



CLIP TRANSCRIPT

Juan Mendez—Guards Don't Count

So when we talk about meaningful social contact, we exclude contact with guards. Many states including the United States come back and say, what do you mean solitary confinement? Somebody brings them their food. They also have medical doctors come and examine them. The guards are, you know, keeping track of them all the time.

And what the Nelson Mandela rules say is, you know, the contact has to be with other inmates, with people who they relate to and not in an adversarial way. So prison personnel don't count for these purposes.

And this question of being able to yell through some slit in the door, you know it's a ridiculous argument. I mean you're still isolated, in fact you yell because you're isolated.

And there's also, and I think this was used in Guantanamo, that the military rules on interrogation, not on detention, allow for what the rules call separation of an inmate. And they allow for up to 30 days but renewable.

And it's a technique to soften up the prisoner so he will talk. And that, I firmly believe that's a form of coercion and it's impermissible. Even if it's not water boarding, it's not electric shock, it's not beating somebody to a pulp, it's still coercion, and it's impermissible in international law.