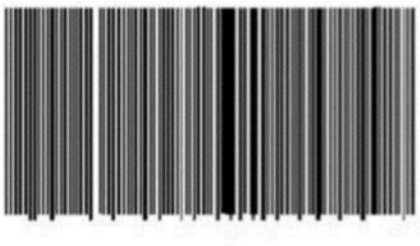
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Op NORTHMOOR/Team 2/Correspondence

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OP NORTHMOOR – POSSIBLE SYSTEMIC ISSUES

1. **Aim**. The aim of this loose minute is to highlight possible systemic issues so that consideration can be given as to whether they should be passed to the Systemic Working Group.

2. **Introduction**. Op NORTHMOOR are currently investigating complaints made by a number of Afghan Nationals relating to their detention by British Forces. The nature of the complaints and offences vary, however, the issues detailed within the loose minute have been highlighted by Team 2, Op NORTHMOOR during a review of the investigations into the alleged offences.

3. **Complaints**. The complaints under investigation have been received either from Leigh Day Solicitors or as a result of enquiries by the RAF SIIB under Op ISOPTIC. A number of the complainants have been interviewed by Op ISOPTIC and / or Op NORTHMOOR; however, the majority are still waiting to be formally interviewed, where their accounts will be explored.

SYSTEMIC ISSUES

4. The following potential systemic issues have been indentified as a result of the review.

a. **Sleep Deprivation**. Complaints have been received with regards to the amount of sleep allowed whilst at the 'Small Jail'[1]. The main reason cited for the sleep deprivation by detainees was interrogation. Some complainants detailed that they believe that they were only allowed to sleep for a couple of hours between interrogations. Exactly how detainees have come to this time scale has not yet been ascertained any certainty.

b. **Inappropriate searching**. The complaints received by RMP do not necessarily stem from actually being searched, but, in the main they result from an area of their body which they consider 'Sacred' (from above the knee to their waist) being searched. This has been described by detainees as being disrespectful to their religion and culture.

c. **Evening meal coincided with prayer time**. Complaints regarding the time of evening meal are prevalent amongst the complaints. Numerous detainees have detailed that the evening meals in the 'Big Jail' were served to the detainees prior to evening prayer time. Complaints regarding what the meal consisted of i.e. Western style food have also been received. In the main the complaints are that due their evening prayer time, the meal provided would not be eaten, instead being returned to the detention staff. Some detainees would retain bread from the evening meal supplied, however, this led to some complaints that they were only given bread and that the bread would be dry and stale after their prayer.

d. **Issues with the cells / living space (Quran and Toilet)**. Some complainants have explained that there was nowhere to store the Quran (which would normally be stored on a

[1] Detainees referred to the UK THF as the 'Big Jail', whilst referring to other UK detention facilities as being a 'Small Jail'. This information would tend to support that mention of a 'Small Jail' would indicate that this location could be THF BSN or THF KAF.

high shelf) within the cells. Other detainees have described a shelf for the Quran was later fitted; however, some allege that this was fitted near the toilet area which they found disrespectful to their religion. In addition, complaints have been recorded regarding the toilet being in the same room in which they pray. As a result of praying towards the East, this would mean that the detainee would pray in the direction of the toilet.

e. **Insufficient amount of clothing and footwear for detainees**. Complaints have been received in relation to the amount of clothing provided during detention. It has been established that detainees would be issued one set of clothing (shirt / top, trousers, flip flops and a prayer cap) at a time; new clothing was given to a detainee to change into upon request. Complaints about shortages of availability of the items have been encountered.

f. **Removal and retention of** personal property. Complaints have also been received outlining that personal property recovered at their Point of Capture (POC) have not been returned. No explanation has been provided with regards to the retention and exploitation of any personal property recovered at the POC as led to allegations of theft.

g. **Property being damaged / destroyed**. In relation to POC, it is alleged that personal property has been damaged or destroyed by the detaining forces / host nation forces, in particular personally owned vehicles. No explanation has been provided regards to this damage or destruction which has resulted in allegations made to the RMP.

h. **Noise during prayer time**. Complaints received specifically about the UK THF, where it has been alleged that the detention staff would make noise and have a radio on during prayer time in close proximity to the holding areas.

5. **Summary**. The possible systemic issues identified during the review of complaints within Op NORTHMOOR are provided so that they can be considered for submission to the Systemic Working Group. It is worthy of note that complaints into similar allegations outlined above remain under investigation.

Butler M G
SSgt
RMP (SIB)