

Leonard C. Goodman

Refused Request

In December 2007, I finally got the opportunity to represent a detainee. My client, Shawali Khan, is a shop-keeper from Kandahar, Afghanistan. From everything I have read about his situation, he would appear to be one of the many "mistakes" at GTMO—sold to the Americans for a bounty on the thinnest of allegations that he was affiliated with an anti-American group. The group he is alleged to be affiliated with is a group that was supported by the U.S. to repel the Soviets in the 1980s.

I immediately applied for my security clearance but did not receive it until late July at which point I scheduled a visitation. My client has never seen an attorney in six years of detention but has repeatedly asked for an attorney at each of his review tribunals, and in written requests. Three days before my planned visit, I was informed by the Dept of Defense that “due to operational commitments, GTMO will not be able to accommodate your visit request.”

I have submitted a new request to see my client in early September.