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Nation/World

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WORLD

FBI cites cruelty to detainees

Associated Press

WASHINGTON – The FBI says its employees witnessed more than two dozen cases of military officials and civilian contractors possibly mistreating detainees at the Guantanamo Bay military base.

Documents released Tuesday described a contractor who covered much of a detainee's head in duct tape for chanting the Koran, a female prison guard who allegedly handled a detainee's genitals and wiped menstrual blood on his face, and contractors who left a detainee in a sweltering, unventilated room until he pulled out his own hair and nearly passed out.

The documents were released to the American Civil Liberties Union, which is suing former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on behalf of former military detainees who say they were abused. Many of the incidents have already been reported and are summarized in the lawsuit.

The records were gathered as part of an internal FBI survey in 2004.

The agency asked 493 employees whether they witnessed aggressive treatment that was not consistent with the FBI's policies. The bureau received 26 affirmative responses.

The agency's reports did not say whether any laws were broken. They said nothing employees observed rose to the level of abuse seen at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

FBI spokesman Richard Kolko said all the information in the reports were passed on to the Pentagon's inspector general.

Somalian troops chase militants

Somalia's prime minister said Tuesday that rival Islamic fighters have been scattered and that he does expect any more major fighting for control of the country.

Government forces, backed by Ethiopian troops, were pursuing the remnants of an Islamic militia that until two weeks ago controlled most of southern Somalia and threatened to drive out the internationally-backed government.

Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi said his rivals were scattered and that a group of them offered to surrender Tuesday.

"We asked our troops to collect them and bring them back home," he said, refusing to provide details about how many fighters were involved or where they were.








The rest of "Islamists are scattered in the bush," he said. "Maybe small fights can take place, but we are trying to destroy them."

Palestinians shell Israeli supply truck

Palestinian militants attacked the Gaza Strip's main cargo crossing with mortar fire Tuesday, lightly wounding an Israeli truck driver in the latest flare-up of violence in the coastal strip.

The attack on the Karni crossing came shortly after warring Palestinian factions resumed their violent infighting following a one-week pause, and gunmen abducted a foreign news photographer.

The Israeli army said the mortar attack hit a truck that was delivering building materials to Gaza. It said the attack did not disrupt the flow of goods into Gaza.

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Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has pledged to increase the movement of goods in and out of Gaza in an effort to boost the moderate Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, in his power struggle with the Islamic militant group Hamas.

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