



CLIP TRANSCRIPT

Jonathan Hafetz- Isolation

In addition to being...the interrogations, in addition to all the techniques, the soft torture that were being applied, the threats that were made to him, threats they would make him disappear, make his family disappear, um, the stressed positions, the changes in temperature, some of the sleep deprivation they forced him to endure, in addition to that stuff, he was...just had...I mean there was nothing. He was in just a black hole with no...nothing to distract him from his torment. They refused to allow him to have a book, a newspaper, to listen to the radio, to watch TV. I mean something that happens nowhere. Um, he...they would feed him, but they would often feed him cold meals only. There was a period of time where he went for a month on what's called MRE's or Meals, Ready-to-Eat. Stuff that, you know, troops are given I think in combat operations overseas. They wouldn't give him hot meals. They took away his recreation for long periods of time. He wasn't allowed...weeks would go by, sometimes I think even more than a month, where he would be denied recreation. Denied the ability to even go outside, or to see the light of day. And there was no light that entered his cell. They actually deliberately blackened over the window. And we know this from documents we later received in litigation. No light, just be in his cell, 24-7, with nothing.

But the worst thing for Al-Marri really was the isolation and the sensory deprivation. What was unique about his case is he was held in complete isolation for six years, almost six years at the brig in South Carolina. For the first 18 or 17 months, when he was declared an enemy combatant until June of '03 when he was...or sorry October of '03 when we got our first visit to see him, he wasn't even allowed to speak to anybody. And the guards wouldn't speak to him either. They would just, um...they were not allowed to talk to him. The idea was to sort of cut off all human contact, to basically try to create a sense of hopelessness and despair. I mean, it was as cruel a form of psychological torture that I've ever seen or read about.

We have seen some...some of the video tapes remain. What we've seen are...there were really two types of recordings. One were recordings of the interrogations, where some of the most really egregious conduct took place. And those were the ones that were destroyed. There was also a video camera, basically just a surveillance camera of Al-Marri in his cell. Some of that was destroyed as well, but some of that remains. And that was just basically the camera that they had on Al-Marri 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And so we have seen some of these videos. And what comes across in those videos is



just the sense of despair and total boredom. And I say boredom in a way that can drive you crazy, just be...of Al-Marri just sitting, like a caged animal in a room, with nothing to do again but just stare at the four walls, you know, day...you know, hour after hour, day after day, year after year. And I think, you know, if you really can visualize what that must be like, I mean just imagine even just spending a day or two or three days in a room without anyone to talk to, and with nothing to do.