

# Detainee stories

*Four of the 66 former detainees interviewed by McClatchy Newspapers since their release from the U.S. prison camp for suspected terrorists at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba:*



## Mohammed Sagheer

**Detained** Nov. 2001-late 2002

When Sagheer was released in 2002, it seemed like the world couldn't get enough of him. He was the first Pakistani released from Guantanamo, and everyone wanted to know what he'd seen, what it was like there.

Sagheer appeared on ABC's World News Tonight; a year later, he filed suit in the Pakistani courts against the U.S. government for \$10.4 million. But now he is a forgotten man.



## Nusrat Khan

**Detained** March 2003-Aug. 2006

About 20 years ago, half of Khan's body went numb, and then a year or two later, the other half did, too. In Afghanistan, the doctors only said he was ill; in the United States, they probably would have said he'd suffered at least two strokes.

The American military held him for more than three years, on charges that the elderly, illiterate and near-physically incapacitated man was an insurgent leader.



## Shahzada

**Detained** Early 2003-Spring 2005

Shahzada must sing the words to remember them.

He closes his eyes for a moment and begins, his voice rough and melodic at the same time, stringing together a poem of Guantanamo, of the prison that held him for more than two years:

"This is the jail of Cuba, to whom shall I describe it;

Listen Muslims, this is the jail of Cuba; Made of chains, made of iron cells."




## Swat Khan Bahar

**Detained** Jan. 2002-Oct. 2006

The U.S. Marine colonel presiding over Bahar's tribunal at Guantanamo had bad news. The witnesses that Bahar requested were not "reasonably available."

A McClatchy reporter later had little trouble finding Bahar's former boss in the Afghan interior ministry.

Once reached, he confirmed much of Bahar's story: that he was framed by a rival in the Afghan security services who was working for American troops in the area.

 **To read more:** Go to <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/> for profiles of all detainees interviewed