

The Speed of Incarceration

Bernard Khoury

The Question:

Salah's heroic quest for speed and freedom.

Salah was born somewhere in eastern Syria, about 280 kilometers northeast of Damascus.

At a fairly early age, Salah wanted to be an athlete. He became the speediest runner of his native village of Deir El Zor.

Before the age of maturity, he was allowed to drive the family truck through the hills of eastern Syria and beyond. His fascination and love for the machine shaped many of his impossible dreams, which included wanting to become the first Syrian professional formula 1 pilot.

Just a few years later, Salah was given his first mobile phone and was finally connected to the national Syrian cellular network and beyond.

In his constant quest for speed; from animal speed to mechanical speed and finally electronic speed, Salah was convinced he could break the confined spatial boundaries of his geographical territory and roam through the

unconfined spaces of a great and promising free world.

Is this why Salah thought he could be a free man?

In 2011, Salah took the very sober decision to join the freedom fighters of Deir El Zor not only to defend his village from the oppressors, but more importantly to secure his rights and his access to this promised free world.

A few months into the battle, Salah was captured by the oppressors. After a few weeks in captivity, he was finally released in unprecedented prisoner exchange operation orchestrated by the elite National Guard brigadier general Issam Zahreddine.

The Answer:

The POW 08 is a self-propelled apparatus for the use of returning Prisoners of War to enemy lines. The binary nature of the device allows POW 08 to act simultaneously as an AGI [Auxiliary Gatherer of Information] over hostile territory. Sensitive INTEL [Intelligence] is gathered through Infrared live video footage which is collected on its route.

POW 08 is manually operated by the prisoner of war and requires no mechanical propulsion. The apparatus is pushed forward by the shuffling motion of the prisoner, who, with the exclusion of the arms, is fully contained inside the device; this shuffling motion, created by arm to ground traction, is able to generate enough force to move the device. The slow moving nature of the device allows for higher quality, comprehensive video INTEL.

Due to the low-tech, manual nature of POW 08, the device preserves a high level of RAM [Reliability, Accessibility, Maintainability] and a high level of MOE [Measure of Effectiveness].

The use of POW 08 to return the prisoner renders the threat of a defensive counter attack unlikely as the device is inhabited and maneuvered strictly by the prisoner, permitting LPI [Low Probability of Intercept].

The prisoner who is enclosed inside the POW 08 has a FOV [Field of View] of zero, inducing disorientation. Due to this lack of visibility, it is essential that the prisoner follow OpOrd [Operational Order] directions, transmitted by C³ground units [Command, Control, and Communications] via radio, to insure a safe arrival at enemy lines. The prisoner is securely harnessed inside the device, imprisoned until the apparatus reaches his arrival destination, where the prisoner may be released with outside assistance.

Reversing the order of speed



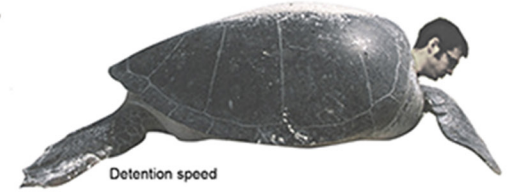
The speed of light



Mechanical speed



Animal speed



Detention speed



POW - The Answer, Bernard Khoury

Bernard Khoury studied architecture at the Rhode Island school of Design and received a Master's degree from Harvard University. In 2001, he was awarded the honorable mention of the Borromini Prize, given to architects under forty years of age. He has taught, lectured, and exhibited his work in prestigious academic institutions in over 35 countries including a solo show of his work at the Aedes gallery in Berlin (2003) and numerous group shows including 'YOUprison' at the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Turin (2008) and 'Spazio' at the opening show of the MAXXI museum in Rome (2010). He was the co-curator and architect of the Kingdom of Bahrain's national pavilion at the Venice Biennale's 14th International Architecture Exhibition in 2014. Khoury started an independent practice in 1993. Extensively mediatised, his office has developed an international reputation and a significant diverse portfolio of projects both locally and in over 15 countries on the international front.