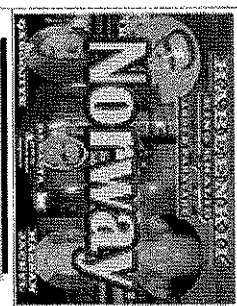




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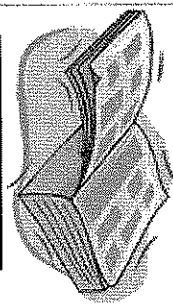
A Somali Man in Guantanamo Bay for more than Seven Years

Mohamed Suleymon Barre was a refugee in Pakistan

when he was arrested shortly after the attacks in America on September the 11th 2001. He was handed over to the Americans and then transferred to Guantanamo Bay - where according to his lawyers he's been kept in solitary confinement for nearly 23 hours a day.

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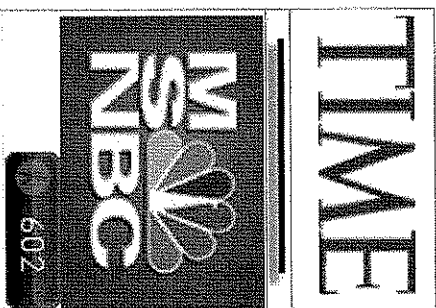
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At the time of his arrest Mr Barre was running a money transfer operation out of his home and it's thought that that's what raised the suspicions of the authorities in Pakistan. His family had heard nothing from him until a few months ago when Mr Barre managed to send a letter through the Red Cross home to Somaliland. His father Suleymon Barre Ali explained on the phone from Hargeisa what was in the letter.

Mohammed Barre told his father in the letter that he's done nothing wrong but the military tribunal that the Bush Administration set up in 2004, to review the cases of the detainees determined that he is an enemy combatant.

His lawyer Emi MacLellan say that's a broad term, used to justify his indefinite detention. She adds Mohamed has never charged, and will likely never charged. Ms MacLellan also says that Mohammed Barre has been tortured in while in detention. I tried to reach speak to the US Defense Department to respond to these allegations, but they didn't respond.



Mohamed Barre's hope s now hinge on a petition filed this week on his behalf. The petition asks a civilian judge to end his imprisonment immediately. But even if he is cleared for release, it's unclear if he will be able to return to his homeland. Attorney Emi MacLean explains. She says detainees are released because their home countries exert pressure on the US government.

That means that neither Somalia, which hasn't had an effective central government for more than 17 years, nor Somaliland, which's not recognized by any government, are in a position to exert pressure on the US Government.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Barre's father remains optimistic and says he sees a light at the end of the tunnel.

The decision over whether Mohammed Barre should be released could take several months. In the meantime he remains at Guantanamo Bay.

Source: BBC, July 03, 2008

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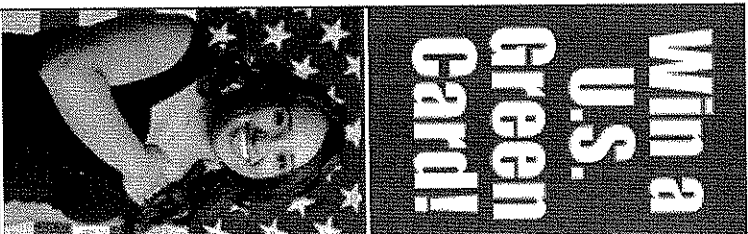
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