

The common experience for many lawyers meeting with their clients for the first visit inevitably contain some of the following questions. These questions are most common when the interview is with a detainee who is not familiar with the common law adversary system or the civil law tradition of Western Europe. Many North African countries view lawyers as the arm of the government. Usually these conversations are conducted through interpreters. These particular questions are drawn from the notes of our meetings with our two clients. Both of them are Tunisians and speak no English. Tunisian lawyers have been arrested for criticizing the government during court arguments. When we first met our clients, we were unaware of the different understandings of the role of lawyers in other parts of the world.

1. Who is paying you?
2. Why are you doing this?
3. Do you work for the government?
4. Do you think that I know something?
5. Do you know that I have told everything that I know to the other interrogators?
6. The interrogators know everything. I have told them everything, over and over again.
Why do you keep asking?
7. Are you my new interrogator?
8. I have not seen my other interrogators for a long time? Why is that?
9. Why do you want to know the name and address of my family? They have nothing to do with anything. Please leave them alone. My wife does not know where I am and I do not want her to be afraid. I will not tell you anything about her or my family.

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10. My wife does not know if I am alive or dead. I went to get my heart medicine in Pakistan and while I was coming home, I was picked up. Does she have any idea where I am?
11. I was questioned for many days before I came to Guantánamo. How would I know how many days? I was in the dark, I did not have a clock or anyway to tell the days. How would I know how many days it was before I came to Guantánamo?
12. I do not know how many days that I have been at Guantánamo. How could I tell?
13. Have you read my file? They have asked everything over and over again many, many times.
14. You say that you will make George Bush or the United States Army let me go. How can you do that?
15. Do you think that the courts will make him let me go free?
16. What power do the courts have?
17. You say that the court helped me last year but why am I still here?
18. What good is a court?
19. Does the court have guns or bombs? How can they stop the American army?
20. What difference does it make if the Congress and the court share power with the president? You know that the president is in charge.
21. Nobody can help me?
22. They do not care about me?
23. Do you care about me?
24. Why do you care about me? You do not know me.
25. Do you know that everyone here is a Muslim?

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26. Why is that?
27. If I were not a Muslim, would I be here?
28. Does America hate all Muslims?
29. Are you a Muslim?
30. Isn't the name Joshua a Jewish name?
31. Are you Jewish? Jews hate Muslims, especially Arab Muslims.
32. Could you send me something to read?
33. How can you help free me from the American Army if you can not send me newspapers? What about sports magazines—soccer magazines?
34. How is the Milan soccer team doing?
35. I do not blame the American people but can't they help me?
36. So what if there are elections? Will that stop the Army and make them let me go home?
37. Do you know that I have nothing to read but the Quran?
38. Why can I not read anything else?
39. Can I have an English Arabic dictionary?
40. Are you saying that I can not learn English because if I learn English, I will be danger to the guards?
41. What is the reason that I am here? No one will tell me.
42. They have not told you? How can you help me if you do not even know why I am here?
43. You know the reasons but the reasons are secret so you can not tell me what they are?
44. You can only tell me some of the reasons but not the real reasons?

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45. How can telling me the reasons that I am here, hurt America? I never did anything to the United States or anyone else. I am a honey broker—I buy honey from farmers and sell it in Bazaars. I was sold for bounty by Pakistanis. Pakistanis do not like Arabs.
46. Did you know that Pakistani's do not speak Arabic?
47. Do you know that Pakistanis want all Arabs to leave?
48. I see a dentist but I never have my teeth cleaned. Because of my heart problems, I have to be very careful about infection. Can you get my teeth cleaned?
49. Can you bring me toothpaste?
50. Why not?
51. If I am an enemy combatant, who would be afraid of me?
52. What could I do to anyone? Is the American Army afraid that I will hurt their planes or hurt their soldiers? This is stupid.
53. How are you different from the interrogators? They want me to talk and they tell me nothing. You want me to talk but you will not tell me anything!
54. Why can you not call me by telephone?
55. Is it true that you can only visit me if the Army says it is okay?
56. Why does it take so long for you to arrange a visit? You are my lawyer; you say that you can help me, but you can only see me when the government says you can. The interrogators can see me whenever they want.
57. You say the Supreme Court has said I have a right to go to Court twice. Why have you not gotten me to court?
58. Congress can stop the Supreme Court?
59. The court has done nothing for me. How can you do anything for me?

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60. Name one thing one lawyer has gotten for his client?
61. Can a lawyer get toothpaste or teeth cleaned?
62. Thank you for the food, but this Ramadan. I will eat it later tonight, after sundown. Do you mean that you cannot leave food for me to eat after sundown?
63. Do you know that I never get any mail from you or anyone else?
64. Why don't you send me mail?
65. Thank you for this visit it was very pleasant. When will the Army let you come again?