

'Kamunting not same as Guantanamo Bay'

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At the Dewan Rakyat

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Foreign Ministry says the Kamunting detention camp for Internal Security Act (ISA) detainees should not be compared with the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in Cuba.

"There is a difference in the law holding detainees by the United States in Guantanamo Bay and those detained under the ISA," said Foreign Ministry parliamentary secretary Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

"The camps cannot be equated," he said in reply to a supplementary question from **Teresa Kok (DAP-Seputeh)**

"Issues related to the

violation of human rights in Guantanamo Bay, which has been condemned by the world, are something unheard of in the context of the ISA here.

"*Newsweek* reported the Quran was insulted and flushed down the toilet. Such a thing was not heard under the ISA.

"We have heard of detainees in droves seeking to commit suicide due to the pressure there (in Guantanamo Bay), not here.

"This is a statement which is totally unfair (to equate Guantanamo Bay with ISA)."

Ahmad Shabery said it is also difficult to determine whether detention at Guantanamo Bay is good or just in relation to international law when it has been criticised by many quarters including human right groups.

To an original question from Kok, he confirmed that two

Malaysians held in Guantanamo Bay were Mohd Farik Amin and Mohammed Nazir Lep.

He said the duo's detention was conveyed by the United States to Wisma Putra on Sept 7, 2006.

"They were among 14 foreign nationals who were transferred by the US Central Intelligence Agency from secret detention locations as they were suspected to be involved in Al Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiah," Ahmad Shabery said.

He said the government, through the embassy in Washington, has requested the US government to ensure that the Malaysian duo received a fair and just trial under the Armed Forces Commission established specifically to adjudicate the detainees who are suspected to be terrorists.