Ahmed Abu Ali
Student and U.S. citizen

Convicted solely on a tortured confession.

Tortured confessions are prohibited. So why do we use them in court?

Ahmed Abu-Ali was born in Houston, Texas in 1981. Valedictorian of his high school class, interfaith volunteer, and regular Red Cross blood donor, he chose to study Islamic literature at the University of Medinah in Saudia Arabia. During a final exam in 2003, Saudi police suddenly arrested, interrogated, and tortured 22-year-old Ahmed at the behest of the U.S., where he was coerced into reading a written confession that implicated him in an alleged conspiracy to assassinate President Bush. Ahmed was held for almost two years without charges or access to an attorney. The U.S government repeatedly stated that they had no interest in him during this time, despite having the “confession.” When his family filed a lawsuit to bring him home, Ahmed was charged with conspiracy and renditioned to the U.S., where the only evidence at his trial was the video of his tortured confession; the judge would not allow either the evidence of his torture or his testimony to be presented. However, despite the judge’s declaration that the so-called conspiracy “did not result in a single actual victim,” Ahmed is presently serving a life sentence in solitary confinement.

How can you help?
Write to Attorney General Eric Holder, U.S. Dept. of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, call 202-514-2000, or e-mail AskDOJ@usdoj.gov.
Tell the Attorney General to review the case and remind him that tortured confessions belong in the Spanish Inquisition, not U.S. courts.
For more information: National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms • Portraits of Injustice www.civilfreesoms.org • Email: info@civilfreesoms.org • Toll Free: (855) CIV-FREE