torture of detainees at Guantanamo?

- All accusations of mistreatment are taken seriously and fully investigated.
- All civilian and military personnel with responsibility for the detention and treatment of detainees are well trained, disciplined and informed on the laws and customs of armed conflict, as well as all domestic and international standards for the treatment of detainees.
- Should U.S. personnel witness such misconduct, they are instructed to intervene and report all such actions promptly to their superiors for thorough investigation and prosecution, as appropriate.
- Torture and other forms of cruel treatment committed by or at the direction of any U.S. official are prohibited. Any credible evidence of involvement in torture or any other war crime by any U.S. personnel would be subject to investigation and prosecution in keeping with international obligations.
- Where problems are found, corrective measures are taken. The Department of Defense has completed several investigations, and in those rare cases where allegations were substantiated, individuals were appropriately disciplined.
- The United States has been a clear and consistent opponent of torture throughout the world. We have been vocal on this issue and unwavering in our efforts to urge governments to stop this practice.
- The standard for any type of interrogation of persons in U.S. custody is to be humane and to follow all domestic and international laws and accords dealing with this subject.
- President Bush has affirmed on a number of occasions that all detainees, regardless of their lack of status as prisoners of war under the Third

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Geneva Convention of 1949, will be treated in a manner consistent with this Convention.

- In announcing the President's decision on the status and treatment of detainees, the White House made clear on February 7, 2002, that detainees held under U.S. control would not be subjected to any physical or mental abuse or other cruel treatment.
- The United States has a strong commitment to international law - including the precept of humanity reflected in the law of armed conflict.
- Throughout their detention and interrogation, the United States has treated, and will continue to treat, all Taliban and al Qaida detainees humanely and in a manner consistent with the principles of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.
- *Although detainees do not receive POW status, they are receiving many of the privileges that POWs would receive such as: three meals a day that meet cultural dietary requirements; adequate shelter and clothing, opportunity to worship; means to send and receive mail; reading materials; exceptional medical/dental care.*

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