

U.S. Judge: CIA, FBI Used Torture in Guantanamo Prisoner Case

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – A United States military judge has ruled that an Al-Qaeda bombing suspect's confession cannot be used as evidence because it was derived from torture, potentially setting a new hurdle for September 11 prosecutions.

The judge in the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba U.S. military tribunals said that a confession by Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, the alleged mastermind of the 2000 attack against the USS Cole in Yemen which left 17 dead, was tainted by years of abuse at the hands of the CIA and FBI, a report by the AFP said on Saturday.

"Exclusion of such evidence is not without societal costs," wrote the judge, Colonel Lanny Acosta.

"However, permitting the admission of evidence obtained by or derived from torture by the same government that seeks to prosecute and execute the accused may have even greater societal costs," the military judge added.

Al-Nashiri's attorney Anthony Natale said the judge threw out



A detainee from Afghanistan is led by military police at Camp X-Ray in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Jan 11, 2022.

key evidence military prosecutors hoped to use to convict his client.

Attorneys for both Nashiri and five other suspects -- accused of involvement in the September 11 attacks and held captive and tortured for decades without trial or legal representation -- have struggled for over 10 years now in the Guantanamo military court to exclude evidence against them that was coerced through torture.

The six were captured separately after the 2001 attacks and shuttled

through CIA-run "black sites" in numerous U.S.-allied countries across the globe, such as Thailand and Poland, where they were subjected to intense torture techniques, including waterboarding, physical beatings and sleep deprivation.

Following the arrival of the captives at the Guantanamo military prison, some of them, including Nashiri were again subjected to intense interrogation and torture by FBI agents in early 2007 and other instances.

The judge's decision comes as obtaining confession from prisoners through torture remains a major violation of international law.

The U.S. military has accused Nashiri of being an Al-Qaeda recruiter that plotted various attacks on American interests in the Arabian Peninsula.

U.S. troops captured Nashiri in 2002 and transferred him to the Guantanamo prison in 2006 after he remained for four years in the custody of CIA interrogators and repeatedly tortured.

In September 2011, he was charged by a U.S. military commission on nine counts related to his alleged involvement in planning Al-Qaeda attacks.

His military trial showcased by the very entity that captured and tortured him has repeatedly faced delays, due to insistence by his assigned military lawyers that he suffered repeated torture while under detention of the CIA spy agency collaborating with U.S. military forces occupying Afghanistan and Iraq.

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But they now conform to the IRGC Navy's warnings. For instance, IRGC vessels once sailed towards a US aircraft carrier, and the warship retreated at least [nautical] 150 miles (277 kilometers)," the senior military commander said.

He went on to note that the IRGC Navy is now in possession of various types of combat, reconnaissance, surveillance and hybrid unmanned aerial vehicles and has a wide inventory of ground-based anti-ship missiles.

"We have managed to install rocket launchers on 8-meter-long fast attack craft. We are the first country in the West Asia region to manufacture a vessel, with an airstrip for drones to fly from or land on," Tangsiri said.

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charging that the occupying regime's plans to weaken the judiciary will turn Israel into chaos. No official figures have been made available on how many reservists have failed to show up for duty thus far.

Unlike most reservists who are called up for duty with a formal order for several days a year, members of top units, especially pilots, are expected to train and carry out missions more frequently and in a voluntary manner due to the nature of their positions. Many voluntarily continue their reserve duty past the exemption age of 45 for officers and 49 for certain positions.

In recent weeks, Halevi, air force head Bar and others have warned that the reservist protests are having an increasingly negative impact on military readiness, drawing rebukes from Netanyahu, other lawmakers, and supporters of the far-right, religious regime.

Netanyahu's coalition has rejected the reservists' protests as a dangerous and unprecedented form of political blackmail by the military. Some coalition lawmakers suggested the protests are tantamount to an attempted military coup.

Security officials voiced concern on Monday that, by allowing repeated public attacks on top military brass, Netanyahu was trying to shift responsibility onto them over the current harm to the state of military readiness.

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through Russia's main defensive line, said U.S. and Western officials.

But Ukraine chose to stem the losses on the battlefield and switch to a tactic of relying on smaller units to push forward across different areas of the front. That resulted in Ukraine making incremental gains in different pockets over the summer.

Kyiv has recently dedicated more reserves to the front, including Stryker and Challenger units, but has yet to break through Russia's main defensive line.

The bleak outlook, briefed to some Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill, has already prompted a blame game inside closed-door meetings, the Post said. Some Republicans are now balking at President Biden's request for an additional \$20.6 billion in Ukraine aid given the offensive's modest results. Other Republicans and, to a lesser extent, hawkish Democrats have faulted the administration for not sending more powerful weapons to Ukraine sooner.

U.S. officials reject criticisms that F-16 fighter jets or longer-range missile systems such as ATACMS would have resulted in a different outcome. "The problem remains piercing Russia's main defensive line, and there's no evidence these systems would've been a panacea," a senior administration official, quoted by the paper, said.

Analysts say the challenges Ukraine has faced are multifaceted, but nearly all agree that Russia surpassed expectations when it comes to its proficiency in defending occu-

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legacy of the Ahl al-Bayt.

Imam Baqer (AS) who was descended from both sides from the Prophet (his mother Fatema (SA) being the daughter of Imam Hasan Mojtaba (AS), told his disciple Alqama ibn Hadhrami to regularly recite it, saying:

"With face turned towards the shrine of Imam Husain (AS), first send salaams upon him and imprecate (la'nat) his killers. Then after performing a (special) two-rak'at prayer, recite the Ziyarat Ashura."

"O Alqama! If you recite this ziyarah, it is as if you have performed the pilgrimage to the shrine of Imam Husain (AS) in the manner of angels. Allah will register for you thousands and thousands of rewards and forgive your thousands and thousands of sins. The one who recites this ziyarah is exalted by 100,000 degrees while his reward would be equal to those martyred along with Imam Husain (AS), to the extent that he will share the rewards of the martyrs (of Karbala) and will be considered from among them. O Alqama, if possible, every day perform the pilgrimage of Imam Husain (AS) by (recitation of) this ziyarah."

In his Last Will the 5th Imam, who despite his magnanimous help in setting up the first ever mint in Islam to stop the flow of bullion to the Byzantine Empire, was in 114 AH (733 AD) martyred by Hisham through a poison-laced saddle, specified the holding of mourning ceremonies every year at Mena near Mecca during the Hajj to acquaint pilgrims of the sufferings of the Ahl al-Bayt for safeguarding the pure and pristine teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

Uncertainty Over Abbas Succession Rises as Fatah Prisoner Seeks Release

RAMALLAH (Middle East Eye) – A recent lobbying effort by the wife of a senior Fatah leader to release him from the Zionist regime's jail has reignited the debate about who will succeed Mahmoud Abbas as president of the Palestinian Authority (PA), which rules Palestine.

Fadwa Barghouti, wife of Marwan Barghouti, has recently met officials from Jordan, Egypt, the Arab League, Russia, the U.S. and Europe.

She is campaigning for the release of her husband, who has been serving a life sentence since 2002 in an Israeli prison over his involvement in armed resistance during the Second Intifada.

Marwan Barghouti, who ran in the now-scrapped 2021 elec-

tions, is one of the most popular Palestinian figures, and recent polls predict he would win in any electoral race.

Some reports say Fadwa's lobbying effort is aimed not just at releasing her husband but also at gathering support for him to become Abbas's successor.

Sources close to the family told Middle East Eye that the only purpose of the campaign is to get Marwan out of jail.

But her efforts have coincided with leaks to Palestinian media outlets saying that Abbas has withdrawn his support for the man who was, at least until recently, widely expected to be the next Palestinian president, Hussein al-Sheikh.

The reports, which MEE

could not independently verify, cite Fatah members as saying that Barghouti's name has been brought up as a potential successor instead.

Experts say that, despite his popularity with the public, Barghouti still faces significant obstacles to becoming the next Palestinian president, not least his imprisonment and the rivalry he faces within Fatah.

Because of this, Sheikh is still viewed as the top candidate, although many Palestinians have reservations about his credentials.

Other potential successors to Abbas include Majed Faraj, the chief of Palestinian intelligence; Mahmoud al-Aloul, a senior Fatah leader; and Mohammed Dahlan, a UAE-based

former Fatah senior leader.

In the past few years, Sheikh has developed a reputation as being one of two key confidantes to Abbas.

Both he and Faraj are seen as the president's gatekeepers and integral members of his tight-knit inner circle.

In 2022, Abbas appointed Sheikh as the secretary-general of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) executive committee, the second-top position in the organisation.

This decision was seen then as a strategic move to position the 62-year-old as successor.

Historically, numerous leaders within Fatah have aspired to this role, which involves serving as a stand-in for the president in his absence.

Hezbollah Identifies Perpetuator of Terrorist Attack in Syria

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement has received information about the presence of a terrorist that partook in Syria's al-Sayeda Zainab bombings on Ashura day, a Lebanese source reported.

Hezbollah identified the terrorist as Wissam Mazen Dallah, 23, from Al-Tall, who entered Lebanon il-

legally, Al Mayadeen reported on Saturday.

The terrorist resided in the Hay al-Sellom area and chose the last floor in case of any raid.

A security source said that the terrorist threw himself out of the window, his father and brother were arrested, and no explosive belts were found.

Hezbollah feared that the terrorist may be preparing for another terror attack, and raided the building to make sure that he would not escape, the source said.

On July 27, media sources reported that an explosion in a suburb south of the Syrian capital of Damascus killed six people and injured 46 others.

The incident occurred on al-Sudan Street in the al-Sayeda Zainab suburb, where an explosive device planted in a motorcycle near a taxicab was remotely detonated, the state-run Syrian TV reported.

The incident was the second explosion in the area within 48 hours. On July 25, a booby-trapped motorcycle blast wounded two people.

Reports: Egyptian Army Officer on Plane Seized in Zambia

CAIRO (Middle East Eye) – An Egyptian army major was reportedly aboard a private plane carrying millions of dollars in cash, gold, and weapons, that was seized by Zambian authorities earlier this week, open-source investigators have alleged.

The names of five Egyptians aboard the chartered plane were revealed in a leaked letter apparently sent by their lawyers to Nason Banda, the director general of Zambia's Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC).

The letter states that lawyers are acting on behalf of the named individuals and that they

have been held in custody since 13 August.

One of the individuals mentioned in the letter reportedly worked as an assistant military attaché with the title of a major at the Egyptian embassy in Washington in 2011 and 2012, according to U.S. State Department archives.

Another person named in the letter was a gold trader who owns several jewelry stores in Egypt.

Middle East Eye contacted the Egyptian embassy in Washington for comment but did not receive a response by the time of publication.

The private plane was flown to Zambia's

capital Lusaka from Cairo and seized by Zambian authorities on Tuesday.

It was found to contain over \$5.69m in cash, 602 suspected gold bars, and five handguns with 126 rounds of ammunition.

Ten people aboard the plane - six Egyptians, a Dutchman, a Spaniard, a Latvian, and a Zambian citizen - were arrested pending further investigation.

According to the purported letter sent by Eric Silwamba, Jalasi & Linyama Legal Practitioners - a Zambia-based law firm - to the DEC, the plane passengers were still in custody.