

Man in hood recounts torture

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He tells of abuses at Abu Ghraib prison

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KUALA LUMPUR: Ali Shalah – the man in the hood – told a packed conference how an Israeli in civilian clothes stuck a jagged wooden stick and the barrel of a rifle into his rectum at the Abu Ghraib prison.

“I was cut inside and bled profusely. During this time, when guards walked past me, they would beat me. I had no food for 36 hours,” he said at the *Expose War Crimes – Criminalise War Conference*.

Ali Shalah, an Islamic education lecturer by profession, spoke of how US soldiers stripped him, tied him to steel bars and threw human waste and urinated on him.

He received the “punishment” because they refused to believe that he did not know the names of resistance fighters.

With a bag thrown over his head, he was also electrocuted three times.

“When the electrical current entered my body, I felt as if my eyes



Ali Shalah: ‘When the electrical current entered my body, I felt as if my eyes were being forced out’

were being forced out. My teeth were clattering violently. My whole body was shaking violently.”

Ali Shalah’s ordeal started on Oct

13, 2003 when US soldiers arrested him as he was on his way to a mosque for prayers.

Two days later, he was made to sit in a small room that looked like a toilet because it was flooded with water and human waste up to ankle level.

His interrogators comprised a Moroccan Jew, an Israeli in civilian clothes and two Americans in army uniform. After the torture, Ali Shalah was transferred to another part of Abu Ghraib prison that consisted of five sectors with five tents surrounded by walls and barbed wires.

“During this period, I heard from detainees that they were tortured with cigarettes, injected with hallucinating chemicals and had their rectum inserted with various instruments such as wooden sticks and pipes.”

Ali Shalah was released in early March 2004.

“What I am telling you is just a drop in the big sea of what’s happening in Iraq,” he added.