



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

Margaret Huang
Interim Executive Director
Amnesty International USA
600 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
5th Floor
Washington, DC 20003

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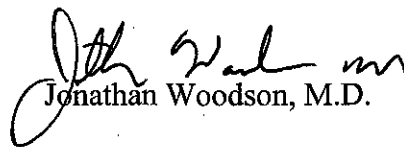
Dear Ms. Huang:

Thank you for your letter dated February 3, 2016, regarding allegations made by the attorney for Mustafa al-Hawsawi concerning his medical condition. These allegations are the subject of ongoing litigation. The Department of Defense (DoD) appreciates your concern for the health of Mr. al-Hawsawi and takes its obligation to provide health care for all detainees in DoD custody very seriously. Due to DoD policy intended to safeguard the privacy of detainees' medical information, I am unable to provide specific information about the health of individual detainees.

DoD policy for detainee medical care is contained in DoD Instruction 2310.08E, "Medical Program Support for Detainee Operations," which mandates that: "Health care personnel have a duty in all matters affecting the physical and mental health of detainees to perform, encourage, and support, directly and indirectly, actions to uphold the humane treatment of detainees..." The policy further requires: "To the extent practicable, treatment of detainees should be guided by professional judgments and standards similar to those applied to personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces."

These policies are applicable to medical care provided to detainees at Guantanamo. Additionally, military medical specialists are made available to provide consultations and care for medical needs that exceed the capabilities of the Joint Medical Group and the Naval Base Hospital at Guantanamo. Independent of litigation matters, please be assured that the Military Health System has made extraordinary efforts to address all health care needs of detainees at Guantanamo.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Woodson, M.D.