



UNITED STATES MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN GENEVA

January 4, 2013

Mr. Anand Grover  
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable  
standard of physical and mental health  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Malick Sow  
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dear Mr. Grover, Mr. Sow,

Sincerely,

Peter F. Mulrean  
Deputy Permanent Representative

OHCHR REGISTRY

15 JAN 2013

Recipients: S.P.S.  
S. Lidame (Encl.)  
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Recipient



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Dear Mr. Grover, Mr. Sow,

Thank you for your letter of October 24, 2012, expressing concern about the health status of Mr. Abdulrahman Suleiman (ISN 223), a Yemeni national detained at the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (Guantanamo). As a general policy, for reasons of privacy we do not discuss in detail the medical history of individuals detained at Guantanamo. The Working Group raised specific concerns about Mr. Suleiman's health status. We can address general issues of health care at Guantanamo, and can also address specific issues with respect to Mr. Suleiman's health to the extent consistent with this policy.

As an initial matter, the United States notes that Mr. Suleiman is being detained pursuant to the Authorization to Use Military Force (Pub. L. 107-40, 2(a)), as informed by the law of war, in the ongoing armed conflict with al-Qaida, the Taliban, and associated forces. Mr. Suleiman's challenge to the legality of his detention has been reviewed in the U.S. federal court system, where his petition for a writ of habeas corpus was denied, as was his petition for a writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court.

All detainees at Guantanamo are afforded medical care that is comparable to that received by U.S. service members assigned to the U.S. Naval Station. Detainees are treated at a dedicated facility by an expert medical staff of more than 100 personnel. The medical facility is equipped with 20 inpatient beds (expandable to 30), a physical-therapy area, a pharmacy, a radiology department, and an operating room. While not located on site, medical specialists are available to travel to Guantanamo to provide medical care as needed. Additionally, psychological care is available for detainees who need or request it.

Mr. Suleiman has received medical attention from a number of health care professionals at Guantanamo, is currently undergoing a course of therapy, and will continue to receive, unconditionally, high quality medical care as needed. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter F. Mulrean', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter F. Mulrean  
Deputy Permanent Representative