

ORAL QUESTION H-0861/02
for Question Time at the part-session in January 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Hans Karlsson
to the Commission

Subject: Human rights for EU citizens

A year ago, at the end of the war in Afghanistan, a number of individuals were taken prisoner. The reason for their imprisonment was alleged collaboration with al-Qaida. These individuals are still held in custody for an indefinite period at the US base of Guantanamo in Cuba. One of them, Mehdi Mohammed Ghezali, is a Swedish citizen. The US Administration has refused to grant him and his fellow prisoners, several of whom are from EU Member States, the status of prisoners of war. They have not been allowed contact with lawyers or to receive visits from relatives. Previous suspicions of involvement in murder in connection with a convoy of prisoners in Pakistan have now been dismissed by the authorities. Despite that, Ghezali is being refused a trial in a court of law to examine the accusations against him. Throughout the whole of this year, the US authorities have allowed Ghezali to send only one single letter to his family.

In the light of the above, will the Commission say what measures it can take to ensure that a citizen of an EU Member State is treated in accordance with the principles of a state governed by the rule of law?

Tabled: 17.12.2002
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