

**Press Release: Khalid Shaikh Mohammad files claim with U.N. torture investigator**

June 26, 2012

Today, on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, attorneys for Khalid Shaikh Mohammad revealed that on eve of the May 5, 2012 arraignment, they filed a Letter of Allegation under the Convention against Torture to the U.N. Special Rapporteur for Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment.<sup>1</sup> Captain Jason Wright, a U.S. Army JAG detailed to represent Mr. Mohammad, explained that “No human being should be tortured. In the period since 9/11, the U.S. has misplaced its moral compass. Through accountability, we can hopefully find our way again, and pursue a path of rediscovery and redemption.”

Under Special Rapporteur procedures, a Letter of Allegation is the first step in a U.N. investigation of claims of torture. The Letter of Allegation asks the Special Rapporteur to “initiate a full, fair, and impartial inquiry” into the conduct of the United States and any other potentially complicit State Party to the Convention.

The first two pages of the 13-page Letter and Questionnaire follow this statement.

For more information, please contact CPT Jason Wright at (703) 696-9188 or [jason.wright@osd.mil](mailto:jason.wright@osd.mil).

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Torture/SRTorture/Pages/Allegation.aspx>.



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL  
1620 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1620**

4 May 2012

**By E-Mail and Mail**

Mr. Juan E. Méndez  
UN Special Rapporteur on Torture  
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
United Nations Office at Geneva  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
E-mail: [urgent-action@ohchr.org](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org)

Subject: Letter of Allegation Against the U.S. and any Other Undisclosed Potentially-Complicit State Party

Dear Mr. Méndez,

We are the defense attorneys for Mr. Khalid Shaikh Mohammad, a Pakistani national who has been tortured by the U.S. Government.

After subjecting Mr. Mohammad to torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment following his capture on March 1, 2003 in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, the U.S. Government has silenced him. No one without a Top Secret security clearance is allowed to meet with him or speak to him. His defense attorneys are told to treat his every word as “presumptively Top Secret,” especially if it relates to: allegations involving (i) the location of secret detention facilities, (ii) the identity of potentially cooperating foreign governments, (iii) the identity of U.S. or foreign personnel involved in the capture, detention, transfer, or interrogation of detainees, (iv) interrogation techniques as applied to specific detainees, and (v) conditions of confinement. The U.S. Government will not even allow Mr. Mohammad to speak with his own family.

On April 4, 2012, the U.S. Government evinced its intent to impose the final silence on Mr. Mohammad. Prosecutors formalized capital charges against him and seek to execute him after conducting a trial—a trial that lacks legitimacy to such an extent that were he to be acquitted, the U.S. would not release him, but would hold him indefinitely until he dies of natural causes.

“For generations, America has served as a beacon of hope and freedom for those outside her borders.” - Spencer Bachus

Sadly, this is no longer true. The U.S. has demonstrated to the World that it can act with impunity outside her borders, and has sanctioned torture practices for States that will define this century. For the current generation of “those outside her borders,” America’s beacon is now Guantánamo - not the shining torch on the hill, but a siren of detention and despair.

The U.S. Government seeks to close this painful and dark chapter in our Nation’s history by killing Mr. Mohammad after a show trial.

There is a better way. This chapter can end in hope – hope for torture victims around the world that even powerful States like the U.S. can be held accountable for torture.

We hope that this Letter of Allegation against the U.S. and any other alleged, undisclosed potentially-complicit State Party will initiate a full, fair, and impartial inquiry. We submit the

Letter of Allegation Against the U.S. and any Other Undisclosed Potentially-Complicit State Party:  
Questionnaire for Mr. Mohammad Prepared by Counsel

attached Letter of Allegation as Mr. Mohammad's defense attorneys to stop the politics of impunity – no human be they inside or outside America's borders, should be subject to torture, and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. We invite you to meet with Mr. Mohammad in Guantánamo Bay at your earliest possible opportunity in furtherance of this important inquiry.

Should you accept this Letter of Allegation, we expect that the U.S. Government may deny you confidential access to Mr. Mohammad in violation of the Convention Against Torture. If this is the case, please keep us apprised of the situation so that we may assist as appropriate and necessary.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Counsel for Mr. Mohammad*

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David Nevin  
Lead Defense Counsel  
Nevin Benjamin McKay &  
Bartlett, LLP  
PO Box 2772  
Boise, ID 83701  
[dnevin@nbmlaw.com](mailto:dnevin@nbmlaw.com)  
Ph: +1-208-343-1000

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Derek A. Poteet  
Major, U.S. Marine Corps  
Defense Counsel  
Department of the Defense  
Office of the Chief Defense Counsel,  
1620 Defense Pentagon,  
Washington D.C. 20301-1620  
[derek.poteet@osd.mil](mailto:derek.poteet@osd.mil)  
Ph: +1-703-588-0430

//s//

Jason D. Wright  
Captain, U.S. Army  
Defense Counsel  
Department of the Defense  
Office of the Chief Defense Counsel,  
1620 Defense Pentagon,  
Washington D.C. 20301-1620  
[jason.wright@osd.mil](mailto:jason.wright@osd.mil)  
Ph: +1-703-696-9188