

# 'Govt must use all options to hasten Gitmos release'

Two Kuwaitis in indefinite US detention

By Nihal Sharaf  
Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov. 8: Kuwaiti Guantanamo Bay detainee, Fayez Al-Kandari was sold to the US forces 10 years ago. He was captured trying to leave Afghanistan where he was doing charity work and is now facing indefinite detention without trial, says his Defense Council, Lt Col Barry Wingard.**

Lt Col Wingard, who works for the US Air Force, was speaking at a press conference on Monday following a meeting with parliament officials that discussed ways in which the Kuwaiti government can fast track the release of Al-Kandari and another Kuwaiti detainee, Fawzi Al-Odah. Kuwait may send a delegation to the US in that regard.

At present, two of the previous four prisoners were released to the Kuwaiti government, Fouad Mahmoud Al-Rabiah and Khalid Abdullah Mishaal Al-Mutairi.

The meeting was held with Interior and Defense Affairs Committee Chairman, MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri as well as MP Mohammed Hayef, MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei and Kuwaiti Lawyer, Adel Abdulhadi, who is part of the detainees' defense committee assigned by the Pentagon.

The defense attorney said that there isn't enough evidence that the detainees are guilty and that it's all kept secret. He asserted his purpose is to try and push for a proper judiciary system. Furthermore, Wingard revealed that Al-Kandari has been systematically abused and deprived from sleep and he is living in a cage without any hope of release.

What the detainees are currently facing is indefinite detention, he said, which will be enforced if their respective countries do not intervene.

US President Barack Obama had promised to close the controversial detention center by the end of 2009 and put the detainees on trial or hand them over to their countries of origin. However, the promise was made during his election campaign and he is yet to fulfill his word, added Wingard.

On his part, MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri called on the government to use its entire legal and diplomatic forces to hasten the release of Guantanamo Bay's Kuwaiti detainees. He expressed his disappointment that the US has decided to continue the indefinite detention of captives.

MP Mohammed Hayef added that it is unacceptable to continue and watch the suffering of Kuwaiti children in an illegal prison that contradicts all human right laws. He asserted that he fully supports sending a delegation to the camp to assess the situation.

Furthermore, attorney Adel Abdulhadi announced that he will send a telegram to the White House and the American Embassy requesting a meeting with President Obama to push for the shutting down of Guantanamo Bay.

On another note, the Lord Mayor of London, Nick Anstee, was at the National Assembly on Monday for a meeting and an informative discussion with Parliament Speaker, Jassem Al-Khorafi.

Anstee, who also met with His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, discussed with the speaker key issues pertaining to bilateral trade between the two countries, "particularly in light of the impending anniversary of 2011."

"I'm looking forward to continuing my discussions and I know that many other senior high level figures will be following me through this country to

work out how we can mutually benefit our respective economies," he said.

In February of this year, a parliament bill was approved in order to enhance transparency and attract more foreign investors. Anstee had praised the decision and said that foreign investors will boost the Kuwaiti economy by diversifying ownership, introducing capital and expertise and providing jobs, training and business opportunities for Kuwaiti

nationals."

"Working with two economies, one future is the slogan I operate with. It is meaningful and it is sustainable and I am sure many of my other business colleagues in the United Kingdom look forward to coming here. We certainly welcome Kuwaiti businesses in London and I have a magnificent relationship with Eid Al-Rashidi who runs the Kuwait Investment Authority in London," he stressed.

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