



November 18, 2010

Rt. Hon. William Hague  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London

*Re: Shaker Aamer & Guantánamo Bay*

Dear Mr Hague:

I am writing to you urgently from Miami International Airport. I have just flown in from Guantánamo Bay where I visited Shaker Aamer yesterday. While there are aspects of that visit that I may not divulge due to US classification rules, I am permitted to relay my impressions, as well as detail the materials that were unclassified yesterday.

These give great cause for concern. Mr Aamer has suffered abuse that is unfathomable in the twenty-first century. One of the many areas of concern is his physical health.

Mr Aamer has now been held in isolation for more than two years. The US authorities may quibble about the term "isolation" (they have been known to do so in the past), but nothing can change the fact that Mr Aamer has been held in a solitary cell for that time, and much more over the past ten years. He has been thus punished because he continues to insist on the most basic elements of justice: that he be given a fair trial.

He has listed for counsel the following physical ailments that currently afflict him:

- Arthritis in the knees and fingers, stemming from his abuse in custody;
- Serious asthma problems (exacerbated, almost to the point of asphyxiation, when the US military sprays him with pepper spray during their periodic forcible cell extractions, of FCE's);
- Heartburn and acid reflux exacerbated by the diet;
- Prostate pain, with serious problems with urination;
- Problems with his ears, including the loss of balance and dizziness;

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- Neck, shoulder and back pain resulting from the beatings that he has suffered;
- Serious infection of his nails;
- Ring worm and itchiness between his legs;
- Constant hemorrhoids and rectal pain;
- Extreme Kidney pain.

He also complains of E-N-T problems, serious insomnia, nerve problems in his right leg, and so forth. I can directly attest to various of these problems. For example, if the US insists that his food is of good quality, I can tell you that I tasted the lunch that he was given yesterday and it was revolting. I observed the infection of his left thumb, his right thumb, and his right index and middle finger nails, and it is like nothing I have seen before, rendering the nail soft and crumbling off the digit.

I do not think it is stretching matters to say that he is gradually dying in Guantánamo Bay.

This makes it all the more urgent that we get an independent medical assessment of him. However, ultimately there is only one solution, which is to get him out of Guantánamo Bay, home to his family in London. I should note that on February 14<sup>th</sup> he will have been in Guantánamo Bay for ten years; the anniversary coincides with the tenth birthday of his youngest child, who he has never met.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,



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cc. Shaker Aamer Esq.  
Gareth Peirce  
US legal team

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