

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ISA ALI ABDULLA ALMURBATI,)	
et al.)	
)	
Petitioners,)	
)	Civil Action No. 04-1227 (RBW)
v.)	
)	
GEORGE W. BUSH, et al.,)	
)	
Respondents.)	

DECLARATION OF SANDRA L. HODGKINSON

I, Sandra L. Hodgkinson, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declare and say as follows:

1. I am the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Detainee Affairs in the Department of Defense ("DoD"). My office is organized under the office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. The office of Detainee Affairs, which I supervise, is responsible for providing policy advice to the Under Secretary of Defense on matters regarding detainees in DoD control. I have served in this position since July 9, 2007. I make this Declaration based upon my personal knowledge and upon information made available to me in the performance of my official duties.

2. On July 15, 2007, detainee Jumah Mohammed Abdullatif Aldossari (ISN 261), who is a petitioner in the above-captioned case, was removed from Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, released from United States custody and repatriated to his home country, Saudi Arabia.

3. I am familiar with the circumstances surrounding the transfer of the above-referenced petitioner. The above-referenced petitioner was transferred to the exclusive custody and control of the government of his home country for any continued investigation, detention,

and/or prosecution deemed appropriate by that country under its laws, in accordance with the policies and practices for such transfers as discussed in the attached declarations of Ambassador Clint Williamson and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Security Affairs Joseph Benkert.¹

4. In particular, the above-referenced transfer was not made for the purpose of merely continuing the petitioner's detention on behalf of the United States. Furthermore, the above-referenced transfer was not made for the purpose of extinguishing this Court's jurisdiction over the petitioner's action for habeas relief. The above-referenced transfer was made following a determination that the petitioner's detention by the United States is no longer warranted.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated July 16 2007.



Sandra L. Hodgkinson

¹ The attached declarations of Ambassador Williamson and Secretary Benkert are more up-to-date declarations addressing the policies and practices discussed in the declarations previously submitted by Ambassador Pierre-Richard Prosper (on file in this case as dkt. no. 109, Ex. C) and my predecessor, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Detainee Affairs Matthew C. Waxman (on file in this case as dkt. no. 109, Ex. B, and dkt. no. 116). In all respects relevant to the present matter, the new declarations describe the same policies and practices as those described in the Prosper and Waxman declarations.

EXHIBIT 1

DECLARATION OF JOSEPH BENKERT

I, Joseph Benkert, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declare and say as follows:

1. I am the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Security Affairs in the Department of Defense ("DoD"). My office is organized under the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. I oversee the Office of Detainee Affairs, which is responsible for providing policy advice to the Under Secretary of Defense on matters regarding detainees in DoD control. I have served in this position since November of 2006. The statements in paragraphs 5 through 8 of this Declaration provide a general overview of the process of transferring detainees in DoD control at the United States Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba ("GTMO"), to the control of a foreign government. These statements are not intended to be an exhaustive description of all of the steps that might be undertaken in particular cases, but rather they reflect United States policy and practices with respect to transfers of detainees from GTMO. I make this Declaration based upon my personal knowledge and upon information made available to me in the performance of my official duties.

2. One of DoD's current missions is to use all necessary and appropriate force to defeat the al Qaeda terrorist network and its supporters. In the course of that campaign – which remains ongoing – the United States and its allies have captured thousands of individuals overseas, virtually all of whom are foreign nationals. Through a screening and evaluation process, DoD determines whether the individuals should be detained during the conflict as enemy combatants. Approximately 380 foreign nationals are being held by DoD at GTMO.

3. It is lawful and appropriate for DoD to detain enemy combatants as long as hostilities are ongoing. Nonetheless, DoD has no interest in detaining enemy combatants longer than necessary. Accordingly, DoD is conducting at least annual reviews of GTMO detainees who have been determined to be enemy combatants but have not been referred to military commission to determine whether continued detention is warranted based on factors such as whether the detainee continues to pose a threat to the United States and its allies. Where continued detention is deemed no longer necessary, a detainee may be transferred to the control of another government for release. Furthermore, the United States also transfers GTMO detainees, under appropriate circumstances, to the control of other governments for possible detention, investigation, and/or prosecution when those governments are willing to accept responsibility for ensuring, consistent with their laws, that the detainees will not continue to pose a threat to the United States and its allies. Such governments can include the government of a detainee's home country, or a country other than the detainee's home country that may have a law enforcement, prosecution, or other interest in the detainee.

4. Since 2002, approximately 395 detainees have departed Guantanamo for other countries including Albania, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Yemen.

5. When the DoD transfers GTMO detainees to the control of other governments for continued detention, investigation, and/or prosecution, the DoD does so after dialogue with the receiving government. Such dialogue may be initiated by the receiving government or may be initiated by the United States. In either situation, the purpose of the dialogue is to ascertain or establish what measures the receiving government intends to take, pursuant to its own domestic laws and independent determinations, that will ensure that the detainee will not pose a continuing

threat to the United States and its allies. In all such cases of transfer for continued detention, investigation, and/or prosecution, as appropriate, as well as situations in which the detainee is transferred for release, the detainee is transferred entirely to the custody and control of the other government, and once transferred, is no longer in the custody and control of the United States; the individual is detained, if at all, by the foreign government pursuant to its own laws and not on behalf of the United States. When detainees are transferred to the custody or control of their home governments, it is frequently the case that the home government takes the detainee into its custody, at least for an initial period. In some cases, the home government has subsequently released the detainee, sometimes after a period of questioning or investigation, while in other cases, the detainees have remained in confinement or subject to other restrictions in their home countries for various reasons based on the determinations and laws of the home government. Of the GTMO detainees who have been transferred by the DoD to the control of their home countries, most have subsequently been released from detention.

6. Once a DoD transfer of a GTMO detainee is proposed, including for possible detention, investigation, and/or prosecution, the views of interested United States Government agencies are considered. For such a transfer, it is the policy of the United States, consistent with the approach taken by the United State in implementing the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, not to repatriate or transfer individuals to other countries where it believes it is more likely than not that they will be tortured. Therefore, if a transfer is deemed appropriate, a process is undertaken, typically involving the Department of State, in which appropriate assurances regarding the detainee's treatment are sought from the country to whom the transfer of the detainee is proposed. The

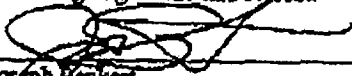
Declaration of Ambassador Clint Williamson dated June 8, 2007, accurately and completely describes that process to the best of my information and belief.

7. The ultimate decision to transfer a detainee to the control of another government is made with the involvement of senior United States Government officials. The Secretary of Defense or his designee ultimately approves a transfer deemed to be appropriate. Decisions on transfers are made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the particular circumstances of the transfer, the country, and the detainee concerned, as well as any assurances received from the receiving government. If a case were to arise in which the assurances obtained from the receiving government are not sufficient when balanced against treatment concerns, the United States would not transfer a detainee to the control of that government unless the concerns were satisfactorily resolved. Circumstances have arisen in the past where the Department of Defense elected not to transfer detainees to their country of origin because of torture concerns.

8. As noted in the Declaration of Clint Williamson, transfers of detainees are extremely sensitive matters that involve diplomatic relations with other countries, as well as the law enforcement and intelligence interests of other countries. Requiring the United States to unilaterally disclose information about proposed transfers and negotiations outside of appropriate executive branch agencies could adversely affect the relationship of the United States with other countries and impede our country's ability to obtain vital cooperation from concerned governments with respect to military, law enforcement, and intelligence efforts, including with respect to our joint efforts in the war on terrorism. Judicial review, including the possible overturning of decisions to transfer and delays in transfers occasioned by review and possible appeals, could lead to similar harm.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on June 8, 2007.



Joseph Henker

EXHIBIT 2

DECLARATION OF CLINT WILLIAMSON

I, Clint Williamson, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, hereby declare and say as follows:

1. I am the Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues and have supervised the operation of the Department of State Office of War Crimes Issues (S/WCI) since July 10, 2006. In that capacity I advise the Secretary of State directly and formulate U.S. policy responses to serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in areas of conflict throughout the world. As the President's envoy, I travel worldwide and engage foreign government leaders and international organizations to build bilateral and international support for U.S. policies related to accountability for atrocities committed in armed conflicts and other violations of international humanitarian law. Since September 11, 2001, S/WCI has played a key role in maintaining a diplomatic dialogue with foreign governments whose nationals have been captured in connection with the armed conflict with the Taliban and al Qaeda and who are detained at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The following statements provide a general overview of the Department of State role in carrying out United States policy with respect to the transfer to foreign governments of detainees held by the Department of Defense at Guantanamo Bay and the process that is followed to ensure that any international obligations and United States policies are properly implemented. These statements are not intended to be an exhaustive description of all of the steps that might be undertaken in any particular case, but do reflect United States policy and practices with respect to transfers from Guantanamo. I make these statements based upon my personal knowledge and upon information made available to me in the performance of my official duties.

2. The United States has no interest in detaining enemy combatants longer than necessary. The paramount goal is to ensure, to the maximum extent reasonably possible, that transferring a detainee out of U.S. Government control prior to the cessation of hostilities will not increase the risk of further attacks on the United States or its allies. The Secretary of Defense, or his designee, is generally responsible for approving the transfer of detainees from Department of Defense control at Guantanamo Bay to other governments either for release or for possible detention, investigation, prosecution or control, as appropriate. On an ongoing basis, the Department of Defense reviews the continued detention of each individual it holds at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba. Since 2002, approximately 395 detainees have departed Guantanamo for other countries including Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tajikistan, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Yemen.

3. The Department of Defense consults with appropriate United States Government agencies, including the Department of State, before determining whether to transfer particular individuals. Detainees have been transferred for release when it was determined that they no longer meet the criteria of enemy combatants or no longer pose a continuing threat to the U.S. security interests. Detainees have been transferred to their governments of nationality for possible detention, investigation, prosecution or control, as appropriate, when those governments were willing to accept responsibility for ensuring, consistent with their laws, that the detainees will not continue to pose a threat to the United States and its allies. A detainee may be considered for transfer to a country other than his country of nationality, such as in

circumstances where that country requests transfer of the detainee for purposes of criminal prosecution.

4. Of particular concern to the Department of State in making recommendations on transfers is the question of whether the foreign government concerned will treat the detainee humanely, in a manner consistent with its international obligations, and will not persecute the individual on the basis of his race, religion, nationality, membership in a social group, or political opinion. The Department is particularly mindful of the longstanding policy of the United States not to transfer a person to a country if it determines that it is more likely than not that the person will be tortured or, in appropriate cases, that the person has a well-founded fear of persecution and would not be disqualified from persecution protection on criminal- or security-related grounds. This policy is consistent with the approach taken by the United States in implementing the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. The Department of State works closely with the Department of Defense and relevant agencies to advise on the likelihood of persecution or torture in a given country and the adequacy and credibility of assurances obtained from a particular foreign government prior to any transfer.

5. The Department of State generally has responsibility to communicate on transfer-related matters as between the United States and foreign governments. The Department of State receives requests from foreign governments for the transfer of detainees and forwards such requests to the Department of Defense for coordination with appropriate Departments and agencies of the United States Government. The Department of State also communicates requests from the United States to foreign governments to accept the transfer of their nationals.

6. Once the Department of Defense has approved a transfer from Guantanamo Bay and requests the assistance of the Department of State, my office would facilitate transfer discussions with the foreign government concerned. The primary purpose of these discussions is to learn what measures the receiving government is likely to take to ensure that the detainee will not pose a continuing threat to the United States or its allies and to obtain appropriate transfer assurances. My office seeks assurances that the United States Government considers necessary and appropriate for the country in question. Among the assurances sought in every transfer case in which continued detention by the government concerned is foreseen is the assurance of humane treatment and treatment in accordance with the international obligations of the foreign government accepting transfer. The Department of State considers whether the State in question is party to the relevant treaties, such as the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and ensures that assurances are tailored accordingly if the State concerned is not a party or other circumstances warrant.

7. Decisions with respect to Guantanamo detainees are made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the particular circumstances of the transfer, the country, the individual concerned, and any concerns regarding torture or persecution that may arise. Recommendations by the Department of State are decided at senior levels through a process involving Department officials most familiar with international legal standards and obligations and the conditions in the countries concerned. Within the Department of State, my office, together with the Office of the Legal Adviser, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, and the relevant regional bureau, normally evaluate foreign government assurances in light of the circumstances of the individual concerned, and, if deemed appropriate, brief the

Secretary or other Department Principals before finalizing the position of the Department of State. The views of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, which drafts the U.S. Government's annual Human Rights Reports,¹ and of the relevant regional bureau, country desk, or U.S. Embassy are important in evaluating foreign government assurances and any individual persecution or torture claims, because they are knowledgeable about matters such as human rights, prison conditions, and prisoners' access to counsel, in general and as they may apply to a particular case in the foreign country concerned, as well as particular information about the entity or individual that is offering the assurance in any particular case.

8. The essential question in evaluating foreign government assurances relating to humane treatment is whether the competent Department of State officials believe it is more likely than not that the individual will be tortured in the country to which he is being transferred. In determining whether it is "more likely than not" that an individual would be tortured, the United States takes into account the treatment the individual is likely to receive upon transfer, including, *inter alia*, the expressed commitments of officials from the foreign government accepting transfer. When evaluating the adequacy of any assurances, Department officials consider the identity, position, or other information concerning the official relaying the assurances, and political or legal developments in the foreign country concerned that would provide context for the assurances provided. Department officials may also consider U.S. diplomatic relations with the country concerned when evaluating assurances. For instance, Department officials may make a judgment regarding foreign government's incentives and capacities to fulfill its

¹ The Human Rights Reports are the official State Department reports to Congress on human rights conditions in individual countries for a given year as mandated by law (sections 116(d) and 502(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and section 505(c) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended).

assurances to the United States, including the importance to the government concerned of maintaining good relations and cooperation with the United States. In an appropriate case, the Department of State may also consider seeking the foreign government's assurance of access by governmental or non-governmental entities in the country concerned to monitor the condition of an individual returned to that country, or of U.S. Government access to the individual for such purposes. In instances in which the United States transfers an individual subject to assurances, it would pursue any credible report and take appropriate action if it had reason to believe that those assurances would not be, or had not been, honored. In an instance in which specific concerns about the treatment an individual may receive cannot be resolved satisfactorily, we have in the past and would in the future recommend against transfer, consistent with the United States policy.

9. The Department of State's ability to seek and obtain assurances from a foreign government depends in part on the Department's ability to treat its dealings with the foreign government with discretion. Consistent with the diplomatic sensitivities that surround the Department's communications with foreign governments concerning allegations relating to torture, the Department of State does not unilaterally make public the specific assurances or other precautionary measures obtained in order to avoid the chilling effects of making such discussions public and the possible damage to our ability to conduct foreign relations. Seeking assurances may be seen as raising questions about the requesting State's institutions or commitment to the rule of law, even in cases where the assurances are sought to highlight the issue for the country concerned and satisfy the Department that the country is aware of the concerns raised and is in a position to undertake a commitment of humane treatment of a

particular individual. There also may be circumstances where it may be important to protect sources of information (such as sources within a foreign government) about a government's willingness or capability to abide by assurances concerning humane treatment or relevant international obligations.

10. If the Department were required to disclose outside appropriate Executive branch channels its communications with a foreign government relating to particular mistreatment or torture concerns, that government, as well as other governments, would likely be reluctant in the future to communicate frankly with the United States concerning such issues. I know from experience that the delicate diplomatic exchange that is often required in these contexts cannot occur effectively except in a confidential setting. Later review in a public forum of the Department's dealings with a particular foreign government regarding transfer matters would seriously undermine our ability to investigate allegations of mistreatment or torture that come to our attention and to reach acceptable accommodations with other governments to address those important concerns.

11. The Department's recommendation concerning transfer relies heavily on the facts and analyses provided by various offices within the Department, including its Embassies. Confidentiality is often essential to ensure that the advice and analysis provided by these offices are useful and informative for the decision-maker. If those offices are expected to provide candid and useful assessments, they normally need to know that their reports will not later be publicly disclosed or brought to the attention of officials and others in the foreign States with which they deal on a regular basis. Such disclosure could deter important sources of information and could

interfere with the ability of our foreign relations personnel to interact effectively with foreign State officials.

12. Without addressing the specifics of any particular individual, any judicial review of a transfer decision by the United States Government or the diplomatic dialogue with a foreign government concerning the terms of transfer could seriously undermine our foreign relations. Moreover, such review or consequent decision to enjoin a detainee transfer, either altogether or until further order of the court, inevitably would encumber and add delays to what is already a lengthy process. These delays could undermine a foreign government's ability to prosecute detainees, harm the United States' efforts to press other countries to act more expeditiously in bringing terrorists and their supporters to justice, and undermine the United States' ability to reduce the numbers of individuals under U.S. control at Guantanamo.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on June 8, 2007.



Clint Williamson