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June 1, 2005

The Honorable Joseph E. Schmitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Schmitz:

I am writing to request that your office investigate recent allegations that U.S. interrogators at Guantanamo Bay made anti-Semitic remarks to detainees in order to interfere with the relationship between these detainees and their attorneys.

On April 20, 2005, Thomas Wilner, the attorney for eleven Kuwaiti nationals being detained at Guantanamo Bay, filed a signed declaration with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.¹ This public filing relays several disturbing allegations by his clients.

According to Mr. Wilner, one of his clients, Fayiz Al Kandari, alleges that his interrogator, a woman calling herself "Megan," told him, "don't trust your lawyers." The interrogator also allegedly asked Mr. Al Kandari, "did you know your lawyers are Jews?"

Another detainee, Fouad Mahmoud Al Rabiah, told Mr. Wilner "that his interrogator had made numerous comments that he should not trust his lawyers because they are Jewish." The male interrogator allegedly made the following comments:

- "Your lawyers are Jews. How could you trust Jews? Throughout history, Jews have betrayed Muslims. Don't you think your lawyers, who are Jews, will betray you?"
- "Don't ever believe that a Jew will help a Muslim unless he gets more out of it than he gives."

¹ *Fawzi Khalid Abdullah Fahad Al Odah, et al. v. United States*, Plaintiffs-Petitioners' Motion for Writ of Injunction (Apr. 20, 2005).

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- “Your lawyers are Jews. They are from one of the world’s biggest law firms, which is Jewish and represents the Government of Israel.”
- “What will other Arabs and Muslims think of you Kuwaitis when they know the only help you can get is from Jews?”

I request that your office determine whether these allegations are true and, if so, who made the comments and how widespread the practice of directing anti-Semitic remarks to Muslim detainees is at Guantanamo Bay. I also request that your investigation determine whether such a practice violated federal law or military regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member