

By Orla Guerin

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Every other night Saad Iqbal Madni wakes up screaming. For more than five years the Pakistani Islamic scholar was one ghost among many - Prisoner Number 746 in Guantanamo Bay.

In terror-filled moments, in the dead of night, he still is.

"Since they arrest me, up to today, every second night I wake up screaming, yelling and crying," he said, breaking down in tears.

"I can't forget what they did to me. No one can do that with the animals. I don't know how they can do that with human beings."

Refrigerated cage

In his nightmares, the prize-winning reciter of the Koran is back in "frequent flier status".

"That means the detainee is not allowed to sleep," he said. "Every 20 minutes, every half an hour, the guards come and wake up the detainee, they handcuff him, they leg shackle him, and move him from block to block, cell to cell. If we try to get a nap the guards come and kick the doors, yelling, screaming and cursing."

Much of Mr Madni's chronicle of humiliation, intimidation and torture cannot be independently

verified, but his account echoes testimony from other former prisoners.

And his descriptions are forensically detailed.

"The CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) used to joke with me with I had a photographic memory," he said.

The CIA declined to comment on his allegations, but the US defence department told the BBC that detainees are treated legally and humanely in Guantanamo, and that torture has never been used.

Mr Madni - who needs a cane to walk - says he is living proof that it has.

He claims that after he attempted suicide, the torture was stepped up, with six months inside a refrigerated cage.

Addicted to morphine

"They stripped me naked, just allowed was the underwear. They put me inside a six-feet by four-feet cage.

