

LAW OFFICES OF  
**FREEDMAN BOYD HOLLANDER GOLDBERG URIAS & WARD P.A.**

20 FIRST PLAZA, SUITE 700  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

TELEPHONE  
(505) 842-9960  
FACSIMILE  
(505) 842-0761

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 25326  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87125-0326

Nancy Hollander  
Direct Dial: 505-244-7517  
E-mail: nh@fbdlaw.com

April 29, 2016

Periodic Review Board

**Regarding Mohamedou Ould Slahi**

Dear Board Members:

My name is Nancy Hollander. I have been a criminal defense attorney since 1978 and with this firm since 1980. I am also an Associate Tenant with Doughty Street Chambers in London. My relationship with Mohamedou began in 2005 when I agreed to represent him in his federal habeas proceeding at the request of a French lawyer I knew.

I first met Mohamedou in June 2005 when I traveled to Guantanamo with my co-counsel. We wondered what Mohamedou was like. How would he feel about having women lawyers? Would he look at us, shake hands, trust us? Although I wrote to him to tell him of our upcoming visit, we had no way of knowing whether he had received my letter or knew we were coming.

The first moment with Mohamedou is imprinted into my memory forever. We walked into the cell and there he was—small, young, smiling—it is the smile I most remember. He stood and held out his arms as though to embrace us but did not move. We didn't realize at first why. Then we saw the shackles on his leg. We walked into his embrace and he held us both. His first words at seeing us remain classified but his smile does not. His joy was evident, his welcoming, obvious. He held hands with both of us and looked directly into our eyes.

It was in those first moments that we knew he would be fine with women lawyers to represent him. We also learned that he had received my letter and had gone straight to work to prepare for our visit. He handed us ninety pages he had written for us. He wanted his lawyers to know everything that had happened to him. He wrote us (these pages have long been cleared) about his life, his education, and his family. He also wrote about the dark side of his incarceration. At that time it was just his story. Later we learned from government reports that

April 29, 2016

everything he told us on that first visit was true. We spent three days with Mohamedou on that first visit. Our good-byes are also still a vivid memory. We held hands and I know I cried, as I still do every time I leave him.

What I did not know then was that I would still be visiting him in 2016. Since that first visit, I have spent approximately 100 days—almost one third of a year—with Mohamedou. We have talked and laughed and cried together. We have also shared the meals he received or that he prepared and lovingly served. We talked about our families, especially during the long years when nothing was happening in his case. My visits were to make sure he was okay since letters took a long time and, until recently, he had little communication with his family. I learned a great deal about Mohamedou during our many visits, so I feel that I know him extremely well.

We also talked about his book during the seven years it took to get it released and published. He so wanted the world to know about him, about the people he had met, about the relationships he had developed with his guards. His book is a tribute to his ability to maintain his dignity and his compassion and empathy for others, including those who abused him.

After the book was published, I met his younger brother, Yahdih, who lives in Germany. We first met in London in January of 2015. Since then we have met and spoken many times and were recently together for several days. Yahdih is soft-spoken, but enthusiastic, in his support for his brother. He spends all his free time speaking about Mohamedou, promoting his book and working toward his release. Meeting Yahdih has provided a window into this Mauritanian family. He told me many stories about growing up with Mohamedou and how Mohamedou protected and cared for him when they were young. It was Mohamedou who had encouraged Yahdih to go to Germany to get an education, as Mohamedou had done.

A great sadness for Mohamedou is that he has not been able to provide for his family during his long years of incarceration. I know he wants so badly to make up for this by going to work as soon as he is released. Recently an older brother with whom he was very close died suddenly. Mohamedou has now taken responsibility for his brother's four young children. He plans to help raise them when he is released.

I will use my resources to help Mohamedou succeed after his release from Guantanamo. I plan to be with him wherever he is sent, be it Mauritania or somewhere else. I will stay as long as necessary to help him start his life, get a job, begin the process of learning to live in the world again. I know from experience with other clients who have been incarcerated that it takes some adjustment. I will be there to help him through this process.

Throughout my many years as a lawyer, I have worked and taught all over the world and thus have relationships with lawyers, academics and NGOs on every continent, including Africa.

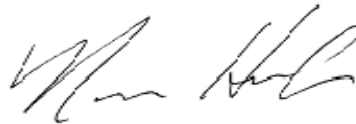
April 29, 2016

Many of my international contacts have expressed their willingness to help Mohamedou and I will not hesitate to call on them.

Mohamedou is now much more than just a client. He is my good friend. If I could invite him to my home in the US, I would gladly have him stay with me as long as he wished. Since that is not possible, I will go where he goes.

If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Hollander', written in a cursive style.

Nancy Hollander