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Central Intelligence Agency Inspector General

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION



(S//NF) DEATH OF A DETAINEE IN (2003-7402-IG)

27 April 2005

John L. Helgerson Inspector General

Acting Assistant Inspector Gen for Investigations	
Special Agen	Supervisory t .
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• •	to a detention and interrogation facility,
COBALT	in security guards reportedly found
	Rahman dead in his cell on the morning of November 2002.
	3. (S//NF) Between and November 2002, Rahman
	underwent at least six interrogation sessions by Agency personnel.
CIA Staff . Officer	The interrogation team included the Site Manager, COBALT
Officer	an independent contractor (IC)
CIA Staff	psychologist/interrogator, (C) Bruce Jessen; the Station's
Officer	and an IC linguist,
	had no interrogation experience or relevant training
	before his arrival in in July 2002. However, he acquired
	some on-the-job training and experience during the four months he
•	had been prior to Rahman's death.
	4. (S/ Rahman was subjected to sleep deprivation sessions of up to 48 hours, at least one cold shower, and a "hard takedown" termed "rough treatment" as reported in pre-death cables addressing the progress of the interrogation. In addition, Rahman reportedly was without clothing for much of his time at Despite these measures, Rahman remained uncooperative and provided no intelligence. His only concession was to acknowledge his identity on November 2002 and, subsequently, to explain what village he came from; otherwise, Rahman retained his resistance posture, and demeanor. The cable from on November 2002 reporting that Rahman had admitted his identity stated, "Rahman spent the days since his last session with Station officers in cold conditions with minimal food and sleep." A psychological assessment of Rahman, prepared by Jessen and reported in a cable on November 2002, noted Rahman's remarkable physical and psychological resilience and recommended, in part, "continued environmental deprivations."
	² (U// POUO) Not all members of the interrogation team were involved in every interrogation session.
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5. (S//NF) On the afternoon of November 2002, when	
guards delivered food to Rahman, he reportedly threw his	
food, water bottle, and defecation bucket at the guards. In addition	
he reportedly threatened the guards and told them he had seen their	
faces and would kill them upon his release. When was CIAS	aff Officer
informed of this incident, he approved or directed the guards to	•
shackle Rahman's hands and feet and connect the shackles with a	
short chain. This position forced Rahman, who was naked below the	
waist, to sit on a cold concrete floor and prevented him from	•
standing up.	
6 757/NE) The following mamining the annual transfer	
6. (S//NF) The following morning, the guards reported that	
Rahman was slumped over in his cell. The ambient temperature was recorded at a low of degrees Fahrenheit. Rahman was still in the	
"short chain position," wearing only a sweatshirt.	
brost claim position, wearing only a sweatstiff.	
7. (S//NF) Station reported Rahman's death that day in	
an cable to the DDO. The DDO dispatched an	
investigative team [the Directorate of Operations (DO) Investigative	
Teaml consisting of a senior security officer assigned to the	1.19.273
an Office of General Counsel	
(OGC) attorney, and an Agency pathologist to	
The DO Investigative Team conducted	•
interviews, and the pathologist performed an autopsy of Rahman.	
The autopsy indicated, by a diagnosis of exclusion, that the death	
was caused by hypothermia.3	•
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8. (S//NF) On 22 January 2003, the General Counsel informed	
the Inspector General (IG) that Rahman died as a result of the	
conditions at a facility substantially controlled by Agency officers.	
OIG initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding	
this incident and reported the death to the Department of Justice	*
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3 // O FF	
3 (U) Hypothermia is subnormal temperature within the central body. The term hypothermia is used when an individual's body temperature is below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. This will occur	
when the loss of body heat exceeds heat production.	
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	CIA Staff Officer
 6 days prior to . Rahman's death	57. (S//NF) According to a second independent contractor psychologist/interrogator, (C) James Mitchell, came to to work with another detainee during November. Mitchell participated in one of Jessen's sessions with Rahman. ³¹ Both psychologists left on November 2002.
	58. (S//NF) Mitchell stated that he observed Interrogate Rahman on one occasion for about 10 minutes; Rahman was uncooperative. Mitchell stated Rahman appeared healthy; however, he had scratches on his face, bruises on his ankles, and his wrists were black and blue. Mitchell requested that the PA examine Rahman's hands. ³²
COBALT .	59. (S//NF) described Rahman as a significant figure at did not have an opportunity to interrogate Rahman and did not see him when he was alive. was informed that Rahman was someone else's case. possibly CIA Staff Officer
• •	60. (S//NF)
CIA Staff Officer	Rahman was detained there. 33 She participated in his initial interrogation and traveled to after he was rendered there. 34 said she participated in an undetermined number of
· CIA Staff — Officer	interrogations of Rahman but estimates it was fewer than 10. She participated with and Jessen on two occasions. She estimated she participated in five interrogations of Rahman after Jessen left
-	31 (S//NF) Cable records indicate Mitchell arrivedonNovember 2002. Mitchell had a background with the SERE program similar to Jessen's. He became a CIA IC in September 2001 following retirement from the U.S. Air Force. Like Jessen, Mitchell had been involved in the interrogation of the Agency's first high value detainee. 32 (S//NF) According to the Station PA, no one ever requested that he examine Rahman, his hands, or any other detainee.
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CIA Staff	November 2002. When asked who had the interrogation	
Officer	responsibility for Rahman, responded, "no one in	
	particular—so I guess and me."	
	CIA Staff Officer	
	(SHNE) RAHMAN'S TREATMENT DURING DETENTION AND	
	INTERROGATION CIA Staff Officer	
COBALT	61. (S//NF) said he did not specifically recall Rahman's	CIA Staff
	treatment upon arrival at stated that Rahman's	Officer
•	clothes would have been removed early in his detention, and most of	•
•	the time Rahman was naked or would have been wearing only a	
	diaper.	
•	CIA Staff Officer	
	62. (S//NF) said that Rahman was either in his cell or	•
CIA Staff Officer	in a sleep deprivation cell when he was not being interrogated.35	
CIA Stati Officer	did not know exactly how much time Rahman spent in the	
CIA Staff Officer	sleep deprivation cell but estimated it was about 50 percent of the	Six days prior
CIA Stall Officer	time. contended that no sleep deprivation was conducted on	to Rahman's death
	Rahman after Jessen departed [on November] and added there	death
CIA Staff Officer	would have been no point in continuing it then because Rahman was	•
	not being interrogated.36 According to Rahman arrived at	
COBALT	in a diaper and it was removed at some point. He was	
CLA CL. FC OFF	probably put back in a diaper when he was put in a sleep deprivation	
CIA Staff Officer	cell. ³⁷ However said there would have been no reason to use	
	a diaper when Rahman was not in a sleep deprivation cell.	
	CIA Staff Officer	
•	63. (S//NF) characterized Rahman as stoic and very	
	stubborn, unlike the other detainees. He was the most stubborn	
•	individual they detained at the facility.38 Although most of the other	
•	detainees were "compliant" almost immediately, Rahman was hard-	
	COBALT	•
• •	35 (S//NF) As mentioned earlier, four of the 20 cells at were constructed with an iron	
CIA Staff	bar across the top of the cell and secured to two walls. These cells could be used to force the	
Officer	detainee to stand during sleep deprivation sessions. CIA Staff Officer	
,	36 (S//NF) Despite rontention, recalled that Rahman	
COBALT	was in a sleep deprivation cell on November 2002 when she checked on the detainees.	
	37 (S/7NF) During the OIG visit to on and May 2003, two detainees were undergoing standing sleep deprivation in these cells. Both were naked.	
	20	•
	(S//NF) At the time of Rahman's death had been in operation for 69 days.	
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core Pashtun. He had been a combatant all his life and had been	
wounded many times. Rahman did not complain and simply said	
manks to God, all is well." When reminded that in his videotaned	a. ce
19 December 2002 interview with the DO Investigative Team, Offi	Staff
stated that Rahman complained incessantly, said he just	CCI
recalled Rahman being stoic. CIA Staff Officer	
Circulation Officer	
64. (5/ According to cables reporting Rahman's	•
interrogations, he did complain about conditions. After the first two	
days of interrogation, reported that Rahman "complained	
about poor treatment, complained about the violation of his human	
rights, and claimed inability to think due to conditions (cold)." The	
subsequent cable reporting Rahman's interrogation sessions	
described Jessen's impression that Rahman "continues to use health	
and welfare' behaviors and complaints as a major part of his	
resistance posture."	
65 (S-/-/NIE) The IVO Investigative Term in the	
65. (S//NF) The DO Investigative Team interviewed	
guard commander four days after Rahman's death.	
According to the guard commander, Rahman wore pants for approximately his first three days at and then spent the	т. Т
approximately his first three days at and then spent the remainder of his detention without pants.	
remarked of his determon without parits.	4
66 (S-/AIH) Toppon said that Bahman/a diaman a said	
66. (S//NF) Jessen said that Rahman's diaper and clothes	
would have been removed at the interrogators' direction. The guards	
would not have removed them without direction. According to	
Jessen, Rahman was without his clothes more than he was with them.	
The interrogators gave Rahman some clothing after he admitted his	
identity on November 2002.	
67. (S//NF) The linguist, explained that it was difficult	
for him to remember how often he assisted in Rahman's interrogation	
at but estimated it was approximately five to seven times.39	•
He assisted in the interrogation of two detainees, including	٠
CIA Staff Officer	
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· COBALT	Rahman. stated that during the entire time he saw Rahman at	
COBALI	Rahman was either wearing a diaper or was naked below	
	the waistsaid that he could not be precise about when	
	Rahman wore a diaper as opposed to being naked, but his condition	
	seemed to alternate from one to the other. The	
	Rahman wore was not sufficient to cover his genital area. Rahman	
	was particularly concerned with being naked in front of	
	the guards. Every time Rahman came to the	
	interrogation room, he asked to be covered. did not observe a	
	supply of diapers at the but it was evident to	COBALT
	him that Rahman had received a replacement diaper at some	
	juncture.	
CIA Staff	68. (S//NF) According to prior to the first interrogation	
Officer —	session stated that Rahman was a "really bad guy." was	
	present when Rahman was rendered to and was	
	present when Rahman was first interrogated at That was	_ COBALT
	either the night Rahman was rendered to or the succeeding	COBALT
CIA Staff	day. The first interrogation session included Jessen, and	CIA Staf
Officer	possibly The only other person remembered being	Officer
٠	present during one of Rahman's interrogations was Mitchell. The	•
r big it, ee' gegge	interrogation sessions with Rahman were normally brief because of	A81
	his unwillingness to cooperate. They were mostly around 15 minutes	• •
•	in duration; the longest was one or two hours.	•
	69. (S//NF) Jessen estimated that he interrogated Rahman two	
	to four times. 40 He employed an "insult slap" with Rahman once but	
	determined it was only a minor irritant to Rahman and worthless as a	
	continuing technique. Jessen occasionally observed CIA Staff Of	ficer
	encounters with Rahman and said he was the hardest case in	
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captivity that Jessen had ever observed. Even when Rahman was depleted psychologically, he would routinely respond that he was

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^{40 (}S//NF) A cable reported that Jessen was involved in six interrogation sessions with Rahman.

Case 2:15-cv-00286Lalls@ied@eoripoeint&el2Ease

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