

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ABU WA'EL (JIHAD) DHIAB	)	
	)	
	)	
Petitioners	)	Civ. No. 05-1457 (GK)
v.	)	
	)	
BARACK OBAMA, <i>et al.</i> ,	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	
_____	)	

**DECLARATION OF CORTNEY BUSCH**

**I, CORTNEY BUSCH, DECLARE UNDER 28 U.S.C. §1746:**

1. I am the Operations Manager and a security-cleared paralegal with legal action charity *Reprieve*. I have been visiting *Reprieve's* clients in Guantánamo since August 2010.
2. I make this declaration based on my most recent visit with the Petitioner on 30 April 2014; I received the cleared notes from that visit today.
3. The following description is drawn directly from this visit. Quotations represent my best reconstruction of what Mr. Dhiab said, although are not verbatim.
4. Mr. Dhiab was very thin when I saw him and looked unwell. He stated that he had not been out for recreation or even a shower for nearly seven months.
5. He reported that he has resumed hunger striking because of the delay in releasing him. He had suspended his strike for a brief period when it appeared to him that release might be imminent, but said he found the continuing limbo too difficult to bear: "All

I want to know is my situation. Am I going to leave, or not?" He mentioned previous instances when he had been told he would be released and, in the event, was not.

6. Mr. Dhiab is suffering considerable health complications apparently as a result of his previous long-term hunger-striking and force feeding, to include serious pain in his kidneys and blood in his urine.

7. He also states that the 'Forcible Cell Extraction' (FCE) team have continued to assault him for 'movements' without reason or provocation, and continued to do so even after the temporary suspension of his hunger strike.

8. He also reported what he described as a 'vicious' policy of permitting the detainees' weight to yo-yo: over-feeding prisoners to the point of discomfort, suddenly ceasing the feeding, then resuming feedings if a prisoner loses consciousness on the block. This, he says, is even more unpleasant and dangerous than a consistent regime of feedings.

*Other prisoners*

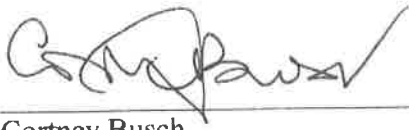
9. Mr. Dhiab also mentioned very disturbing force-feeding practices for another petitioner, Ahmed Rabbani. Mr. Dhiab reported that the day before our visit (that is, on April 29, 2014) another detainee, Ahmed Rabbani (ISN 1461) started to bleed immediately when JTF-GTMO medical staff tried to intubate him, and that they tried to do so three times but were ultimately unsuccessful. This led to extremely painful swelling in his nose and throat. As a result of the feeding tube being incorrectly inserted, Mr. Rabbani had developed a bad chest infection and had been vomiting blood over the previous few days.

10. Mr. Dhiab said Mr. Rabbani was regularly being 'FCE'd' to be force-fed, and that last Sunday he was vomiting blood. He believes this will have been caught on camera

because Mr. Rabbani had vomited blood on himself as the FCE team came to take him to the force feeding chair. Mr. Rabbani then lost consciousness.

11. He compared the current situation facing hunger strikers unfavorably with some aspects of feeding during the Bush administration. Under Bush, he remembered, if you bled during the force-feeding, the process would typically be suspended for three days and then resumed. He also mentioned that one of the doctors at JTF-GTMO brought some sort of 'form' to Mr. Rabbani for his signature. He did not know the precise language of the form Mr. Rabbani was asked to sign, but the import of it was, in essence, 'we will not force-feed you if you refuse, but if you die you release us of responsibility.' Mr. Dhiab did not know if Mr. Rabbani signed the form.

Done in Houston, Texas, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.



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Cortney Busch