

DIARY OF GUANTANAMO

by Pocho Salcedo, Internationalist

The war against terrorism, which began in 2001 and which has the United States as its main protagonist, has protected the country, at a cost commensurate with the restrictions of privacy, and civil liberties, war and the re-creation of an industry of security. Among so many stories, there is one that by the dimension of suffering and injustice captivates the attention at world level.

Mouhamedoud Ould Slahi, detained in Guantanamo, was only one of three prisoners subjected to an "enhanced interrogation" protocol passed in August 2003 directly by then-Defense Minister Donald Rumsfeld. Slahi, considered to be the prisoner who underwent the most extreme interrogation techniques at Guantanamo, marks this October his first full year of release from Guantanamo Prison last month, where he was held for 12 years in addition to other two long years in secret prisons in Senegal, Jordan, and Bagram Air Base Afghanistan.

Slahi of Mauritanian nationality wrote inside the prison the Best Seller "Diary of Guantánamo" translated to multiple languages including Spanish, and published in more than 25 countries. This book was not allowed to be printed for seven years, and only its publication with censorship was authorized.

After being released for not being accused of acts of terrorism or criminal activity, Slahi recorded a video where he thankfully thanked those who helped him to obtain his freedom, and he forgives from the heart his captors, interrogators and all those that inflicted damage, pain, and terror for so long.

Prison and adversity did not turn him to a bitter or defeated man, but rather he is now a man who inspired his captors and millions more through his book and his media presentations.

Mohamedou Oul Slahi in his first conversation with a Latin American media outlet, tells his story in the darkest moments of the war against terrorism. This account will surely penetrate your soul and touch your spirit.