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Death Poem

Jumah al Dossari

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JUMAH AL DOSSARI

Jumah al Dossari, a thirty-three-year-old Bahraini national, is the father of a young daughter. He was held at Guantánamo Bay for more than five years and has since been released. In addition to being detained without charge or trial, Dossari has been subjected to a range of physical and psychological abuses, some of which are detailed in *Inside the Wire*, an account of the Guantánamo prison by former military intelligence soldier Erik Saar. Dossari was held in solitary confinement since the end of 2003 and, according to the U.S. military, tried to kill himself twelve times while in the prison. On one occasion, he was found by his lawyer, hanging by his neck and bleeding from a gash to his arm.

DEATH POEM

by Jumah al Dossari

Take my blood.
Take my death shroud and
The remnants of my body.
Take photographs of my corpse at the gravel, lonely.

Send them to the world,
To the judges and
To the people of conscience,
Send them to the principled men and the fair-minded.

And let them bear the guilty burden before the world,
Of this innocent soul.
Let them bear the burden before their children and before
 history,
Of this wasted, sinless soul,
Of this soul which has suffered at the hands of the
 “protectors of peace.”

Poem reprinted from *Poems from Guantánamo: The Detainees Speak*, by permission of the
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