

Torturers who steal years

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By Roberto Morejón

The presentation before the U.S. Supreme Court of the case of a prisoner who said he was tortured by the CIA in Poland brings to light additional and uncomfortable testimonies about horrors in prisons controlled by the United States of America.

The prisoner, now serving for many years at the Guantanamo base but not yet sentenced, Abu Zubaydah, wants to test the Democratic administration's attempts to keep his case out of the view cameras and microphones.

It would be the first time the high court has looked into a matter related to the Central Intelligence Agency's scandalous torture program in various latitudes, such as Abu Ghraib in Iraq.

The clandestine ergastulas and other not so hermetic ones were used to evade certain guarantees and procedures of the U.S. judicial system, as part of the so-called global fight against terrorism.

But the various administrations did not count on the fact that some of the prisoners, and even those released after years of isolation and humiliation without being subjected to judicial proceedings, would one day speak out.

This is the situation of Zubaydah, who through his lawyer asked the Supreme Court to require the appearance of two psychologists he identified, because they outlined so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques" -- nothing short of torture methods.

Of course, the U.S. government refuses to disclose details of the covert confinement and the physical and mental restraints used to force prisoners detained after the attacks on the twin towers to talk.

The media are not so abundant in this regard as to protect the image of what is described as the most robust democracy on the planet, although statements such as that of Zubaydah sometimes come to light.

Like the latter, and without charges or trial, Mohamed Ould Slahi also exposed being a victim of mistreatment and torture during 14 years in the US prison in the territory of Guantanamo, usurped from Cuba.

The testimonies of Zubaydah and Slahi crash against an official discourse in Washington, where Obama and Joseph Biden said they favored the closure of Guantanamo, but 39 of them are still being robbed of years there, as one prisoner affirmed.

And the White House incorrigibly reiterates that the administration stands as a bastion of vigilance for the observance of human rights in the world.

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