Jim Mattis

Secretary of Defense

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United States of America

Mr. Secretary

**Ammar al Baluchi**

I am writing to you from the United Kingdom. Like many in this country I am surprised and disappointed that Guantánamo Bay prison remains open, despite the previous administrations pledge to close it down. Recently I learnt of the plight of **Ammar al Baluchi**, and feel deeply disturbed at what has happened, and continues to happen to him.

Despite being in Guantánamo Bay since 2006, **Ammar al Baluchi** is still awaiting trial. He was originally abducted by US forces in 2003. Throughout this time, Ammar was brutally tortured by CIA authorities as part of their interrogation program. Acts of torture that he was forced to endure include: water torture similar to water boarding; continuous high volume music; extreme sleep deprivation; forced nudity, and beatings that have resulted in a painful traumatic brain injury.

I am very concerned that the charges against **Ammar al Baluchi** and his co-defendants carry the death penalty. International law prohibits the death penalty based on any trial that has not met the highest standards of fairness, and that the military commission trials do not meet such standards.

Whilst I don’t expect you to abolish the death penalty, at the very least ensure that military commissions are abandoned in favour of trials in ordinary US civilian courts.

Please ensure a prompt, full medical assessment of **Ammar al Baluchi**’s physical and psychological injuries and related apparent mental disability which he developed as a result of torture. And, of course, that this enables **Ammar al Baluchi** to receive all necessary treatment and rehabilitative care.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,