

EXHIBIT 54

Doctors help Guantanamo interrogators, Khadr says:

Gordon, James . The Ottawa Citizen ; Ottawa, Ont. [Ottawa, Ont]26 June 2005: A1 Front.

[ProQuest document link](#)

ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

Mr. [Omar Khadr] said when staff at the United States installation call in a psychologist, they use the code word "snowball." In a declaration filed in U.S. district court, Mr. Khadr's lawyer, Richard Wilson, said the teen described this process as a pretext when a detainee is accused of doing something wrong.

Omar Khadr, son of now-dead Canadian al-Qaeda financier, Ahmed Said Khadr, was only 15 when he was captured in Afghanistan in 2002, following a shootout with U.S. troops. The teen was shot three times after allegedly throwing a grenade and killing U.S. medic Christopher Speer.

Last Monday, the Citizen reported two recent psychiatric evaluations of Mr. Khadr suggest he is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and may be at risk of suicide. The assessments were based on notes and questionnaires administered by Mr. Khadr's lawyers during visits to Guantanamo Bay in November 2004 and April 2005.

FULL TEXT

Canadian detainee says 'snowball' is code for psychological abuse

Psychologists punish terrorism suspects jailed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for acting out by taking away their clothes, Korans and all other possessions for extended periods of time, according to the only Canadian detainee held there.

Omar Khadr, 18, recently told his American lawyers he mistrusts the U.S. military psychologists charged with assessing his mental health, because he believes they are directly connected to interrogators.

Mr. Khadr said when staff at the United States installation call in a psychologist, they use the code word "snowball." In a declaration filed in U.S. district court, Mr. Khadr's lawyer, Richard Wilson, said the teen described this process as a pretext when a detainee is accused of doing something wrong.

Examples of misbehaviour cited include spitting on a guard, throwing urine or feces, aggressive actions, or harming oneself. Mr. Khadr said psychologists have two options when a detainee becomes a danger to himself: medicate, or remove all his possessions for at least five days.

"During this time ... the detainee is left with only his underpants, even in the exercise yard, and with no personal items (thick sleeping mat, toothbrush and toothpaste, slippers, Koran, outer clothing including pants, cotton shirt and T-shirt)," reads Mr. Wilson's declaration.

It adds that if detainees don't act out or harm themselves after five days, a psychologist will instruct a guard to return one item per day until they are restored in full.

"The psychologists tell the detainees that this is for their own protection, but all of the detainees experience this as punishment."

Omar Khadr, son of now-dead Canadian al-Qaeda financier, Ahmed Said Khadr, was only 15 when he was captured in Afghanistan in 2002, following a shootout with U.S. troops. The teen was shot three times after allegedly throwing a grenade and killing U.S. medic Christopher Speer.

Last Monday, the Citizen reported two recent psychiatric evaluations of Mr. Khadr suggest he is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and may be at risk of suicide. The assessments were based on notes and questionnaires administered by Mr. Khadr's lawyers during visits to Guantanamo Bay in November 2004 and April 2005.

The U.S. government has dismissed these evaluations and insists its own reviews show that Mr. Khadr is in good health. The teen's co-counsel argued tactics like "snowball" lead his client to mistrust military psychologists and render their diagnoses unreliable, however.

Mr. Khadr "doesn't trust anyone down there ... nor should he," Muneer Ahmad said in an interview.

"The mental health staff there is seen not as there to help, but really as a pretext for punishment," he added.

"So the guards call a snowball, and they know the result is to provide a predicate or basis for removing some of the very few items the detainees have."

A Pentagon spokesperson couldn't be reached for comment, but the U.S. Justice Department recently submitted an affidavit describing conditions at Guantanamo and defending its medical staff.

Cmdr. John Edmondson, who is directly responsible for medical care at Guantanamo Bay and oversees operation of the detention hospital, said detainees always have access to doctors or nurses, including those attached to a 21-person behavioural sciences section.

"Medical care is not provided, denied, or affected by a detainee's co-operation (or not) in interrogations," Cmdr. Edmondson said in the document. "Further, medical records of detainees are not available to interrogators, and interrogations are not permitted to interfere with medical needs of detainees."

The next three pages of the report are entirely blacked out by the government.

DETAILS

People: Khadr, Omar

Lexile score: 1520 L

Publication title:	The Ottawa Citizen; Ottawa, Ont.
Pages:	A1 Front
Number of pages:	0
Publication year:	2005
Publication date:	Jun 26, 2005
Section:	News
Publisher:	Postmedia Network Inc.
Place of publication:	Ottawa, Ont.
Country of publication:	Canada, Ottawa, Ont.
Publication subject:	General Interest Periodicals--Canada
ISSN:	08393222
Source type:	Newspapers
Language of publication:	English
Document type:	News
ProQuest document ID:	240852354
Document URL:	https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/doctors-help-guantanamo-interrogators-khadr-says/docview/240852354/se-2?accountid=46320
Copyright:	(Copyright The Ottawa Citizen 2005)
Last updated:	2017-11-01
Database:	eLibrary

Database copyright © 2021 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Contact ProQuest](#)