

**Summary:**

*At Guantánamo, Mohammed al Qahtani was subjected to a regime of aggressive interrogation techniques, known as the “First Special Interrogation Plan,” that were authorized by U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Those techniques were implemented under the supervision and guidance of Secretary Rumsfeld and the commander of Guantánamo, Major General Geoffrey Miller. These methods included, but were not limited to, forty-eight days of severe sleep deprivation and 20-hour interrogations, forced nudity, sexual humiliation, religious humiliation, physical force, prolonged stress positions and prolonged sensory overstimulation, and threats with military dogs. The aggressive techniques, standing alone and in combination, resulted in severe physical and mental pain and suffering. To this day, Mr. al Qahtani has not received any therapeutic medical evaluation of or treatment for the physical or psychological injuries from his abuse. He continues to suffer from ongoing psychological pain and suffering arising from his torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.*

*Despite evidence of U.S. officials’ responsibility for and complicity in his torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, no U.S. official has ever been held accountable.*

**Declaration of Gitanjali S. Gutierrez, Esq., Lawyer for Mohammed al Qahtani**

The U.S. military transferred Mohammed al Qahtani to Guantánamo in January 2002 and immediately began interrogations, applying the routine tactics in use at Guantánamo during that time. By July 2002, however, agents from the FBI also started interrogating Mr. al Qahtani. Military intelligence interrogators then began using methods against Mr. al Qahtani that became increasingly aggressive on or around August 2002.

At some point in early September 2002, military intelligence personnel at Guantánamo began planning a new, more aggressive interrogation regime for Mr. al Qahtani. Military intelligence officials wanted to apply the training tactics used in the “SERE” program, the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape training program for U.S. Special Forces. The SERE program is designed to teach U.S. soldiers how to resist torture techniques if they are captured by enemy forces. In Guantánamo, though, military intelligence officials wanted to use the training methods as interrogation techniques against Mr. al Qahtani and others. The SERE training program involves forms of torture such as religious and sexual humiliation, and waterboarding.

Major General Michael Dunlavey, the Commander of the Guantánamo detention center, sent a request up the chain of command on October 11, 2002 for approval for an interrogation plan for Mr. al Qahtani that included 19 techniques outside the traditional guidelines for military interrogations. These techniques included:

1. Category I: Yelling, deception, use of multiple interrogators, misrepresenting the identity of the interrogation (as if from a country with a reputation for harsh treatment of prisoners);
2. Category II: Stress positions (such as standing for up to four hours), use of falsified documents or reports, isolation for 30 days or longer, interrogation in places other than the interrogation booth, deprivation of light and sound, hooding, interrogation for up to 20 hours straight, removal of all comfort items (including religious items), switching from hot food to military meals ready to eat, removal of clothing,

- forced grooming and shaving of facial hair, use of phobias (such as fear of dogs) to induce stress; and
3. Category III: Uses of scenarios to persuade the detainee that death or pain is imminent for him or his family, exposures to cold or water, use of mild non-injurious physical contact, use of a wet towel or waterboarding to simulate drowning or suffocation.

Military intelligence interrogators began using aggressive interrogation techniques against Mr. al Qahtani on November 23, 2002. Details of his interrogation regime, officially known as the “First Special Interrogation Plan,” emerged when a military interrogation log for Mr. al Qahtani was leaked from Guantánamo. The log describes six weeks of physical and psychological interrogation methods that involved prolonged sleep deprivation; painful stress positions; physical abuses; sexual, physical, psychological and religious humiliation; the use of military dogs; and sensory overstimulation. According to some news accounts, Mr. al Qahtani endured at least 160 days of severe isolation in a cell constantly flooded with light, with much of this time also including interrogations using aggressive tactics as part of the First Special Interrogation Plan.

On December 2, 2002, Secretary Donald Rumsfeld personally approved 16 of the aggressive interrogation techniques for use against Mr. al Qahtani. The memorandum authorized techniques, used alone or in tandem, such as forced nudity; stress positions; religious humiliation (removal of religious items and forcible shaving of beards and hair); isolation of up to 30-days with extensions possible after command approval; light and sound deprivation; exploitation of phobias (such as fear of dogs); and “mild” physical contact. He only approved one tactic in Category III, “mild non-injurious physical contact.” The Secretary’s approval, however, was not made public or made known to CITF or other law enforcement investigators. CITF agents began to hear, though, that the military interrogators were “authorized” to use the aggressive methods.

Secretary Rumsfeld also secretly authorized 24 techniques in March 2003, including isolation, “environmental manipulation,” “sleep adjustment,” and threats to send the detainee to a county allowing torture.” See *Aggressive Interrogation Techniques*. The Secretary’s March 2003 approval relied upon the Working Group Report, which in turn was based upon the flawed OLC Memorandum. The Working Group Report and the Secretary’s renewed authorization was issued and presented to General Miller in March 2003. As result of these authorizations for aggressive interrogation tactics, Mr. al Qahtani’s abuse continued during 2003.

#### Torture & Abuse of Mohammed al Qahtani During Interrogations

An FBI Deputy Director reported to the Army that in November 2002 he observed a detainee, later identified as Mr. al Qahtani, exhibiting symptoms of “extreme psychological trauma”:

In September or October of 2002 FBI agents observed that a canine was used in an aggressive manner to intimidate detainee [redacted] and, in

November 2002, FBI agents observed Detainee [redacted] after he had been subjected to intense isolation for over three months. During that time period, [redacted] was totally isolated (with the exception of occasional interrogations) in a cell that was always flooded with light. By late November, the detainee was evidencing behavior consistent with extreme psychological trauma (talking to non-existent people, reportedly hearing voices, crouching in a corner of the cell covered with a sheet for hours on end). It is unknown to the FBI whether such extended isolation was approved by appropriate DoD authorities.

In September 2006, Mr. al Qahtani has described to his attorney some of the methods used against him during interrogations in 2002 and 2003:

- Severe sleep deprivation combined with 20-hour interrogations for months at a time;
- Severe isolation;
- Religious and sexual humiliation;
- Threats of rendition to countries that torture more than the United States;
- Threats made against his family, including female members of his family;
- Strip searching, body searches and forced nudity, including in the presence of female personnel;
- Denial of the right to practice his religion, including prohibiting him from praying for prolonged times and during Ramadan;
- Threatening to desecrate the Koran in front of him;
- Placing him in stress positions for prolonged times;
- Placing him in tight restraints repeatedly for many months or days and nights;
- Threats and attacks by dogs;
- Beatings;
- Exposure to low temperatures for prolonged times;
- Exposure to loud music for prolonged times; and
- Forcible administration of frequent IVs by medical personnel during interrogation, which Mr. al Qahtani described as feeling like “repetitive stabs” each day.

The use of some of these methods against Mr. al Qahtani are described in detail below.

#### Sleep Deprivation

Mr. al Qahtani reported severe sleep deprivation, often being permitted only to sleep four or fewer hours at a time, over prolonged periods of time. U.S. military authorities imposed this sleep deprivation through the use of interrogations lasting 20-hours; shifting Mr. al Qahtani to a new cell throughout the night; imprisoning him in cells with 24-hour

lighting; altering his sleep patterns by only allowing him to sleep during the day; and by creating disruptive noise to wake him up. In order to facilitate 20-hour interrogations, if Mr. al Qahtani began to fall asleep from exhaustion, military police or interrogators would forcibly make him stand and sit, pour water on him or otherwise physically abuse him. They conducted one interrogation shift after another to keep the interrogators refreshed and active while Mr. al Qahtani continued to deteriorate from exhaustion.

Because Mr. al Qahtani's sleep deprivation was only one act in a course of torturous conduct, his sleep deprivation should also be considered in relation to other torturous acts occurring during his interrogation.

As a result of his torture, Mr. al Qahtani began hallucinating and hearing voices, urinated on himself multiple times, and frequently broke down into tears. Thus, his sleep deprivation, when considered in light of the intensity and duration of the overall course of conduct he was subjected to, constituted torture.

The defendants expressly authorized prolonged and severe sleep deprivation as an interrogation tactic for use against Mr. al Qahtani. Secretary Rumsfeld officially authorized the use of 20-hour interrogations without limit in his December 2, 2002 memorandum. For at least two months, and likely for additional periods, military authorities under the command of Secretary Rumsfeld and General Miller authorized and implemented practices intended to keep Mr. al Qahtani awake for twenty hours per day for two months.

#### Severe Isolation Combined with Sensory Deprivation/Overstimulation

For 160 days within his first two years of imprisonment, military authorities held Mr. al Qahtani in severe isolation, in which he could not communicate with other detainees in any fashion.<sup>1</sup> Prior to meeting with his lawyer, Mr. al Qahtani was completely dependent upon his interrogators for any information, including information concerning his family.

Secretary Rumsfeld and General Miller authorized, were aware of, and supervised Mr. al Qahtani's isolation and sensory deprivation. These were not single acts of misconduct by rogue individuals but rather an intentional and official aspect of Mr. al Qahtani's interrogation at Guantánamo.

#### Religious, Sexual and Moral Humiliation

One of the most widely-reported aspects of Mr. al Qahtani's interrogation was the use of sexual, religious and moral humiliation.

The use of humiliation by U.S. interrogators is best understood by considering illustrative examples, such as the following:

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<sup>1</sup> According to several reports, Mr. al Qahtani was held in isolation for 160 days, during which he was subjected to a variety of other interrogation methods, including 20-hour long interrogations combined with severe sleep deprivation. *See* Schmidt Report at 20.

1. Forced nudity, sometimes for prolonged periods and in stress positions;
2. Female interrogators straddling male detainees, invading the personal space of detainees or otherwise being used in the humiliation of detainees;
3. Placing leashes on detainees and making them act like dogs.

More specifically, Mr. al Qahtani was subjected to combinations of all of these tactics. The Interrogation Log contains numerous details of Mr. al Qahtani's interrogation. It is important to note, however, that the log is limited in terms of the incidents that it reports, the level of description used (the interrogation log in particular is very sparse and often euphemistic in its descriptions), and the time period covered. Despite these limitations, it is nonetheless clear that the humiliation of Mr. al Qahtani formed a central part of the interrogation plan, and that interrogators subjected him to various types of treatment that involved humiliating him, particularly denigrating, either explicitly or implicitly, his religious beliefs. Humiliating treatment designed to degrade Mr. al Qahtani's religious beliefs included:

1. Constructing a shrine to Bin Laden and informing Mr. al Qahtani that he could only pray to Bin Laden;<sup>2</sup>
2. "Forced grooming,"<sup>3</sup> including forcibly shaving Mr. al Qahtani's beard;<sup>4</sup>
3. Commandeering the call to prayer as a "call to interrogation";<sup>5</sup> and
4. Interrupting Mr. al Qahtani's prayer or attempting to control or deny his right to pray.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Interrogation Log 01/02/03 at 0100.

<sup>3</sup> See PHR Report at 5.

<sup>4</sup> It is unclear how often this occurred. The Log documents it explicitly twice: "Detainee's head and beard were shaved with electric clippers. Detainee started resistance when beard was shaved and MPs had to restrain. Shaving was halted until detainee was once more compliant. LTC P supervised shaving. No problems occurred. Photos were taken of detainee when the shaving was finished." (12/03/2002 at 2105); "Detainee's head and beard were shaved with electric clippers. Detainee started to struggle when the beard was touched but quickly became compliant." (12/18/2002 at 1415); "Lt G entered the interrogation booth and gave detainee an even shave. The detainee did not resist." (12/20/2002 at 2020); "Source received haircut. Detainee did not resist until the beard was cut. Detainee stated he would talk about anything if his beard was left alone. Interrogator asked detainee if he would be honest about himself. Detainee replied "if God wills". Beard was shaven." (01/11/03 at 0230) Military authorities have forcibly shaved Mr. al Qahtani in violation of his religious beliefs and practices as recently as the end of 2005, prior to his first meeting with his attorney.

<sup>5</sup> "Upon entering the booth, lead played the call to prayer with a special alarm clock. Detainee was told, "this is no longer the call to prayer. You're not allowed to pray. This is the call to interrogation. So pay attention." (12/12/2002 at 0001).

<sup>6</sup> Numerous instances are recorded. For example "When control entered booth, detainee stated in English "Excuse me sergeant, I want to pray." Control said "Have you earned prayer? I know you have a lot to ask forgiveness for, but I already told you that you have to earn it." Detainee says "Please, I want to pray here" (pointing to floor next to his chair). Control responds no." (11/28/2002 at 0630); "Detainee allowed to pray after promising to continue cooperating." (12/06/2002 at 1600); "Detainee's hands were cuffed at his sides to prevent him from conducting his prayer ritual." (12/14/2002 at 0001).

The interrogation log explicitly documents several instances where Mohammad al Qahtani is subjected to sexual humiliation techniques:

1. There are at least ten separate instances when the interrogation log reports that interrogators used a technique labeled “invasion of space by a female” or that Mr. al Qahtani is repulsed, angered or otherwise bothered by a female interrogator invading his personal space. The details of what this involved are generally lacking.<sup>7</sup> “Invasion of Space by a Female” is used to describe a number of tactics, from a female interrogator straddling Mr. al Qahtani and molesting him while other military guards pin his body to the floor against his will to a female interrogator rubbing his neck and hair, often until Mr. al Qahtani resists with force and is subdued by military guards.
2. There are documented instances of forced nudity<sup>8</sup> and also
3. “Dance instruction.”
  - a. In one incident, a mask was placed on Mr. al Qahtani and he was forced to undergo “dance instruction” with a male interrogator.<sup>9</sup>
  - b. In another incident, he was forced to wear a towel “like a burqa” and undergo “dance instruction” with a male interrogator.<sup>10</sup>
4. The interrogators made sexual insults and sexually offensive comments about Mr. al Qahtani and about his female family members, specifically his mother and sisters,<sup>11</sup> and

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<sup>7</sup> (1) 12/04/02 at 1800 “The detainee was bothered by the presence and touch of a female.”; (2) 12/05/02 at 1800 “Detainee became irritated with the female invading his personal space.”; (3) 12/06/02 at 1930 “The approaches employed [included] Invasion of Space by a Female.”; (4) 12/09/02 at 2340 “Detainee was repulsed by the female invasion of his personal space.”; (5) 12/10/02 at 1830 “Detainee became very annoyed with the female invading his personal space.”; (6a) 12/12/02 at 1830 “SGT L started “invasion of personal space” approach.”; (6b) 12/12/02 at 2312 “The detainee is still annoyed with the female invasion of space.”; (7) 12/19/02 at 2320 “He attempts to resist female contact.”; (8) 12/21/02 at 2223 “He was laid out on the floor so I straddled him without putting my weight on him.”; (9) 12/23/02 at 2245 “Female interrogator used invasion of personal space and detainee cried out to Allah several times.”; (10) 12/25/02 at 1929 “Detainee spoke in English when the female interrogator invaded his personal space.”

<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., 12/20/02 at 2200 “The detainee was stripped searched. Initially he was attempting to resist the guards. After approximately five minutes of nudity the detainee ceased to resist. He would only stare at the wall with GREAT focus. His eyes were squinted and stuck on one point on the wall directly in front of him. He later stated that he knew there was nothing he could do with so many guards around him, so why should he resist. He stated that he did not like the females viewing his naked body while being searched and if felt he could have done something about it then he would have.”

<sup>9</sup> 12/12/03 at 1115 “In order to escalate the detainee’s emotions, a mask was made from an MRE box with a smiley face on it and placed on the detainee’s head for a few moments. A latex glove was inflated and labeled the “sissy slap” glove. This glove was touched to the detainee’s face periodically after explaining the terminology to him. The mask was placed back on the detainee’s head. While wearing the mask, the team began dance instruction with the detainee. The detainee became agitated and began shouting.”

<sup>10</sup> 12/20/02 at 1300 “A towel was placed on the detainee’s head like a burka with his face exposed and the interrogator proceeded to give the detainee dance lessons. The detainee became agitated and tried to kick an MP. No retaliation was used for the kick and the dance lesson continued.”

<sup>11</sup> 12/17/02 at 2100 “Detainee appeared to have been disturbed by the word homosexual. He did not appear to appreciate being called a homosexual. He denies being a homosexual. He also appeared to be very annoyed by the use of his mother and sister as examples of prostitutes and whores.”

5. Mr. al Qahtani was forced to either wear<sup>12</sup> or to look at and study<sup>13</sup> pornographic pictures. Interrogators required him to memorize details of the pornographic pictures and answer questions as a means to “test” his willingness to cooperate and to end other abusive interrogation practices.

In addition to explicit sexual and religious humiliation, other aspects of Mr. al Qahtani’s treatment and detention were also morally humiliating and a denial of his human dignity. This included forcing him to urinate in front of U.S. personnel in either a bottle or in his pants while in restraints<sup>14</sup> and then subsequently denying him the opportunity to clean himself. Military authorities also deprived him of privacy in his living conditions, specifically during showers when both female and male personnel were present.<sup>15</sup> On at least one occasion during an interrogation, he was also stripped and forcibly given an enema while military police restrained him in the presence of multiple U.S. personnel. He was also subjected to the following treatment: “On 20 Dec 02, an interrogator tied a leash to the subject of the first Special Interrogation Plan’s chains, led him around the room, and forced him to perform a series of dog tricks.”<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> (1) 12/19/02 at 0200 “While walking out, detainee pulled a picture of a model off (it had been fashioned into a sign to hang around his neck)...”; (2) 12/23/02 at 0001 “Upon entering booth, lead changed white noise music and hung pictures of swimsuit models around his neck. Detainee was left in booth listening to white noise.”; (3) 12/24/02 at 0001 “Control entered booth, changed music playing, and hung binder of fitness models around detainee’s neck.”; (4) 12/26/02 at 0001 “Detainee was eating his food (given by the previous team). Lead walked into booth turned on white noise and put picture binder of swimsuit models over detainees neck.”

<sup>13</sup> (1) 12/17/02 at 2200 “He appeared disgusted by the photos of UBL and a variety of sexy females. Detainee would avoid looking at all of the photos shown to him.”; (2) 12/19/02 at 0300 “Interrogators had detainee look at pictures of women in bikinis and identify if the women were the same or different. Detainee refused to look at girls and began struggling. A few drops of water were sprinkled on his head to gain compliance.”; (3) 12/20/02 at 0001 “Detainee listened to white noise while interrogators added photos of fitness models to a binder. Once completed, the interrogators began showing the photos and asking the detainee detailed questions about the photos.”; (4) 12/21/02 at 0001 “New interrogation shift enters the booth and begins “attention to detail” approach. Detainee looks at photos of fitness models and answers questions about the photos.”; (5) 12/22/02 at 0030 “Lead began the “attention to detail” theme with the fitness model photos. Detainee refused to look at photos claiming it was against his religion. Lead poured a 24 oz bottle of water over detainee’s head. Detainee then began to look at photos.”; (6) 12/23/02 “The “attention to detail” approach began. Lead pulled pictures of swimsuit models off detainee and told him the test of his ability to answer questions would begin. Detainee refused to answer and finally stated that he would after lead poured water over detainees head and was told he would be subjected to this treatment day after day.”; (7) 12/24/02 at 0200 “Control entered the booth and began the “attention to detail” lesson for the night. The detainee still would not accurately answer questions about the fitness models and control stated that the lesson would continue the next day.”; (8) 12/26/02 at 0030 “Lead entered the booth and began attention to detail approach. Detainee missed 3 of 10 questions. He has learned to provide more details and provides enough information to substantiate his answers.”; (9) 12/27/02 at 0100 “Detainee was taken to bathroom and walked 10 minutes. The “attention to detail” theme was run with the fitness model photos.”

<sup>14</sup> “Detainee again said he has to go to bathroom. SGT R said he can go in the bottle. Detainee said he wanted to go to the bathroom because it’s more comfortable. SGT R said “You’ve ruined all trust, you can either go in the bottle or in your pants.” Detainee goes in his pants.” (11/25/2002 at 1000).

<sup>15</sup> 12/21/02 at 1630 “Detainee given shower, brushed teeth, and given new uniform. The detainee was very shy and asked several times to cover himself with his trousers or a towel while in the shower.”

<sup>16</sup> Schmidt Report. This is documented in the interrogation log as follows: “Told detainee that a dog is held in higher esteem because dogs know right from wrong and know to protect innocent people from bad

Without question, the regime of religious, sexual, and moral humiliation inflicted upon Mr. al Qahtani during his interrogations, alone and particularly in combination with other abuses, consisted torture profoundly injured his personal dignity, mental health, and at times, physical health.

#### Stress Positions and Temperature Extremes

Mr. al Qahtani reports being restrained with very tight handcuffs in painful positions for extended periods of time, both during the day and night. As noted above, he was left in restraints on numerous occasions until he had no recourse but to urinate on himself. Moreover, he was placed in rooms with very cold temperatures and to this day is sensitive to cold temperatures during attorney client meetings. At times, Mr. al Qahtani suffered from hypothermia.

Mr. al Qahtani was placed in painful positions for extended times during interrogations that were also accompanied by sleep deprivation, various forms of humiliation, and other abuses.

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld authorized and oversaw, along with General Miller, the use of stress positions during Mr. al Qahtani's interrogations. Specifically, the Secretary's December 2, 2002 memorandum approved the use of forced standing as an interrogation method. In a hand-written note on the first page of the December 2 memorandum, Secretary Rumsfeld approved prolonged standing as an interrogation technique, saying "I stand for 8-10 hours a day. Why is standing limited to 4 hours?"

#### Threats with Military Dogs

Mr. al Qahtani reports being threatened with military working dogs on several occasions. The interrogation log corroborates Mr. al Qahtani's report, stating that: "issues ar[o]se between MPs and dog handler" on December 7, 2002. The Schmidt Report also records a past instance of an officer directing a dog "to growl, bark, and show his teeth at" Mr. al Qahtani. In addition to creating a physical danger for the detainees, military dogs were permitted to growl and threaten them as a means of exploiting cultural and individual phobias associated with dogs.

This use of dogs was authorized pursuant to instructions sanctioned by Secretary Rumsfeld—he explicitly authorized the use of dogs as a method of interrogation in the "First Special Interrogation Plan."

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people. Began teaching the detainee lessons such as stay, come, and bark to elevate his social status up to that of a dog. Detainee became very agitated." Then: "Dog tricks continued and detainee stated he should be treated like a man. Detainee was told he would have to learn who to defend and who to attack. Interrogator showed photos of 9-11 victims and told detainee he should bark happy for these people. Interrogator also showed photos of Al Qaida terrorists and told detainee he should growl at these people." (12/20/02 at 1115, 1300)

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The interrogation log and the enclosed information do not describe everything that happened to Mr. al Qahtani. As with many victims of torture, particularly those who have yet to receive any treatment for their physical and psychological injuries, there are many other methods used against him that Mr. al Qahtani cannot yet discuss — and perhaps may choose never to discuss, including some of the methods used to humiliate and degrade his moral and personal integrity.

Additionally, Mr. al Qahtani has no memory of some of the interrogation methods used against him or events that occurred at Guantánamo, evidence that he has not fully recovered from the trauma of his torture and still suffers from its impact. For example, according to new accounts of information leaked by intelligence personnel, Mr. al Qahtani was subjected to a “fake rendition” authorized by Secretary Rumsfeld around April 2003:

Mr. Kahtani, a Saudi, was given a tranquilizer, put in sensory deprivation garb with blackened goggles, and hustled aboard a plane that was supposedly taking him to the Middle East.

After hours in the air, the plane landed back at the United States naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, where he was not returned to the regular prison compound but put in an isolation cell in the base's brig. There, he was subjected to harsh interrogation procedures that he was encouraged to believe were being conducted by Egyptian national security operatives.

The account of Mr. Kahtani's treatment given to the *New York Times* recently by military intelligence officials and interrogators is the latest of several developments that have severely damaged the military's longstanding public version of how the detention and interrogation center at Guantánamo operated.

In order to carry on the charade that he was not at Guantánamo, the military arranged it so Mr. Kahtani was not visited by the Red Cross on a few of its regular visits, creating a window of several months, said a person who dealt with him at Guantánamo.

Comment [EW1]: Summarize

In general, Mr. al Qahtani suffered severe physical and psychological injury as a result of his prolonged exposure to these and other methods used against him during interrogations. As a result, Mr. al Qahtani's weight fell from approximately 160 pounds to 100 pounds. During his attorney-client meeting, Mr. al Qahtani also exhibits the signs of an individual suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome or other trauma-related condition, including memory loss, difficulty concentrating, and anxiety. He is aware that his interrogation has left him physically and mentally injured from the abuse. He will not seek treatment from any health professional at Guantánamo, however, because of their involvement in his interrogation.

He was also hospitalized at least twice when he was close to death during interrogations at Guantánamo. On one occasion described in the interrogation log, he was rushed to a military base hospital when his heart rate fell dangerously low during a period of extreme sleep deprivation, physical stress and psychological trauma. After being permitted to sleep a full night, medical personnel cleared Mr. al Qahtani for further interrogation the next day. During his transportation from the hospital, Mr. al Qahtani was interrogated in the ambulance.

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Mr. al Qahtani strives each day to maintain his mental and physical health while imprisoned at Guantánamo and prevented from obtaining any independent medical treatment. He must live with the knowledge that the United States government has deprived him, and continues to deprive him, of the most basic of human rights. During our meetings, Mr. al Qahtani has described the fundamental nature of the rights the United States authorities stripped from him:

A human being needs four things in life that were taken from me at Guantánamo. First, to honor his religion and freedom to practice religion and respect it. Two, honoring his personal dignity by refraining from humiliating a human being through beating or cursing him and bad treatment in general. Three, respect for his honor, which means not dishonoring him through sexual humiliation or abuse. Four, respect for human rights by allowing a human being to sleep and be comfortable where he is; to be in a warm shelter; to have security for his life; to have sufficient food and beverage; to have means to relieve himself and clean his body; to have humane medical treatment; and to know that his family is safe from threats or harm. Again, all of these rights were taken from me.