



Witnesses of the Unseen: Seven Years in Guantanamo

Lakhdar Boumediene , Mustafa Ait Idir , Daniel Norland (Editor) , Jeffrey Rose (Editor) , Kathleen List (Translation)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Witnesses of the Unseen: Seven Years in Guantanamo

Lakhdar Boumediene , Mustafa Ait Idir , Daniel Norland (Editor) , Jeffrey Rose (Editor) , Kathleen List (Translation)

Witnesses of the Unseen: Seven Years in Guantanamo Lakhdar Boumediene , Mustafa Ait Idir , Daniel Norland (Editor) , Jeffrey Rose (Editor) , Kathleen List (Translation)

Lakhdar Boumediene and Mustafa Ait Idir lived quiet, peaceful lives—working for humanitarian organizations, raising young children, filling weekend afternoons with pick-up soccer games and coffee with friends.

In October 2001, along with four other Algerian nationals, they were arrested and accused of plotting to attack the American Embassy in Sarajevo. A Bosnian court ordered that they be set free, only to be "released" into the waiting arms of American special forces. Lakhdar and Mustafa were blindfolded, beaten, shackled, and flown to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Housed outdoors in steel mesh cages, they watched as the now-infamous military prison was built around them. For seven years, they languished in subhuman conditions, enduring torture and harassment, force-feedings and beatings, cut off from communication with their families. Neither was accused of a crime nor allowed to argue his innocence.

Witnesses of the Unseen shares the stories of the plaintiffs behind the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Boumediene v. Bush*, which allowed Guantanamo detainees the constitutional right to challenge their detention in federal court. After years of brutal mistreatment, casual violence, and finally the pro bono assistance of an American law firm, Lakhdar and Mustafa were able to secure their release. In these pages, they share their trauma and triumphs in the hope that what happened to them does not happen to innocent people in the future, especially under a flag that should stand for liberty and justice.

Witnesses of the Unseen: Seven Years in Guantanamo Details

Date : Published April 22nd 2017 by Redwood Press

ISBN : 9781503601154

Author : Lakhdar Boumediene , Mustafa Ait Idir , Daniel Norland (Editor) , Jeffrey Rose (Editor) , Kathleen List (Translation)

Format : Hardcover 256 pages

Genre : Autobiography, Memoir, Politics, Nonfiction, History

 [Download Witnesses of the Unseen: Seven Years in Guantanamo ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Witnesses of the Unseen: Seven Years in Guantanamo ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Witnesses of the Unseen: Seven Years in Guantanamo Lakhdar Boumediene , Mustafa Ait Idir , Daniel Norland (Editor) , Jeffrey Rose (Editor) , Kathleen List (Translation)

From Reader Review Witnesses of the Unseen: Seven Years in Guantanamo for online ebook

Danielle Rendon says

I accidentally stumbled upon this book at the library a few months ago, so I checked it out and read it, and I'm glad that I did. It really was an eye opener for me especially as a white American. It was very well written and it broke my heart to read this book, and to know that the American government knew these men were innocent, and still didn't release them. What they experienced was mind blowing and horrifying and I wish these guys the best.

Montgomery Granger says

Witness is a tale of two parallel stories of presumed unlawful combatant Islamists who are apprehended and then taken to the U.S. military detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Although they hold various jobs, at one point the work for organizations with direct ties to al Qaeda. At least one of the men is trained in weaponry and self-defense martial arts and trains others, according to leaked documents. The men portray themselves as "innocent" but are never charged or tried, and are eventually released and then reunited with their families via third countries. Since I worked at Gitmo during the time these men were there I can personally attest to what I believe are at least exaggerations and at times inaccuracies regarding their treatment there. Despite these discrepancies the stories are gripping and moving. Although framed in a sympathetic light, the editors do an admirable job of guiding us through a tale like no other you are likely to read. Since I am the author of "Saving Grace at Guantanamo Bay: A Memoir of a Citizen Warrior," and was the ranking U.S. Army Medical Department officer with the Joint Detainee Operations Group, Joint Task Force 160, from February to June 2002, while the two subjects were incarcerated, I can attest to the general accuracy of descriptions of the facility. Since I was not present for most of their interactions with others, i.e. interrogators, I cannot attest to any of the accuracy of their descriptions of these experiences. All I can say is that while I was at Gitmo we treated all detainees with dignity and respect. Was there abuse at Gitmo? Yes, but the only systemic abuse was by detainees towards the guards. In fact, these two men say as much in their accounts of their interactions with the guards. However, they also accused the guards of sometimes brutal treatment, which is where I part ways with the narrative. I did know of minor abuse while serving at Gitmo, but each incident of abuse towards detainees was swiftly and decisively dealt with and soldiers punished and reassigned or sent back to the United States for further disciplinary action. The editors went to great lengths to put together a complete picture of these men, who become defined by their incarceration at Guantanamo. Fair or not, this is a story everyone should read, balanced of course with stories like mine, which are more rare than those about detainees, but nonetheless essential reading if one is to gather enough information so as to make their own conclusion about Gitmo, the "Least worse place." For me, this story and mine are small pieces to the large puzzle, which is the enigma we call Gitmo. Get the book now, or like I did, have your local public library order a copy.

Mary says

GTMO is an horrific symbol of the USG off the rails after 9/11. We threatened Bosnian authorities when a Bosnian court found the authors of this book, Lakhdar and Mustafa, could not be charged with any crime.

The Bosnian government handed these two exonerated men to our military who kidnapped them and incarcerated them at GTMO for over SEVEN YEARS. They were shackled, locked into outdoor kennels with no protection from the weather while GTMO was being built, abused physically and emotionally and treated as not-covered by our constitution. They had no rights, encountered little humanity and no control over anything except eating. Lakhdar was strapped (head, arms, legs) into a chair and had a feeding tube shoved up his nose for TWO YEARS. Their families were deprived, terrified and not well informed.

Mistakes were made with our dragnet approach after 9/11. We reacted strongly and rather blindly. I can excuse mistaken arrests relying on intel dots connected weakly. 7+ years is incomprehensible, wrong and very unhelpful. And a fantastic recruiting tool for Al-Qaeda. Lakhdar and Mustafa had no direct links to terrorism. They gave absolutely no intel during their brutal, repeated interrogations at GTMO.

They did work for Islamic charities in Bosnia. I understand that Gulf money often flows through “charities” to fund jihadis. I understand Bosnia was a training ground for many jihadis later found in Syria, etc. How about we conclude our, sometimes bumbling, investigations in weeks, not years. The buck stops with the politicians (Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld) on this one. Freaking nightmare. Even if these guys had intended to commit a bombing. We must be better than this. Now Trump wants to reinstitute torture! Torture DOES NOT WORK. Tortured detainees tell their torturers what they want to hear if anything. Building a relationship with a potential source of intel works. Showing respect, understanding and power works. Torture wrecks the torturers, too. How well adjusted is a waterboarder? What does he do to let off steam after work? What kind of life does he have? His family?

Thank you to law firms who can afford pro bono work. Lakhdar and Mustafa could have died in Guantanamo Bay.

Jennifer says

Witnesses of the Unseen is poignant, well written, and a page-turner. It's a shocking, tragic story, but although it's at times heartbreaking, it's ultimately uplifting. Lakhdar and Mustafa advocate tolerance, peace, and fairness, and the US and the rest of the world would do well to listen to their stories and learn from them. Everybody should read this amazing book!

Mimi says

The book is an important testament, one would hope that GW Bush and his cohorts would have the courage to read it.

Silkroad says

I was given an advance readers copy of this book and at first I thought “do I really want to read a hard book like this right now, I need something lighter and happier.” But then I opened it up and started reading and I could not stop. Several times I had to remind myself that this was not fiction, first because of all the mistakes that put these innocent men in prison, but then because of how they somehow not only survived, but

persevered, and did not lose hope. Terrific memoir, wish that it had been fiction, but am grateful to the authors and editors for sharing it.

Suzi says

Told by two men who unjustly served seven years in Guantanamo. Absolutely appalling treatment of innocent men. Although torture is never justified, innocent or guilty. Astonishing though, both men missed 7 years of their young childrens lives, they remain kind and caring men. May God give them continued peace and blessings.

tsundy says

An incredible story. While I do feel some parts were told in a through a rose coloured filter (namely the start) and perhaps there was bias in parts and doesn't undermine the realities of what these men went through. I find it hard that this can happen to good people. What government can commit such terrible unjustifiable acts in the name of what? It has always been about politics. Sorry, need to stop before I get to heated up. A book that will make you think.

Ronda Canary says

This shouldn't have happened.
