

Exhibit C

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Egypt Asks U.S. to Hand Over Its Guantanamo Detainees

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CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt has asked the United States to hand over five detainees held at the U.S. base at Guantanamo in Cuba, the state news agency MENA said on Thursday.

Foreign Minister Ahmed About Gheit said in a written response to a parliamentary question that the United States had already moved the five Egyptians to the category of "least dangerous" detainees in the camp, where hundreds of Muslims have been detained without charges for more than two years, it said.

The Egyptian authorities, who themselves have held hundreds of people in detention without charge, have said little in the past about Egyptian citizens held at Guantanamo.

About Gheit named the five detainees as Sharif el-Mashadd, Ayman el-Martafi, Ahmed Habib, Fadel Reda el-Wakili and Adel Fathi Ali el-Gazzar. Habib also has Australian nationality.

It was not immediately clear if U.S. authorities have ever released any Egyptians detained at Guantanamo but Egyptians have played a significant role in the al Qaeda organization of Osama bin Laden.

Egypt's Islamic Jihad organization merged with al Qaeda in the 1990s under Ayman al Zawahri, the Egyptian Islamist who is now Osama bin Laden's deputy.

About Gheit said the State Department had informed Egypt of rendition procedures for Guantanamo detainees but no decision had yet been taken on the five Egyptians.

Egypt put its request to the United States after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled this year that the detainees have the right to contest their detention through the U.S. justice system.

SOURCE: Reuters