

Tariq Mahmoud Ahmed Al Sawah



Tariq Mahmud Ahmad's Guantanamo portrait ID

November 2, 1957 (age 55)

[Alexandria, Egypt](#)

[Egypt](#)

[Guantanamo](#)

[ISN](#)

535

Charge(s)

Charges filed on December 16, 2008.
Charges dismissed on March 1, 2012.

Status

[extrajudicial detention](#)



Body Mass Index (BMI)

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40+



Normal



Overweight



Obese
Class I



Obese
Class II



Obese
Class III



Affidavit provided to attorneys

Torture

- “I saw Tarek tortured and his mental deterioration begin”
- Frequent beatings and insults
- Detainees thrown in pile (with clothes off) and stomped on
- Naked, humiliation
- Conditions of confinement
- Leg wound: “He would beg the doctor for painkillers”



Affidavit provided to attorneys

Mental health – “completely mentally ill”

- “he became like an animal”
- “talking to himself”
- Screaming and banging on the cell- “there is fire in the cell”
- Screamed all night, every night”
- “it was difficult to get a sentence that made any sense”
- Defecate on himself and in cell
- Punished with FCE, isolation



Affidavit provided to attorneys

Enticed with food to “provide information”

- “He was hungry in an abnormal way... he was addicted to food”
- “The interrogators used starvation and Tarek’s mental state to their advantage”
- “Keep food from him for long periods of time but give him food at interrogations”
- “They want words and I want food”
- ”He explained that the interrogators gave him a crazy amount of food”





Detention continues for last Egyptian in Guantanamo, despite deteriorating health

Author: Tom Dale

There are fears for the life of the last Egyptian detained in the US Guantanamo Bay facility. His health appears to be deteriorating, even as developments in his legal case provide hope that he may one day be released.

Authorities are refusing specialist medical treatment, or even to allow his lawyer to view his medical records.

Tariq al-Sawah, born in Alexandria in 1957, is not charged with any crime. A previous Egypt Independent investigation told Sawah's story and pointed to the errors and inconsistencies in leaked US government documents recording allegations against him.

Sawah was volunteering in a refugee camp for Bosnians fleeing Serb ethnic cleansing in 1992 when he became involved with a Mujahideen Brigade fighting for the Bosnian cause. When the war ended, he settled in Bosnia, married and had a daughter.



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

TARIQ MAHMOUD ALSAWAM,;

Petitioner, :

v. : 05-cv-1244 (CKK)

BARACK OBAMA, et al., :

Respondents. :

DECLARATION OF SONDRA CROSBY, M.D.

I, Sondra Crosby, M.D., hereby declare:

1. I am an Associate Professor of Medicine and Public Health, at the Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health, in the Departments of Medicine, and Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights, and a member of the Section of General Internal Medicine at Boston Medical Center. I am board certified in internal medicine and my clinical practice focuses on the care of asylum seekers, asylees, and refugees. I also practice inpatient medicine at Boston Medical Center, a tertiary care hospital. I have taught both nationally and

Medical Issues

- Chest pain and shortness of breath with minimal activity not responsive to medications
- Presumed OSA- sleeps sitting up- no testing
 - Falls asleep during attorney meetings
- Chronic nasal congestion
- Testing and treatment delayed for years, despite recommendations from military subspecialists



- Diabetes
- Hyperlipidemia
- Hypertension
- Osteoarthritis
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Neurocognitive decline



Mental Health

“Mr. El Sawah’s mental state has worsened and he appears apathetic with diminished will to live”

Stephen Xenakis, M.D., Aug 14, 2013



Recommendations

- A sleep study (polysomnography) followed by appropriate treatment
- Pulmonary evaluation
- Testing for cardiac disease (nuclear stress testing)
- Treatment for obesity



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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

RECEIVED

OCT 15 2013

Clerk, U.S. District and
Bankruptcy Courts

TARIQ MAHMOUD ALSAWAM,)
)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.)
)
 BARACK H. OBAMA, et al.,)
)
 Respondents.)

Civil Action No. 05-CV-1244 (CKK)

FILED UNDER SEAL

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**RESPONDENTS' SUR-REPLY TO
PETITIONER'S EMERGENCY MOTION FOR MEDICAL CARE**

DoD Response- October 15, 2013

- “he is being provided with high quality comprehensive medical care”
- Following the Sept declaration, Mr. El-Sawah was seen by a cardiologist, OTO, pulmonologist, nutritionist, PT
- PFTs, ABG performed
- Given a Bi-PAP machine
- “recommended echocardiogram”



DoD Response

Returned to “normal meal plan” August 2013

- “In the past, Petitioner was offered additional meals and ate excessive quantities of food, often exceeding 6000 calories per day... before reaching his current weight, he was repeatedly counseled to control his eating habits...”
- Behavioral Health offered monthly- “ Petitioner has demonstrated minimal participation in clinical meetings.”



Informed and voluntary refusal

- DoD alleges “patient is refusing care”
- Specifically the DoD refers to Mr. El-Sawah’s refusal to “consume fewer calories and exercise”
- Refusal to be shackled while transported to medical appointments (June 2013)



Discussion Points

- Medical obligation to protect patient from harm (extreme obesity)
 - Responsibilities of physicians
- Compromised trust- voluntary refusal
- Rapid turnover- no continuity or “ownership”
- Regulations, policies, SOPs in conflict with medical care (over-eating, shackles)
- Mental Health
- Population becoming chronically ill with complex needs not available at GTMO

