

CAGEPRISONERS

Testimony of Rangzieb Ahmed

Rangzieb Ahmed had a difficult childhood in Pakistan due to ill relations with his step-mother. Having run away from her at the age of sixteen, he spent time working for a minibus company in the district of Didyal until he was brought back home by his paternal uncle.

A year after his return home, Ahmed with his friend Saleem went for one of their walks around the mountainous area of Azad Kashmir. Unbeknownst to them, they had strayed into the line of control and into Indian occupied Jammu Kashmir. They had only wandered one kilometre beyond the line when an Indian patrol ambushed them. At the time, the two friends had only a bottle of water and some food on them. Due to the absence of any weapons on their person, they were not fired at. However both men were arrested and taken to the town of Rahjourey in the district of Pungh. At that time, the two were separated. Rangzieb has not seen Saleem since.

Ahmed was transported to Srinagar by an army helicopter and was eventually handed over to the Board of Security Forces and taken to the infamous Papha Thong interrogation centre. He was detained there for seventeen months while the Indian security services investigated his presence. During his detention he was abused and tortured including beatings with sticks, electric shocks to his testicles, thighs and temples, and water boarding.

Ahmed was never charged with any crime as there was no evidence to suggest he had ever been involved with any militancy; however a charge was brought of entering the disputed Jammu territory illegally and for this offence he was sentenced to six months. With receiving the sentence he was released after having already served over seven years in custody.

Upon his release, he returned to the UK on 13th July 2001. Attempting to rehabilitate himself into the society, he held a number of retail jobs as well as trying to undertake some courses. Over the course of the next four years Ahmed would travel to Pakistan twice; once, in order to settle a family inheritance dispute after the death of his father and then later in August 2005 at the time of the earthquake in Pakistan. Already in Islamabad, Ahmed decided to volunteer for the NGO Al-Qasim, who was seeking volunteers to distribute aid to the earthquake affected regions. Due to the confusion and lack of mobility during the initial days, he decided to leave Kashmir as he was not comfortable with his lack of involvement and soon returned to the UK. After earning enough money working for his sister in Manchester, Ahmed decided to return to Pakistan again in January 2006 to formally take part in the relief efforts.

Travel to Pakistan

I returned to Pakistan in 2006. I left the UK on 17th January 2006 from Manchester Airport and arrived in Islamabad on 18th January 2006. This was a direct flight and I travelled alone. Upon reaching Islamabad I travelled to my home village in Kotli and went to my father's house. My step mother and children were not there at the time as she had settled in the UK (Sheffield). I understand that she was given leave to enter the UK on the basis that her children were British nationals. I went to see my uncle because the whole purpose of me travelling to Pakistan was in order to settle a land dispute amicably with him. I stayed approximately 2-3 days because we could not reach an agreement and we began to argue. My uncle refused to settle the dispute and to divide the land between the family.

I travelled to Islamabad from the village. When I went to Pakistan I had no more than £1,000 in sterling which I had saved in the UK. I went to see friends in the 1-9 area which is on the outskirts of the city. My friend resided with his family and I stayed with him for approximately 2 weeks. During my stay in Islamabad I had heard that there was a relief effort for the earthquake victims, which was still ongoing so I decided to make enquiries as to what assistance I could offer. I travelled on a single ticket so there were no time restraints on my return to the UK. I had been granted a visa just before departure from the Pakistan consulate in Manchester for 3 months.

I got in touch with the Al-Qasim Foundation in Islamabad which was still based in the Red Mosque. They confirmed that they needed volunteers. The next day I was sent to Vadia Lay which is on the northern tip of Pakistan near the mountain ranges. Approximately 20-25 people travelled from Islamabad by road. It took about 5-6 hours to reach the camp. There were a number of organisations already based in the town which included UNICEF, Al-Rashid Trust, MQM and others from within Pakistan. The area was very difficult to move around in due to the mountainous terrain and the effect of the earthquake which made the roads impassable. The only mode of transport was by way of horse, donkey or camel to deliver relief supplies. The camp was set up in the area where I stayed for a few days and distributed relief around surrounding villages to return back to base camp. I stayed in Vadia Lay for over one month.

I was then told to go to Badgama Buttle, North West Frontier Province where I stayed for approximately two months. At the time I was conscious of the fact that my visa was due to expire in April 2006. Approximately 10 people travelled from Vadia Lay to Badgama. We joined others who had already set up camp. Also based there was the Pakistani army, Chinese relief workers, Turkish organisations and UNICEF amongst others. We would distribute relief around surrounding areas. However, during these two months I travelled to Islamabad, Government Office near parliament house to an area called Secretariat. The purpose of my travel was to renew my visa application.

I decided to take a break for approximately two months and travelled to various scenic spots in Pakistan which included Murhee where I stayed for 3-4 days in a hotel, and Agupia which is near Murhee. I stayed there for a few days before returning back to Islamabad where I stayed in various places within the capital.

In May 2006 I stayed with my friend Akram who I had met in 2005 when working for the Al - Qasim Foundation and we had become good friends. He was living with his parents and wife and children at the time.

During my short break I returned to Islamabad in July 2006 and offered my services to the same organisation. I was sent to Balakot where a camp was already established. I travelled from Islamabad by road which took approximately 3-4 hours. I stayed at the camp which was based in the town centre. Other organisations included the Al-Rashid Trust, Cuban teams, UNICEF,

teams from the United Arab Emirates, teams from China, the Pakistani army and other independent organisations.

My role along with others was to distribute corrugated iron sheets in order to erect temporary shelters for the people who were in the area. The area around Balakot is surrounded by mountains and is extremely rough terrain. Some villages were so remote that they were too difficult to get to and the only mode of transport was by donkey or horses. We would deliver the corrugated iron and other teams would assist in erecting temporary shelters. I did this work on a daily basis until 20 August 2006 when I decided to go to Islamabad for a break to see my friend Akram.

Arrest

I left Balakot after dawn at approximately 7am. I travelled from Balakot to Mansira by bus. I arrived at approximately 8am and commissioned a taxi to take me to Islamabad. About 45 minutes to 1 hour into the journey the driver who was a dark skinned male, clean shaven, black short hair, wearing traditional Pakistani clothing and was in a white unmarked saloon, decided to stop in a town called Haripur to buy some cigarettes. He got out of the car and went into the shop. As he went into the shop, within seconds three vehicles with approximately 15 males came out of these vehicles. I was sitting in the front passenger seat at the time. I recall that 5-6 males approached the passenger side of the vehicle, opened the door and one male grabbed both my hands pushed them together and pulled me out of the car. I was pulled out of the car and made to stand facing them with my back to the vehicle at which point two of the males searched me.

They took my glasses, my British passport, 10,000 rupees, £300 sterling and two mobile phones. A number of other males went to the rear passenger seat and took my bag which contained three pairs of clothing, a pair of glasses, a pair of shoes and other toiletries. I saw a male get out of another car and approach me. He seemed to be the lead figure or the individual in charge as he was dressed differently in that he was wearing trousers and a shirt. The others were in traditional dress. He was an Asian male, medium build, black moustache, black hair and light skinned. Out of the 15 males 5-6 of them were police officers in full uniform. They were different from the national police officers that these individuals were wearing black uniforms with elite force in capitals and bold inscribed on their clothing. They all had weapons and standing in front of the car. When I was pulled out of the car the males in the plain clothes did not say who they were but when I saw the police I knew that they were authorities so I complied with every direction. The male in the trouser and shirt asked me my name and took both my mobiles from me and told one of the males to get my bag from the car and walked back towards the car he came out of.

As I was taken to this vehicle I looked to my right and saw the male with the shirt and trousers standing outside the car immediately to my right with the front passenger door open. I recall what was unusual about this vehicle was that I clearly saw a female sitting in the back of the vehicle dressed in traditional Pakistan clothing with a head scarf pulled over her face as to disguise it. This I found quite unusual as this is not how it is worn and more importantly certainly not in the circumstances she was in, i.e. with the males that she was with who were police officers or security officials. I recall that both the front seat passenger and rear seat passenger doors were open and the male in the shirt and trousers was still standing outside the front seat passenger's door and the female was sitting directly behind the front passenger seat. What I found distinguishing and which caught my attention were her hands which were holding the back of the front passenger seat. The reason why this caught my attention was because her hands were very pale and that coupled with her trying to disguise her face immediately led me to believe that she was a white female, possibly British/American. I certainly believe that this individual was not part of Pakistani security service or intelligence services.

After the handcuffs were applied two pairs of shackles were put around my ankles. The doors were shut and then one of the males got a cloth hood and put it over my head; the effect of which was that I could not see anything. A blanket was then placed over me. The vehicle started moving. The male on my left who was the one who pulled me out of the taxi began to talk to me in Urdu. He told me not to worry and they just wanted to ask me some questions; that they would feed me and let me go.

About 30 minutes into the journey I asked for some water and at this point they took a bottle out of my belongings and lifted the hood above my nose and put the bottle to my mouth. This was the only time the hood was lifted during the journey. I did not hear any of them talking to each other during the journey but the one next to me kept on moving so I assumed that they were

using some kind of body/sign language to communicate. I recall that I was asked if I was a foreign national to which I replied, yes, that my father was from Kotli, Kashmir. About 1 hour into the journey a mobile phone rang and the individual to the left of me answered and he spoke in Pashto at which point I realised that he was of Afghan decent.

The journey took in total two hours. We only stopped a few minutes on route - I'm not entirely sure where that was and for what reasons. After 2 hours the vehicle stopped, I was led out of the vehicle from the left side, still in handcuffs and a hood placed over my head. I had no idea where I was at that stage. I was held by my left hand and walked approximately 10-15 ft and then led down some stairs which were approximately 20 in number. At this stage I was extremely terrified, scared as to what was happening to me and what these people were going to do to me.

I was led into a room and sat on a chair, at which point one set of handcuffs and one set of shackles were taken off. The hood was then also removed a few minutes later. I recall that when I was detained in the market area, sitting in the taxi, there were a number of people looking to see what was going on but no one intervened.

The two males who took me into the room left and a few minutes' later two males came in wearing shirts and trousers. From this I assumed that they were ranking officers. The first male I can describe as medium build, light skinned, black moustache. The second male was quite tall, very fair, small brown beard, cat's eyes, and medium muscular build. They both sat at the desk in front of me and faced me. The room was approximately 15 by 15ft and fitted with an air conditioning unit on the ceiling, orange walls and no windows. The floor was covered in tiles and I noticed a glass chest of drawers to my left in front of me. I saw a small camera fitted in this chest of drawers.

I was asked my name and whether I was from Pakistan and what I was doing in Pakistan. I told them that I was assisting the earthquake relief. They asked me which Islamic organisation I worked with to which I replied none. They asked me what my plans were and what Al-Qaeda was up to. I told the man that I had no dealings with any such organisation and that I had nothing to say. They then left the room after asking these questions. A short while later, someone came from behind me and put the hood over my head. A few minutes later another male came in, slim, very dark skin, black moustache and took off the hood. He then took off my handcuffs and the leg shackles. I was then told to take off my clothes and to get changed into some bottoms and sweatshirt which were dark orange in colour. This reminded me of those detained in Guantanamo Bay. I got changed into these clothes and the same individuals brought some forms and began to ask me some questions; namely my name, UK and Pakistani address, D.O.B. family names, brothers' and sisters' names and parents' names. He also asked me what school I went to, the level of education I had achieved and my employment history. He then asked me what terrorist organisation I worked with and again I denied working with any such organisation. Having completed the forms, he put some black ink on my hands and took a full set of palm fingerprints and my photograph. He then put the handcuffs and shackles back on and put the hood over my head and left the room.

A few minutes later two different males came in and took my hood off at which point I saw two males sitting in front of me on the opposite side of the desk. Both of these individuals sat in front, they asked me who had sent me to Pakistan and I told them that I had come on my own and no one had sent me. They also asked me who took me to North Waziristan. Again I replied that no one took me there as I had never been there.

Abuse

They were sitting in front of me when the male in the suit got up on the right side of the table and came up to my right side. He began to hit me hard around my head. He hit me 5-6 times and said I was lying. The other male rang the bell on the table and then someone came into the room and handed a piece of wood with rubber wrapped around it to them. He said to me that if I didn't say everything including links with Al-Qaeda that they would beat me. I told them repeatedly that I had no links with this organisation or any other Islamic organisations.

They both then left the room. A few moments later two of the males came in and put on a blindfold. They then took me to a cell where my blindfold was removed. I saw an empty room which had tiled floors and a camera in the top corner of the room. There were no windows or ventilation. There was a small opening in the wall next to the ceiling which allowed light to come in from the corridor.

I wanted to pray, and the male who assaulted me told me that after my prayers he would deal with me. After my prayers I was taken back to the same room blind folded. The questions started again at which point they became more abusive and began to swear at me. This went on for a few hours and late afternoon/early evening they took me back to the cell. The questions centred on Al-Qaeda leadership and where their followers were based. They asked me about Osama Bin Laden and if I told them where he was then they would let me go. They also asked me about the 7th July bombings and in particular about Tanveer Hussein¹ and Mohammed Siddiq Khan; in particular where I had met them. They said that they knew what I was up to, to which I replied that I did not know what they were talking about. They repeatedly asked about plans of Al-Qaeda and what was my role in the organisation and also what plans were in place for the USA.

I was taken back to the cell, followed by the same officer who hit me earlier during the interrogation. I sat on the floor in the cell as there was no bed or seating arrangements. I was given no blankets and the cell was extremely cold as the air conditioning in the corridor was deliberately turned on, preventing me from sleeping or resting. The officer gave me a blank piece of paper and a pencil and told me to write down everything about my background including my friends, why I had come Pakistan, who I had met, the places that I went to. I wrote all this down in fear of being beaten. I was given food after dusk. The food was extremely dry and burnt and consisted of bread with watered lentils.

After sunset I was taken out of my cell blindfolded and back into the interrogation room. The man in the suit was present. He was smoking heavily; every 5-10 minutes he would light up a cigarette. This time he was accompanied by another male who was the same male present when I was first visited by officials in the interrogation room in the day. He was the Afghan who spoke Pashto. The male in the suit asked me why I wasn't telling them anything and that anything I did say were lies and that it was my last chance as everybody ended up speaking in that place. The Afghan individual who was sitting to my left in front of me rang the bell again and the same piece of wood was brought back into the room. At this time they both got up and stood next to me, one either side. They stood me up and took me away from the chair and table and told me to lie face down on the ground. The handcuffs and shackles were still on. The male in the suit began to hit me around the thighs with the piece of wood, which was continuous for at least 15 minutes. They then got me up and put me on the chair. They then started asking me questions until the early hours of the morning. I was then taken back to the cell and told to write down my history. There was no bed or blanket in the cell and I had to

¹ He is referring to "Shahzad Tanweer."

sleep on the floor. Every time I was dosing off someone would come and bang on the door to prevent me from sleeping.

The following day at approximately same time, the same male in the suit who was the heavy smoker, this time accompanied by the male with the curly hair, came into the room where I was first brought into the interrogation room. On this occasion he was holding my mobile phones in a bag. He took out a piece of paper with mobile numbers and asked me for names for these numbers. He asked me where they lived, their occupation. He repeatedly asked me these questions for approximately 15 minutes and told me to call the numbers and tell them to meet me at a certain location in Islamabad. I refused to do this.

I heard my phone ring every 5 minutes. I believe this was staged and designed to set me up; they were ringing it from another room. They were asking me who it was upon which I requested to look at the phone to see who was calling. They repeatedly asked me who was calling without even letting me look at the phone to see the incoming numbers. I recall approximately 10 minutes later a message was delivered to the phone which stated "*I am waiting for you in Lahore*". I did not see it but the male in the suit said that was the message. I told them that I did not know anyone in Lahore and I certainly did not know who this message was from. He then rang the bell and the piece of wood was brought in again. He called someone from outside and asked him who these people were sending the message and stated that they were responsible for bombings in Lahore. They then made me stand up and began to beat me with a wooden stick. This continued for 10-15 minutes at the same time asking me questions. They accused me of planning terrorist activities in Pakistan. Approximately 15 minutes later they stopped beating me and I was then put to the floor and my legs were put on a chair and they started hitting me on the soles of my feet. This was extremely painful. They then summoned another male into the room who was told to beat me with the stick and as he started to beat me, the male with the curly hair took over.

I was questioned in this manner, subjected to this type of torture and beatings, for the first 13 days. On each occasion the same male who was originally in the suit and the heavy smoker was always present with one of the two others who would accompany him during my interrogation.

Western Involvement

I stayed in this interrogation centre for a total of two months. I recall that after 13-14 days in detention at the interrogation centre I was moved secretly to another unknown location by the Pakistanis. The Pakistani man in the room said that the British were here to see me. He left me with an ISI guard with an AK47, who took off my hood. The guard left when the British came in.

The orange shirt was taken off and I was given traditional clothing before I left the interrogation centre. This journey took 20 minutes. During the journey I was hooded, blindfolded and handcuffed. The place I was taken to was like an office and it had good chairs, furniture, air conditioning and carpet. There was a window in the room and the curtains were drawn but I could see daylight. At this location I received a visit from British officials, following which I was taken back to the interrogation centre. These two males introduced themselves as being from Britain and that they worked for the British Government. They clarified that they were not from the Consulate but they did not say if they were intelligence officers. They did give their names but I cannot remember them.

They asked me questions which lasted approximately 40 minutes. During this period I was shackled and handcuffed (to the front) throughout. They saw my hood in the room. I was put on a sofa and the white male sat directly opposite me. The mixed race male sat to my left on the sofa.

They asked me questions relating to what I was doing in Pakistan, why I had come, my movements and my connections to Pakistan. They said that I was picked up in Haripur and they asked me about links to Al Qaeda. They also said that they believed that I was in Waziristan and asked about Hamza Rabia. I denied being at this location or having any links to Al Qaeda or Hamza Rabia. They did not ask about any other names or any others [I told them that I was in Pakistan for earthquake relief work].

They were both taking notes on small reporter pads. I recall they also showed me approximately 20 surveillance photographs, one by one, of Asian and black males, some of whom had beards, most did not. These photographs were taken out from an envelope by the mixed race male. These are the only documentation they had during this meeting. I did not recognise any of these individuals. They did not tell me anything about the individuals in the photos. They just asked me if I recognised them. These two males saw me in handcuffs and shackles. I told them that I had been tortured. This was clearly visible due to sleep deprivation and my three fingers being bandaged on my left hand. They could see that I was uncomfortable and I was unable to sit due to the beatings I had received on my buttocks.

I spoke to them in English. I asked them if my family knew where I was and that I was being detained. They did not answer this question. They said that when my mother finds out she will be shocked as this is the second time that I have been arrested. They asked me how I was being treated and I told them that I was being tortured. They did not note this down. I recall that they also asked me about the U.K. - in particular if I know anything about funding terrorist activities and Al Qaeda in the U.K.

After the questions, the white male got up and knocked on the door. A guard came in and they left. I was then blindfolded and a hood was placed over my head and taken back to the interrogation centre.

The next day I was visited by CIA officials at the interrogation centre. They did not give their names and they did not say they were from the US Government. They made notes of all of our meetings. As I have mentioned previously in my statement I was provided with some paper when I was at the interrogation centre and was requested to write down background information. I did this because I feared that I may be subject to further mistreatment and

torture. This information may have been passed on to the U.K and American officials who later questioned me. They came everyday except Sundays and the interrogation lasted several hours, if not more on some occasions. They visited me literally everyday whilst I was in the interrogation centre which was for a period of 2 months.

I recall the first day I was seen by the Americans. They asked me where I was the previous day. I told them that the British had come to visit me and they had taken me to a different location. I said to them that maybe they wanted to take me back to England as they had found out about my detention. The American said "You can forget it. You can never go back to England". He asked me this question about 20 days later "*If I see you after 1 year in your sister's shop what would you do to me?*" I said. "Nothing" as he would be my guest. This then rang alarm bells and asked myself a question: how did he know about my sister's shop?

On the same day I received the first visit from the CIA whilst I was at the interrogation centre. Later that day I was visited by a different officer who I believe was from the ISI, dressed smartly in a shirt and trousers. He came in and congratulated me and stated that I was now a legal detainee and that the government of Pakistan knew about me. Also he stated that there were many people who did not even have that recognition. Then he made me sign 3 to 4 forms which he showed me and each sheet which was an identical copy said on the top of it "Security Act of Pakistan 1952". It stated my name, my father's name, and village and classed me as a Pakistani citizen. I told them that I was not a Pakistani citizen and that I didn't have a Pakistani ID card or a Pakistani passport. The man made me sign the forms and left. I was told that if I did not sign the form I would be forced to sign. He took all the forms with him and did not leave me a copy. I was taken back to the cell. I recall that the form said 'authorised 3 months detention'.

Seven days later I was taken out at approximately 8am, blindfolded with a hood over my head with handcuffs and shackles. I was taken to the interrogation room where my hood and the blindfold were removed. I was sat on a chair in the middle of the room whereupon my handcuffs and shackles remained and the same officer who is a heavy smoker and the Afghan male were sitting at the desk in front of me. They again started asking the same questions about Al Qaeda as they had done previously and again I denied all knowledge of association with these people.

In respect of the CIA I would say the following:

They came to see me everyday, the first day being the sixteenth day of my detention. They came to see me for the entire 2 months I was at the interrogation centre and further 6 months when I was removed to the safe house. in November 2006. However, when I was in the safe house, I was taken back to the interrogation centre when I was visited by the CIA. No questioning took place at the safe house. When taken to the safe house I was taken 3-4 days a week to the interrogation centre where I was questioned by Americans. I recall all white males all of which had American accents. There was usually 3 in a team, 2 males and 1 female. This went on for 8 months. It was always the same team. Interrogations when I was moved to the safe house and then taken back to the interrogation centre for questioning would last 2-4 hours and then I would be taken back to the safe house. After a period of 6 months I would be taken from the safe house to the interrogation centre periodically so there would be a gap of 8 or 10 days apart. I was then questioned by a single male which lasted 2-4 hours and then taken back to the safe house.

All this stopped in April 2007 when I was sent to Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. During the questioning by the CIA I was not tortured. The CIA questioned me about what they suspected to be plots planned against the USA. They told me that Hamza Rabia was a terrorist that they alleged that I worked with him and planned to do terrorist acts in the USA. They also stated that Mohammed Zilur Rahman continued to go to South Africa had contacted a man called Imran

there where they were going to make fake passports and ID to get into the US. They stated that they were aware of this plot as President Bush had stated on the State Union Address in December 06/January 07 that the Americans had successfully broken a sale in South East Asia. They said that they were talking about me and these individuals.

They accused me of being connected to other groups who attempted to get into the USA. They said that Mohammed Zilur Rahman was in Pakistan and they wanted me to tell them of his whereabouts. They showed me pictures and asked me names and people's whereabouts. The main questions centered around Hamza Rabia like where I had met him, what instructions I had received, what plans, what attacks and how many people were there in the USA, what group they were affiliated to and how they got into the USA. The travel plans and the method of travel into the USA and how they obtained their false ID.

They also asked me about an individual called Amar Azizi. They stated that he worked for Mohammed Zilur Rahman and that Azizi was our trainer as he trained the Madrid bombers and that they were looking for him. They stated that these members were part of a group of which I was also a member. They also asked me about Abdul Azzam Amriki who they said was a US national and wanted to know where he was. They showed me a video recording of a white male with a ginger beard, sunglasses. They said that he was spokesman for Al-Qaida. I recall that I had seen the same photo at Pendleton Police Station during my questioning by Greater Manchester Police. I was also shown 15 other photographs which I did not recognise. Again I recall that I was shown the same photos by Greater Manchester Police at Pendleton Police Station. They said that most of these individuals were from Turkey, Tunisia and Egypt.

They asked me questions about Ayman al-Zawahiri. They alleged that I had met him and that I knew him personally. They also asked me about a Saudi national named Abdul ... who lived in Canada and he was one of the most wanted on the FBI list. They said that he made videos of attacks and that he was also known as Siraj or Daufan and again they asked me where he was and what his movements were and my association with him. They also asked about an individual named Abdul Rahman Al Muhajir. They said that he was involved in the Kenya and Tanzania Embassy bombings and that he was a senior Al-Qaida member. They asked me what links I had with him, what plans I had with him and that there was a clear link between him and Hamza Rabia. Another individual they mentioned was Essan who they stated was in Sudan at the time that Osama Bin Laden was running training camps there. They showed me photographs and asked me as to where he was, what my association with him was. They said they had intelligence that I had been with these people and I had plans to carry out attacks. I denied any knowledge of having any links with these people or any planned attacks.

This interrogation took 3-4 hours or even 8 hours on some days. They would repeat the same questions over and over again as if there was a pro forma. This was done in the interrogation room during which there was no Pakistani officers in the room. There were up to 3-4 people at a time and after 2 months with this sustained interrogation there would be one or two on each occasion thereafter.

More importantly about 8 days into the questioning by the Americans I was shown photos. These were the same photos I was shown by Greater Manchester police during my detention at Pendleton Police Station. I was shown shoes, a bag and three diaries. They said that there were codes in the books; emails were sent with codes which had plans against the USA. They also asked me what the codes in the diary were.

I recall approximately 3 days into my detention when I was asked intense questions by the Pakistani officials and being beaten at the same time. I recall that a male came into the interrogation room and he brought in an envelope which contained some paperwork. The interrogators took out the paper, read it and asked me questions. They noted my questions on

the same piece of paper. What I did see on this paperwork when they turned the papers over was on the bottom of the note it was marked in large lettering and bold "UK/PAKISTAN SECRET". Over the next few days I saw the same markings on papers which were different from what I had seen initially. These papers were brought in by the same individual on at least two occasions although on other occasions they had the papers on the desk where my blindfold was taken off after entering the room.

On these papers questions related to General Musharraf and the assassination plot to kill him in the UK as he was due to travel to the UK and they stated that a plot was planned. They asked me that when I returned to the UK in December 2005 what I had in my luggage, whether there were any chemicals, perfume, medicines, hair gel or toiletries.

They also asked me questions that Mohammed Zilur Rahman, whether I knew this individual and where he was and also about his brother, I cannot remember his name, where he was and that I allegedly knew him. They repeatedly asked me questions as to who was involved against the assassination plot against General Musharraf, who was involved in training and the numbers of those involved. They said it was going to be a suicide bomber. They also said that Amjad Farooqi organisation attempted an assassination plot in 2003. They also mentioned that they were aware that British nationals had travelled to Pakistan for training specifically to plot an assassination attempt against General Musharraf. They asked me questions about my brother-in-law and how long I stayed at the shop and the nature of my employment.

I recall that each day there was a different set of papers from which questions were put and answers noted. After these questions the following days we went back to questions when I was first interrogated, all centred on links to Al-Qaida.

Torture

I recall that on the 7th day of my detention I was taken to the interrogation room using the same routine. I was asked questions repeatedly about Al-Qaida. I kept denying any involvement or association following which I was beaten with a stick by the male who was the heavy smoker. This was common for all detainees. He was the main aggressor, torturer. After approximately 15 minutes he rang the bell and requested someone to bring in the 'box'. I recall that three people came into the room with a box which was 1 ft square. I was still in handcuffs and my arms were forced on the table in front. Each arm was held down by an individual and the one who stood behind me he held my back by putting his arm around my neck and pulling back. At this point the male who was the heavy smoker got up and opened the box and took out a pair of pliers.

He began to ask the same questions and I replied that I did not know anything. My left arm was held down at the wrist at which point the smoker got hold of my small finger of my left hand and he gripped my nail with the pliers and began to pull it back, not forward. I was in extreme pain and he asked the same questions to which I replied, 'I would tell you' and when he stopped pulling I replied with the same answer, namely that I did not know anything, at which point he began to pull the nail back again. This happened a few times after which he pulled out the entire nail. This ordeal in the interrogation room took approximately half an hour to 45 minutes.

Another person was called into the room that was in civilian clothing and gave me an injection on the left arm and bandaged my finger. I recall the following day there was no interrogation. However the following day, the day after, I was taken back into the interrogation room and the same persons were present. The same questions were put and I replied with the same answers. Again the same routine was carried out whereby I was held down and my hands were held down to the table and another fingernail was pulled out. Again I received an injection and my second finger was bandaged. I made no confessions during this torture of any involvement in any activities. However the next day the same routine whereby another nail was pulled out and I received a further injection and the injury was bandaged. I was not subject to any further interrogation up to the 13th day of detention when I was taken out of this building to a secret location to be met by UK officials. I was brought back the same day and the following day I was seen by Americans.

The Americans were aware of my treatment as I told them what happened to me and also that I could not sit straight as I had been hit on my back with a wooden instrument by a male with curly hair. They laughed when they heard this. They also saw my fingernails had been removed. They asked me what had happened. I told them what had happened to which they made no reply. I recall that all my answers were noted down by them on paper.

I also recall that I saw documents which were marked "**US/PAKISTAN SECRET**" from which they read questions that were put to me. They also noted my responses. I did ask them of what the documents were and where they had come from to which they replied these were from their boss.

I was kept in poor conditions up to this date. I did not have any mattress or blanket and slept on a concrete floor. The first 6 days of my detention I was deprived sleep and if I was seen falling asleep someone would come in and wake me up and I was told not to go to sleep and that if they caught me sleeping they will stand me up and handcuff me to the door which would mean that I would remain standing. I was given a prayer mat only and sometimes would fall asleep on that. I got used to sitting on the floor and this is what I did at Pendleton Police Station as I got used to this as part of my detention.

On 14th day of detention the Americans came every day except for Sundays. After they had been on a few occasions I was subject to further interrogation by Pakistani officials.

On two such occasions a male and a female came and they had a laptop. These were Pakistani officials. There were leads applied to three of my fingers, blood pressure pad applied to my right arm and wires around my chest. All the wires were connected to a 6inch square box which was connected to the laptop. They asked questions as follows:-

How many days a week?

Colour of the sky?

Have you been to KFC in Rawalpindi?

Then they asked me specific questions about Dunkin Donuts on Tariq Road, Karachi and whether I had been there.

What is a cat?

Do you have any programme about General Musharraf? To which I replied no.

To all the questions there were yes/no answers although there were a number of other questions I can't exactly remember what they were but there was no questions about the UK or USA.

The first question session lasted about 15-20 minutes.

The second session happened a day later and the same persons were present and the same procedure was followed. They asked me questions about Pakistan in particular about the plot to assassinate General Musharraf and my associates who were involved in this plot. They asked me questions about Dr Abu Faraj Al Libi if I knew him to which I replied no.

After 2 months at the end of October 2006 I recall that this was a few days before Eid, I was taken from the interrogation centre to an unknown location. I was kept there for a further 6 months. The first four months of these I was taken back to the interrogation centre at least 3-4 times a week. However a few days after Eid, I was taken back to the interrogation centre for one week where I stayed. The Americans came everyday during this period and put the same questions to me as I mentioned previously about plots in the USA.

Other Detainees at Safe House Detention Site

After this week I was taken back to the safe house and then brought 3-4 times a week back to the interrogation centre for questioning by the Americans for a total period of 6 months. In total I was questioned by the Americans for a total of 8 months.

At this safe house I was given a mattress and a blanket. Food was very poor and was not very nutritious. It mainly consisted of bread and lentils. I was kept in the cell all day and did not even know what was outside. I was only allowed to use the toilet. I was not handcuffed in the cell! And I was not in the orange clothing that was given to me in the interrogation centre. I was allowed to put on civilian clothing. I was not subjected to any torture or questioning, I was only held there. When questioned I was subjected to was when I was when I was taken back to the interrogation centre to meet with the Americans.

When I first arrived at this destination with my blindfold and handcuffs removed I recognised the individual. I recognised one male from when I arrived in Islamabad on 17th January 2006. I remember this as when I passed immigration control he was standing with another male behind the official at the immigration desk, who was a female. When I approached the desk she requested that I should look into the camera that was mounted on the desk. This was the Foreign National desk. She had taken my passport at which the two males were standing over shoulder holding some paperwork. The second male who had a white beard said in English "*he is the one*". He did not say anything further or even attempted to stop me.

It is this male that I first saw on my arrival at the safe house and recognised him from the airport. The jailors were calling him Colonel Nawaz. He spoke to me and asked how I was and told someone to take my clothes measurements for new clothing for Eid. He seemed a pleasant and I never heard him swear or display anger towards me.

At the safe house there were a total of five cells and a wash room. The other persons detained were as follows:

Hassan Ghul² - he was captured in Iraq in 2004 and he was in the cell left to me. I talked to him when no guards were around me and he told me that the CIA kept him in a secret location for 2 years. After 2 ½ years they handed him to the Pakistan authorities. I believe he was a Pakistani national. He was there when I arrived and he was moved in January 2007.

... **Lone** - he was a Jammu Kashmar, Indian, national and he was in the cell to the right. He had been in custody for one year and he was there when I arrived and remained there when I left.

Yilmaz - he was a Turkish national and was captured in Quetta, Pakistan. He had been in custody for 5-6 months and he spoke broken English. He was there when I arrived and was moved within one month.

SA - he was a Pakistani national from Kashmir. I do not know much about him but he was there 3 months before I arrived and he was moved at the end of December 2006.

Those who replaced the above I do not wish to give their details. These individuals told me that they had been tortured in the same interrogation centre where I was.

² Hassan Ghul's name appears on the *Off the Record* list produced by Amnesty International, Cageprisoners, Center for Constitutional Rights, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, Human Rights Watch and Reprieve in 2007. He is one of a few individuals the US has officially declared to have detained but whose whereabouts had remained unknown.

Proceedings Chronology

23 December 2006 - I was before the Supreme Court (Federal Review Board), I had no prior knowledge of this hearing. This was a secret court and I had no representation. I was brought to this court handcuffed, blindfolded and shackled. They were all removed just before I entered the court. I recall that representations were made that I was arrested on 20th September 2006 and that the police investigation was ongoing. This was clearly misrepresentations to the court as they did not mention that I was arrested on 20th August. An extension was granted for a period of 3 months until March 2007. There were three judges, two of them were Supreme Court Judges in particular I can remember Justice Coker and one was a high court Judge from Baluchistan. Also present was one secret service agent, one person from the interior ministry and the prosecutor. All representations were made in the Judges ears and I did not hear anything. I was then taken back to the safe house.

In March 2007 again I was brought to the Supreme Court in the same conditions. This was a secret hearing and no lawyer was present. I was before the Federal Review Board and again an extension for 1 month was granted. I was taken from the court and returned back to the safe house.

On 12th April 2007 again I was brought before the Federal Review Board. A further extension of 3 months was granted and at which the Judge said that I should be sent to Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. I was not taken to this jail but taken to an area called Sadr in Rawalpindi which was a police station turned into a sub-jail. I was kept there for 10 days. There were a number of other people who were present including another British national namely **Rashid Rauf** who I believe had been there for 8 months ... **Mahmood** ... who had been detained in South Africa and a male called **N...** . We protested and demanded to be taken to the jail and threatened to go on hunger strike. The authorities then moved us to the prison.

At the end of April we were moved to the jail. It is at this point that I first obtained legal representation which was recommended to me by a fellow detainee. I did not speak or correspond with my lawyer, Basharat Ullah. I am aware that he made an application to the High Court for my release.

In July 2007 a further extension for two months was granted by the Federal Review Board.

On the 28th August 2007 I was taken back to Court where the Judge ordered by release due to the public pressure and the publicity in the media. However I was not released and I was taken back to jail. On the 7th September at approximately 2.00 pm, a number of males in civilian clothing took me from the jail in to a car. During the journey they told me that I was going back to England. I arrived at the airport and was taken into a separate room accompanied by five unarmed males. I asked them why was I not free to go but they did not respond. I was given no choice and they said that they were ordered to send me back.

At approximately 6am a female who introduced herself as Ellen Rawlings, Head of the British Consulate, she was accompanied by another white male and she said that I could go back to the U.K where I would be able to see my family and receive medical treatment. I asked about my property, in particular my passport, and she said that she would speak to Pakistani officials. She also told me that the Pakistani Government had paid for my ticket. She enquired about my health and the prison conditions I was detained in. I told her that I was treated very badly. She told me that they tried to visit me but they were stopped. I do remember receiving some consulate documents and toiletries. I asked her again why they did not visit me and she said nothing. She led me to believe that I would be a free man when I arrived in the U.K.