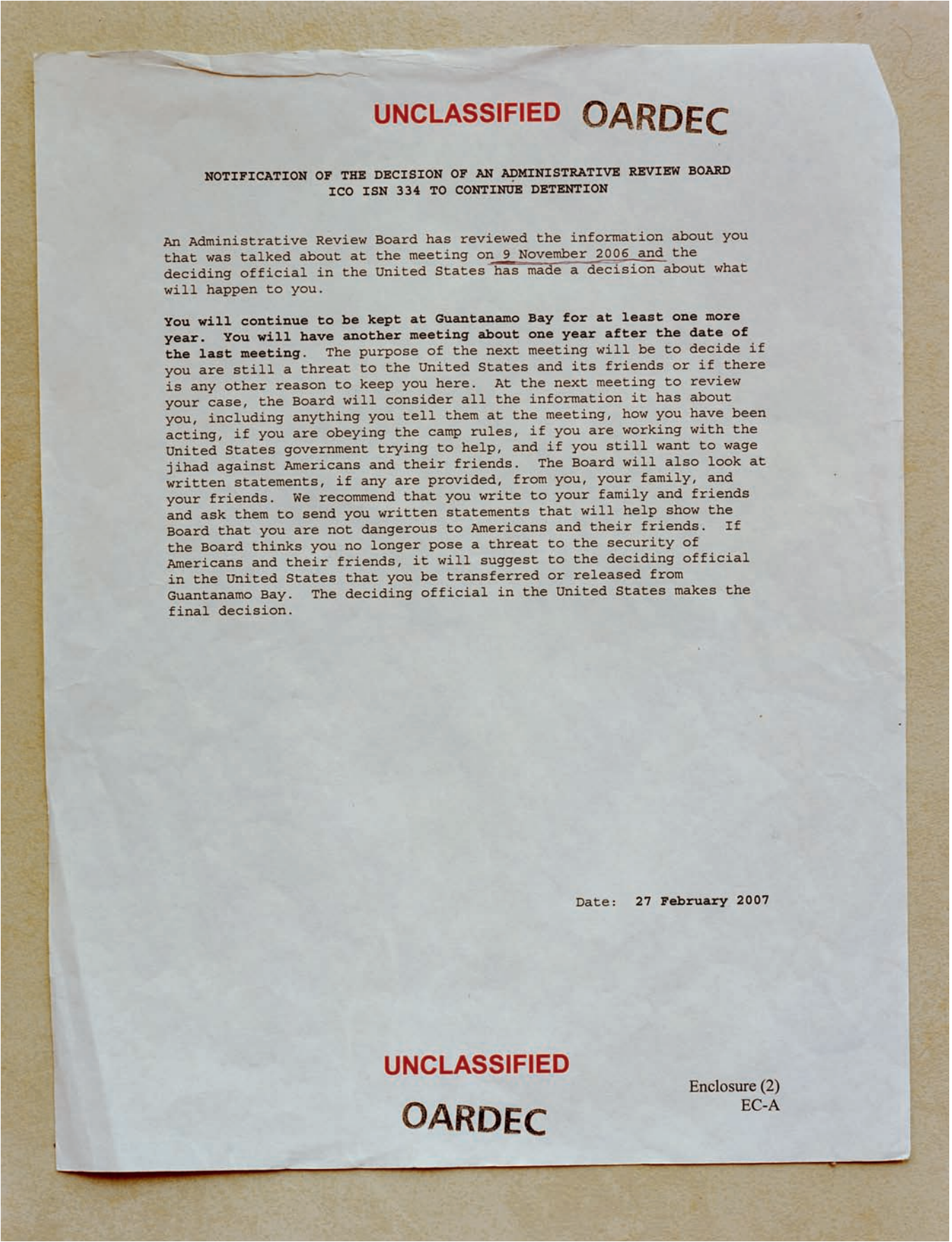


PHOTOGRAPHY EDMUND CLARK
TEXT GUY LANE

GUANTANAMO





We have come a long way. We have dispensed with the gibbet, the pillory and the wheel; the age of theatrical, public punishment has passed. In the words of Michel Foucault, “a certain discretion in the art of inflicting pain” now prevails. Behind the razor wire at Guantanamo Bay for example, in addition to routine brutalities, detainees are subject to an elaborately nuanced, micro-managed regime of privations and rewards.

In *Guantanamo: If the light goes out*, a work in progress, Edmund Clark has explored three notions of home and control: the places where the former detainees now find themselves trying to regain control over their lives, the naval base that is home to the American community and inside the complex of prisons that was home to the detainees, and still is for about 240 men. The photographs taken inside the prison camps afford us glimpses of some of the environmental and institutional means by which this thoroughly modern form of

incarceration is achieved. They disclose an ethos of restraint, sterility, order, duress, force-feeding and confinement.

In a separate (also ongoing) series, *Letters to Omar*, Clark has compiled the mail received in Guantanamo between 2002 and 2007 by Omar Deghayes, a Libyan citizen now resident in the UK. For Clark they represent a compelling “insight into the idea of a controlling and paranoid bureaucracy”. Every card and letter sent to Deghayes was photocopied or scanned, numbered, often redacted, catalogued and kept. Deghayes was only ever allowed access to the copies; the originals remained with the authorities. Which means that languishing somewhere in Cuba are postcards of the Yorkshire Dales, historic Chester, cuddly puppies and Hull Town Hall, among others. Within Guantanamo’s economy of control, access to – or denial of – such titbits of comfort gained extraordinary importance. Clark tells of one detainee who for years reportedly received no

correspondence at all; when he was finally passed a letter by the authorities the entire document had been redacted.

“The levels of control in Guantanamo were total because the experience of incarceration was part of the whole interrogation process,” says Clark. “Your interrogator was in control of everything that you could or could not get: the thickness of your mattress, whether you had blankets or not, and when you did, or didn’t, receive your post. Those items were all customised for detainees according to how compliant they were, or how important the detainees were believed to be in terms of the information they were thought to have. That extended to the positions they were allowed to stand in, or how often they were moved from cell to cell. There were ‘frequent flyers’ who were moved all the time to disorient them – whereas other people would be stuck in solitary confinement for months on end. Guantanamo is all about control.”



Camps (above): arrow to Mecca and eyelet for shackles

Base (left)

Home (previous spread): a letter sent to detainee after a review board



Base (above) and Camps (right)





Camps (above): camp hospital
display of the products and tube
used for force feeding

Base (right)

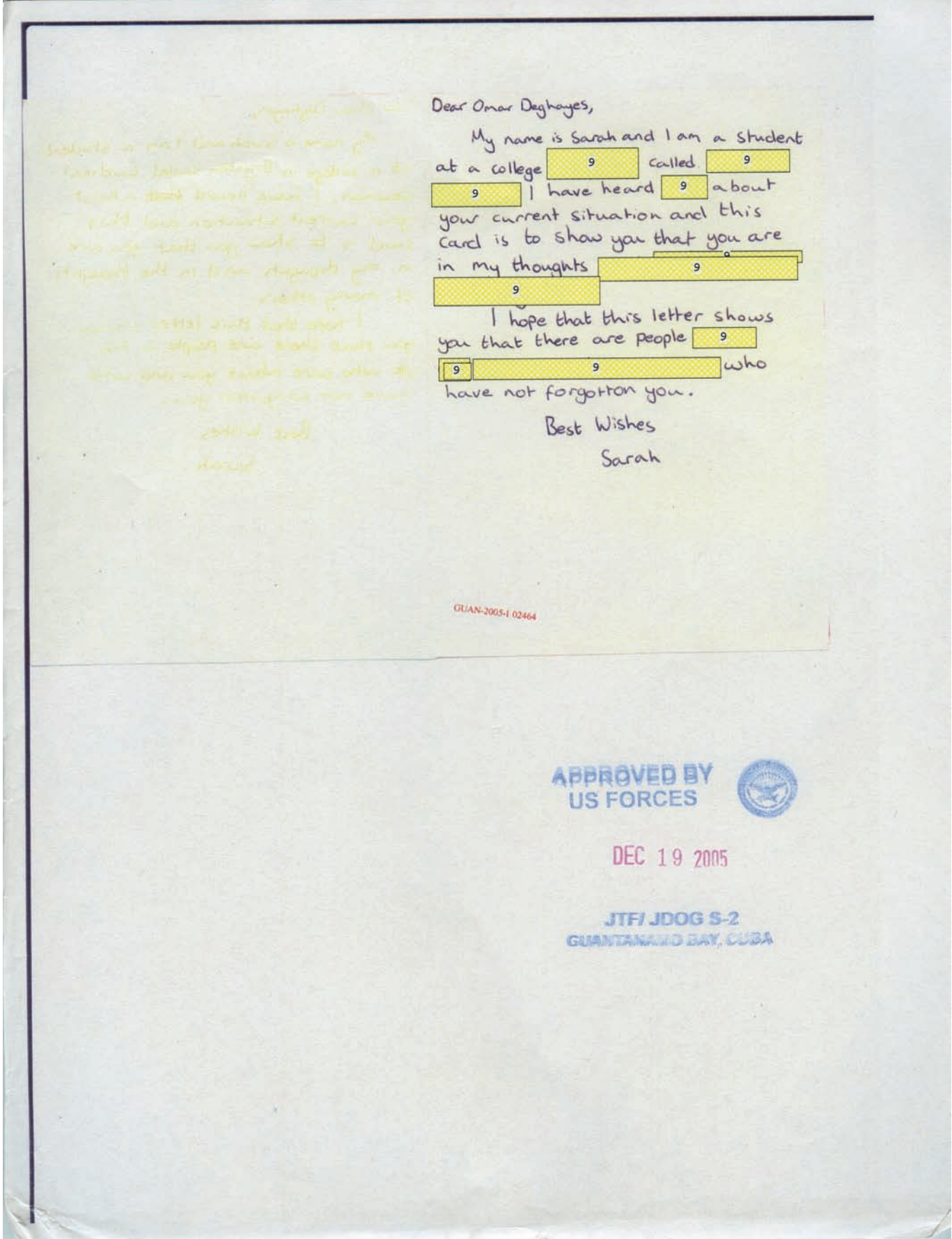
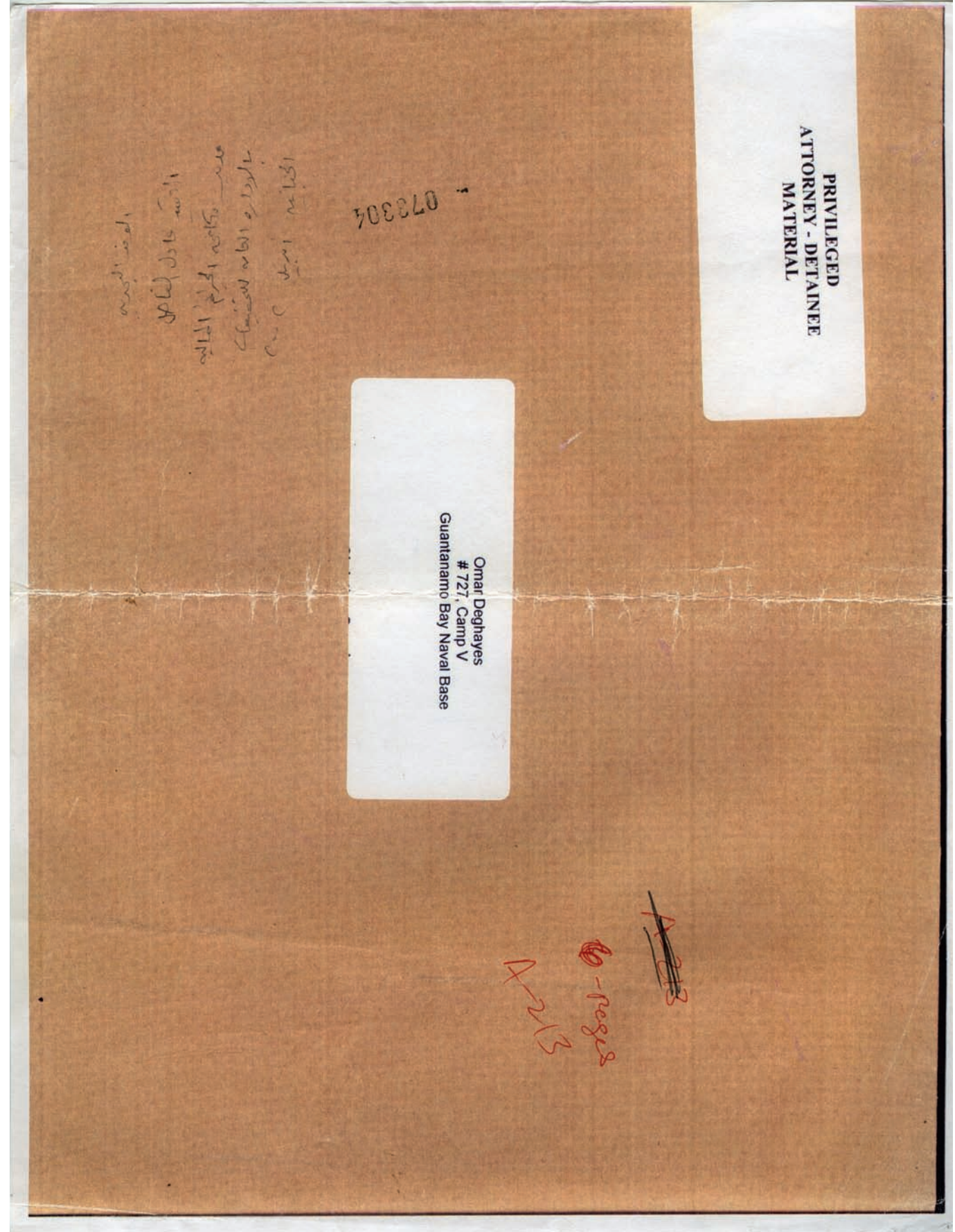


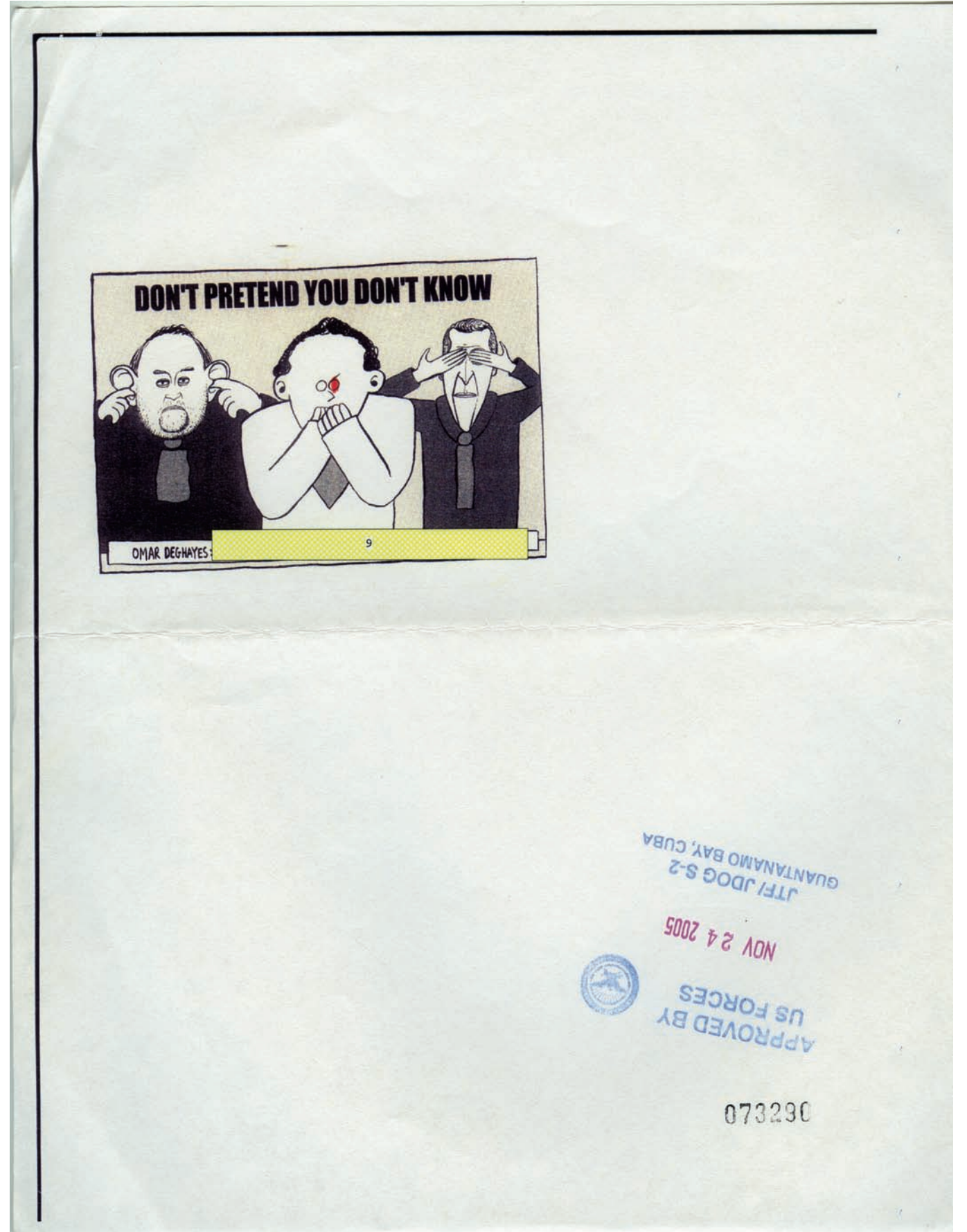
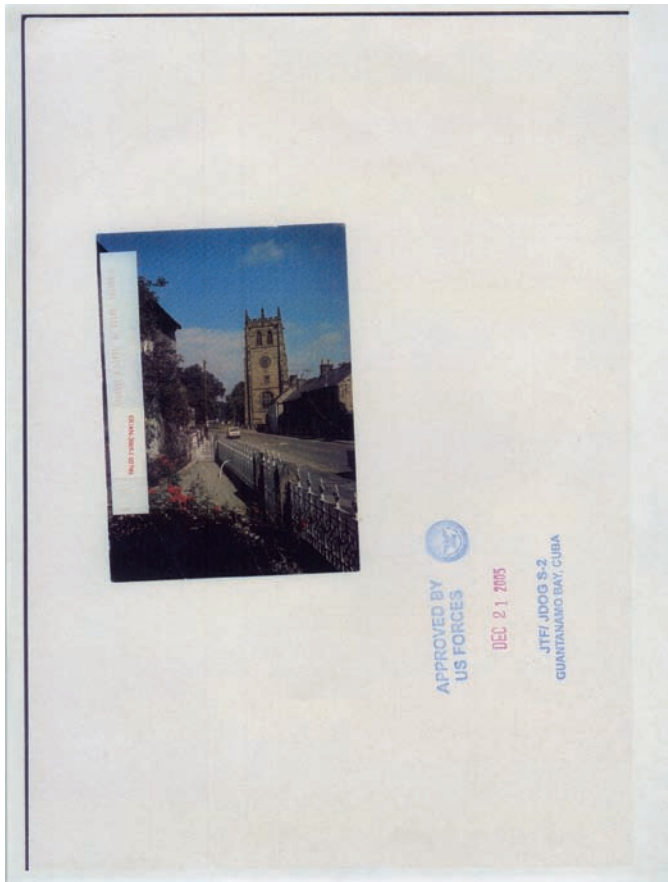
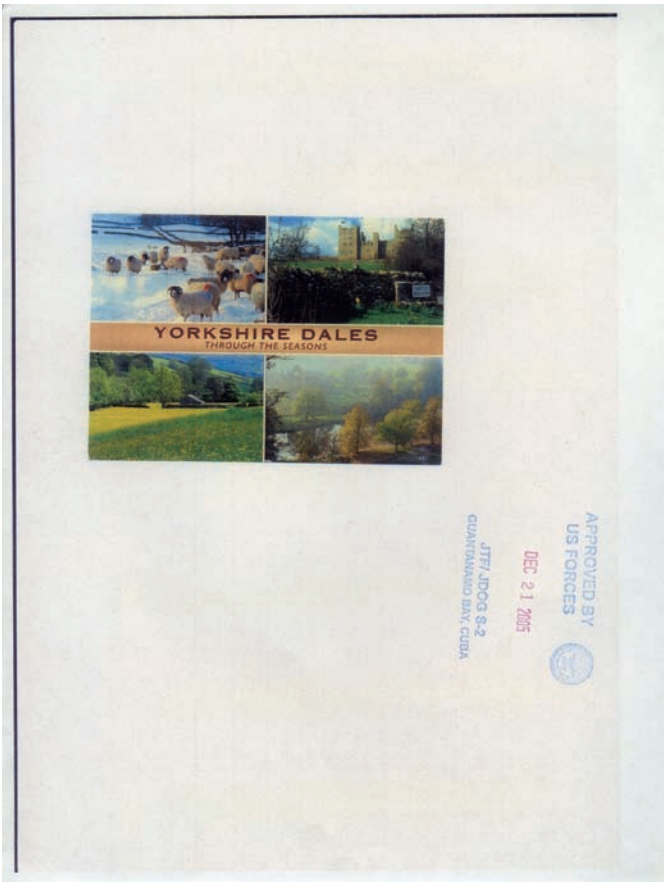
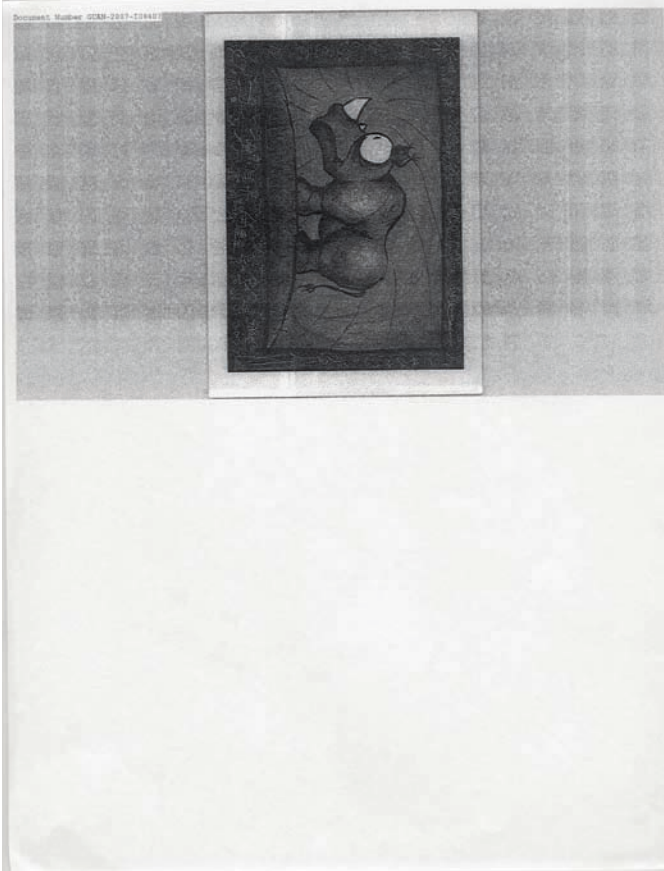


Clockwise from top left: Home: detainee identification label from the bag containing items issued on release; Base: model of former refugee camp at Guantanamo; Base; Home: items issued on release; Camps: toothbrush and paste, hooks; Camps: guard's lavatory

Camps (right): interrogation room call button







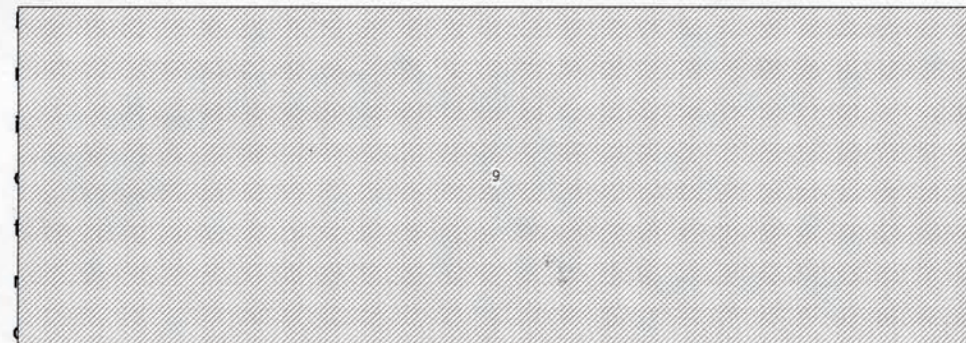
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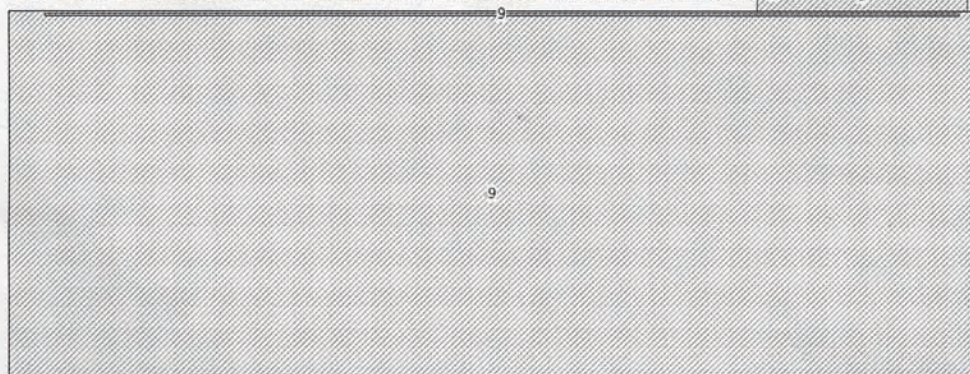
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of ALLAH the most Gracious and most Merciful
brother I say this as your brother in Islam and friend do not believe what the guards say,

Clive is doing a good job, he is there for you, so do not be fooled or even think he is a spy.



I have been getting a lot of support from Jo my Worthing MP's secretary, and Peter Bottomly the Worthing MP has been useful, I have also written to Kat president of all the student national unions' presidents in the UK and she has made all other student presidents of the universities of the UK aware of your plight. As you know the delegation will be going to America to ask them to try you and charge you or release you. Jackie and many of the other people are all pulling hard to get information ready, it seems Marsallah we have understanding people, which feel that justice should prevail. I have spoken to Brother Asim someone that represents cage prisoners he speaks with so much maturity Marsallah for his age. MP Des Turner although a Muppet in my eyes is very slow and stubborn person will not go beyond his way or his means, but when kicked in the rear will move.



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ANYONE WHO RESORTS TO THIS IS REALLY
A COWARD AND REALLY A LONELY PERSON
LOOKING FOR ATTENTION.

YOU OMAR ARE BECOME A POWERFUL
PERSON BECAUSE OF YOUR BROTHER CLAMPIN
AND YOUR FAMILY LOVE. PEOPLE I COULD
SEE IN THAT MEETIN I WENT TO WHERE
COMING TO KNOW AND LIKE YOU FOR THE
LOVE AND PASSION OF WHICH YOUR CLAMPIN
NING TEAM PUT YOUR STORY OF INJUSTICE
ACROSS.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY POOR WRITING AND SPELLING
I'M NOT A EDUCATED MAN, BUT I DO KNOW
RIGHT FROM WRONG AND WHAT HAPPENING
TO YOU IS WRONG. P.S. I WROTE TO
THE PRIME MINISTER ON YOUR BEHALF
YOURS Leshe Lemo



Camps: exercise area