

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Thematic Hearing on the
“Human Rights Situation of People Affected by the United States’ Rendition, Detention,
and Interrogation Program”

October 23, 2015

Translation of Audio Testimony by Mr. Mohamed al Shuraeiya bin Saud



Distinguished members of the Commission:

I'm Mohamed al Shuraeiya bin Saud from Libya.

On April 3, 2003, my home, where I lived with my family in Pakistan, was raided. I was kidnapped after I was shot and my foot broken. I was moved for two weeks between Pakistani jails in Peshawar and Islamabad. I immediately underwent interrogations by agents of the CIA. The interrogators kept threatening to move me to a special place where I would be subjected to interrogations and violent treatment.

I was indeed moved to a CIA “black site,” I believe, near Bagram. Interrogations and torture started right away. I was confined in a small, freezing cold, pitch black cell. I was kept naked for weeks. I was deprived of hygiene for months, refused a shower or to cut my hair or nails. My hands and feet were shackled to the cell wall by metal shackles. Loud western music blared constantly. I was starved. I didn’t see sunlight for months. I was refused use of the bathroom, instead forced to use a bucket left in the room. They intentionally took the bucket cover. I was forcibly deprived of sleep for days and weeks on end. To keep me awake I was chained in painful stress positions or, after my broken leg was healed, guards would wake me and march me naked around the prison throughout the night into the morning.

My physical and psychological torture went on like this for months.

The teams of interrogators used violence that exceeded any kind of humanitarian and moral limits. This included slamming us against the walls, slapping in the face, punching in the stomach, pouring ice water on our naked bodies, creating the illusion of drowning, and stuffing us inside small boxes. I was hung by my hands to the ceiling of the room for a day and a half. At the same time, I was deprived of food as part of a methodical program where they sometimes prevented us from eating for 30 hours. The meals were of poor quality and very limited quantity, lacking any nutritional value. We were deprived of medicine and any medical care.

The so-called doctors in that place were not practicing medicine. Rather, they were playing a dirty role as part of the torture machine and investigation teams. Their function was to oversee torture practices and a starvation policy, in addition to supervising the shameful, degrading, and humiliating procedures during the transfer of detainees.

It was a difficult and stressful period, during which the CIA agents tried to find a real charge to use against me. When they failed, rumors started to surface that we would be transferred to the hands of the Qaddafi regime. I explained to them more than once that if I was to be transferred, my life would be endangered. I told them that the Qaddafi regime is an oppressive regime, which would subject us to the worst kinds of torture and oppression, and that we would not receive a fair trial there. However, I was transferred by a special flight, and in a humiliating and degrading

manner, to the Libyan regime on August 23, 2004. The transfer was coordinated between the CIA and the Libyan intelligence apparatus.

I spent several years in Libyan jails, where I was subjected to different kinds of psychological and physical torture. After a year and a half, I was tried and sentenced to life imprisonment in a sham trial. The suffering extended to my family, who lived in difficult and harsh conditions. My family was deprived of all civil rights, and my daughter was deprived of education.

I hold the government of the United States fully responsible for the suffering and the terrible tragedy that I and my family endured over these eight years. I especially hold the CIA and its agents responsible for their methodical practice of psychological and physical torture. These practices are the result of an official political decision taken by the American administration.

The recently released U.S Senate Intelligence Committee report confirmed beyond any doubt what I described. The Senate report has pushed the United States government to face ethical and legal responsibility. The ACLU is now representing me in lawsuit against two psychologists who teamed up with the CIA to devise a torture program and experiment on human beings. I very much hope this lawsuit moves forward and gives me a chance to hold those responsible accountable.

I also wish to take this opportunity, to call for the following:

First, reveal the full truth about my case and the CIA torture program.

Second, expose all persons who were involved and hold them accountable.

Third, offer an official apology for the victims of these crimes.

Fourth, pay reparations for mental and physical suffering endured by me and my family.

I thank the Commissioners for this important hearing and for allowing me to present this testimony.