

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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CSD  
WHITE HOUSE CLERK

April 17, 2002

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Please review the attached correspondence requesting access to detainees being held at Guantanamo Bay and respond as you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,



Bradford A. Berenson  
Associate Counsel to the President

cc: The Honorable William J. Haynes, II

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld  
The Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D.C.

SecDef

W00472-02  
ACLU (DP) 1259

CC: NSC

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

39 Legal  
Dr. Najeeb Bin Mohammed Al-Naumi

Law Offices of

مكاتب

المحامي - نجيب بن محمد النعيمي

Advocates &amp; Legal Consultants

محاماة وإستشارات قانونية

To  
Mr. George W. Bush, Honourable President  
United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Also sent by fax to: 01 202 456 2461

25<sup>th</sup> March 2002

Honourable President,

Let me introduce myself, I am a former minister of justice for the State of Qatar. I am currently practicing law in the State of Qatar privately at my own law firm. I represent a committee called "Defense Committee for the Detainees at Guantanamo Prison". I have been empowered by power of attorney from a number of detainee's families who are in the Guantanamo prison in Cuba. I would like to make it clear that me and my colleagues in the committee strongly condemn the 11<sup>th</sup> of September terrorist attack on the United States of America and we have no relationship whatsoever directly or indirectly with any group of terrorist or terrorism. We believe that justice and law should prevail.

Our purpose of forming the committee is to defend the detainees in Guantanamo on the basis of the legal principle, which grant them the legal right to defend themselves in accordance with international humanitarian law and the constitution of the United States of America.

I, on behalf of the committee, seek your help and assistance as a human with a family and as the President of the United States of America to allow our defense member and myself



Law Offices of  
Dr. Najeeb Bin Mohammed Al-Nauimi

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to meet with those detainees whom I represent as a lawyer to discuss with them their case, at the Guantanamo prison. I appreciate your kindness and understanding of the human rights of the detainees to defend themselves either before the American court or before any other legal system.

Wishing a happy Easter and good health to you and your family. I also a wish a happy Easter to the people of the United States of America.

Thanking you  
Yours faithfully

Dr. Najeeb Bin Mohamed Al Nauimi

Should you wish to have more information about me, you may access my web site  
[www.nn-law.com](http://www.nn-law.com)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

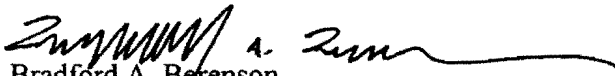
April 17, 2002

Dear Dr. Al-Nauimi:

President Bush received your letter of March 25, 2002 and asked that I reply on his behalf.

Because the United States military is holding the individuals to which you have requested access, your request must be reviewed and acted upon by the Secretary of Defense. I have accordingly taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and his General Counsel, William J. Haynes II.

Sincerely,

  
Bradford A. Berenson  
Associate Counsel to the President

Dr. Najeeb Bin Mohammed Al-Nauimi  
Suites 301 & 302  
Gridco Building, Adjacent to Ministry of Housing & Labour  
South "C" Ring Road  
Post Office Box 9952  
Doha  
QATAR

**CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL WORKSHEET**

DOR 4/22/2002

OSD CONTROL W00472-02

**CONTROLLED ITEM:**

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**COVER MEMO:**

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REPLY TO: INTERIM REPLY TO:

DESTRUCTION:

Signature: PAR: FILE NUMBER:

ACTION: GC FOR: FAA SUSPENSE DATE: 4/30/2002 COORD: ES

COMMENTS:

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ES	RWI
USP	RWI
GC	OWI
ESR	RWI

~~FOUO~~

OCT 26 2005

TO: President George W. Bush

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld



SUBJECT: Wall Street Journal Article

Mr. President,

Attached is an article on the subject of detainees that came from a staff reporter of the Wall Street Journal, which I think covers the subject pretty darn well.

Respectfully,

Attach: WSJ article by Robert L. Pollock

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~~FOUO~~

OSD 21189-05

SecDef

ACLU (DP) 2087

Wall Street Journal  
October 1, 2005  
Pg. 8

## The 'Torture Narrative' Unravels

By Robert L. Pollock, Staff Reporter Of The Wall Street Journal

It's hardly a secret that Private First Class Lynndie England was sentenced this past week for her role as "leash girl" in the infamous abuses photographed at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison in late 2003. But it was also noticeable that the denouement of this spectacular story was relegated to the innards of newspapers that had once given it weeks of front-page treatment. That's almost surely because the trial of the last of the Maryland Army Reservists to face justice -- like those of the others that came before her -- offered no evidence to support claims that the abuses were caused by a Bush administration that had "created the climate" or "set the tone" for "torture."

That was, of course, the widespread and explosive charge last (election) year. Almost immediately the leaked photos of Private England and her compatriots generated calls for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's resignation. So-called "torture memos" were unearthed, in which administration lawyers had discussed the range of permissible interrogation techniques -- for al Qaeda suspects in the wake of 9/11. And by one of the greatest leaps of logic ever seriously entertained in our national discourse, those memos were said to have caused the behavior of soldiers in Iraq who knew nothing beyond the limits outlined in the Army Field Manual. Ted Kennedy, for one, offered up a useful reminder of why Americans have never wanted him to be president by declaring that "Saddam's torture chambers reopened under new management, U.S. management."

The writer Heather Mac Donald dubbed this the "torture narrative." And it persists today despite the conclusion a year ago of the Independent Panel to Review DOD Detention Operations that the abuses "were not part of authorized interrogations nor were they even directed at intelligence targets" (emphasis added). Or in the words of the panel's chairman, former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger -- whose bipartisan cabinet career included a stint in the Carter administration -- what those pictures showed was sick behavior by the "night shift."

But don't just take his word for it. "You feel that by doing these things you were setting conditions for interrogations," a judge asked Private England in a hearing earlier this year. "No, sir," she responded. "So this was just a way to embarrass them?" he continued. "Yes, sir," was her reply.

Or consider the testimony of Specialist Jeremy C. Sivits: "Our command would have slammed us. They believe in doing the right thing. If they saw what was going on, there would be hell to pay."

In all, seven guards and two military-intelligence personnel have now faced justice for the Abu Ghraib abuses, with even those pleading guilty undergoing detailed sentencing hearings. No evidence has emerged to support the theory that abuses had anything to do with interrogation.

It's worth remembering too that these prosecutions were based on investigations conducted with dispatch that did the Army nothing but credit: A criminal probe was begun within a day of the abuse reports traveling up the chain of command on January 13, 2004; two days after that, Central Command issued a press release about the investigation; on March 20 it was announced that charges had been brought against six of those involved. Meanwhile, Major General Antonio Taguba had completed an investigation whose conclusions have now stood the test of nine courts martial. And this all more than a

month before the photos were leaked to the press.

Have detainee abuses occurred elsewhere in the war on terror? Of course. But they were "widespread" only if you define that term geographically instead of by frequency. The adjective "systematic" has been similarly misused. Overall, more than 70,000 detainees have passed through U.S. military custody since late 2001. About 500 criminal investigations have been conducted into allegations of related misconduct, many of which were found to be unsubstantiated. But more than 200 people have already been disciplined for actions ranging from failure to report to prisoner abuse itself.

There have also now been 12 major inquiries -- including investigations led by Major General George Fay and Vice Admiral Albert Church -- into detainee treatment in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay. More than 2,800 interviews have been conducted and 16,000 pages of documents produced. And there have been 31 Congressional hearings and 45 staff briefings. Given that track record, we can be quite sure that the latest abuse allegations to surface (from an officer of the 82nd Airborne) will get the thorough hearing they deserve.

In short, all the evidence suggests a low rate of detainee mistreatment, one that compares favorably with U.S. civilian prisons, never mind that of other and earlier militaries. "The behavior of our troops is so much better than it was in World War II," Mr. Schlesinger told me last year. I called him this week to ask what we've learned since. "That the press exaggerated," he replied. The suggestion that Mr. Schlesinger and countless others -- from decorated officers to military juries -- have lent their good names to some kind of whitewash only reveals the remaining accusers for the crackpots they are.

Let me add some final words on how the Abu Ghraib scandal has affected America's image in Iraq. It hasn't been helpful, of course. But -- having traveled there three times in the past two and a half years, most recently in August -- I can attest that the dominant image of the American soldier in the minds of most Iraqis is that of liberator, as depicted in the sculpture shown here by a craftsman from Saddam's hometown of Tikrit. Americans can be proud of the way their young men and women have performed in Iraq and elsewhere in the war on terror. And they can be proud of the way the military has meted out justice for those few abuses that have occurred.



**THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE  
REFERRAL**

**August 30, 2006**

**TO: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**ACTION REQUESTED: INFO AND FILE COPY ONLY/NO ACTION NECESSARY**

**DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:**

**ID:** 703910  
**MEDIA:** LETTER  
**DOCUMENT DATE:** AUGUST 02, 2006  
**TO:** PRESIDENT BUSH  
**FROM:** RON KIND  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
**SUBJECT:** OPPOSES THE SHUT DOWN OF CIA'S ALEC STATION UNIT, THE  
ONLY U.S. COUNTER-TERRORISM UNIT DEDICATED  
EXCLUSIVELY TO HUNTING AND CAPTURING OSAMA BIN LADEN  
AND AL QAEDA'S LEADERS

**COMMENTS:**

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PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9  
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UNDERSIGNED AT 456-2590.

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TO: DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT, ROOM 84, OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE  
HOUSE, 20500

**OSD 14156-06**



9/8/2006 3:12:04 PM

**ESD 3106**

**THE WHITE HOUSE  
DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND TRACKING  
WORKSHEET**



**DATE RECEIVED:** 08/23/2006

**CASE ID:** 703910

**NAME OF CORRESPONDENT:** THE HONORABLE RON KIND

**SUBJECT:** OPPOSES THE SHUT DOWN OF CIA'S ALEC STATION UNIT, THE ONLY U.S. COUNTER-TERRORISM UNIT DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY TO HUNTING AND CAPTURING OSAMA BIN LADEN AND AL QAEDA'S LEADERS

ROUTE TO: AGENCY/OFFICE	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		DATE	INITIALS	DATE	INITIALS
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	CANDI WOLFF	ORG	08/24/2006		
<b>ACTION COMMENTS:</b>					
			R	8/30/06	
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<b>ACTION COMMENTS:</b>					

**COMMENTS:**

**MEDIA:** LETTER

**USER CODE:** 6 ADDL  
SIGNEEs

ACTION CODES:		DISPOSITION	
A - APPROPRIATE ACTION	<b>TYPE RESPONSE:</b>	<b>DISPOSITION CODES:</b>	<b>COMPLETED DATE:</b>
B - RESEARCH AND REPORT BACK	TYPE RESPONSE =	A - ANSWERED/	COMPLETED = DATE OF
D - DRAFT RESPONSE	INITIALS OF SIGNER	ACKNOWLEDGED	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR CLOSE-
I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY	NRN = NO RESPONSE	C - CLOSED	OUT DATE (MM/DD/YY)
R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY	NEEDED	X - INTERIM REPLY	

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SCANNED  
BY  
ORM

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

703910  
PR, CF

August 2, 2006

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, have changed the psyche of our nation forever. On that fateful day, we witnessed what Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaeda operatives are capable of as they carried out the deadliest terrorist attack ever on American soil, resulting in the deaths of nearly 3,000 Americans.

Shortly after the attack, Mr. President, you promised that you and your Administration would do everything possible to find Osama bin Laden and his allies and bring them to justice. In fact, just two days after the 9/11 attacks you stated, "The most important thing is for us to find Osama bin Laden. It is our number one priority, and we will not rest until we find him." Given your reassurance time and time again, we are very troubled with the report on July 4, 2006, in the *New York Times*, revealing you have decided to shut down the CIA's Alec Station unit. The only U.S. counter-terrorism unit dedicated exclusively to hunting, capturing or killing bin Laden and Al Qaeda's leaders should not be disbanded.

Now almost five years after the attacks, Osama bin Laden is still at large, sending audio and videotaped threats against America and serving as a symbolic leader of jihad terrorism worldwide. The closing of the Alec Station unit is especially troubling at a time when Al Qaeda is reasserting its influence over global jihad and the Taliban are rebuilding in Afghanistan.

In our opinion, the CIA's reorganization of assets is not a compelling enough reason for aborting the Alec Station unit. Aside from the inherent security liability of disbanding the bin Laden unit, giving up the hunt for this mass murderer sends the wrong message to would be terrorists that they can kill thousands of Americans, lie low for a while, and then escape accountability. We urge you to reconstitute this CIA special unit immediately and give it all resources necessary to finish the job of finding bin Laden and preventing him from organizing or inspiring future attacks against the United States and our allies.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.



Rep. Ron Kind



Rep. Carolyn Maloney

*Michael Honda*  
Rep. Michael Honda

*Gary Ackerman*  
Rep. Gary Ackerman

*Chris Van Hollen*  
Rep. Chris VanHollen

*Sam Farr*  
Rep. Sam Farr

*Lynn Woolsey*  
Rep. Lynn Woolsey