

A Day of Action to Close Guantanamo Prison on Its 19th Anniversary January 11th, 2021

Each January around the January 11th anniversary of its opening, human rights advocates and faith communities join in calling for the closure of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. Guantanamo Bay is a symbol of our nation's use of torture. As of December 2020, 40 men are imprisoned at the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, including six who are cleared for transfer from the prison. It costs an estimated \$13 million dollars per detainee per year to maintain the prison. President-elect Biden has committed to closing Guantanamo and ending the indefinite detention of the people held there. We have a real chance to finally move forward from this unfortunate chapter of U.S. history - but to do that we must hold President-elect Biden to his word.

The prison at Guantanamo operates outside the United States and United Nation laws of today – related to ‘war crimes’ of which the incarcerated there have not yet been accused or convicted. We are not in a state of war.

The US's continued retention of prisoners at Guantanamo illegally - without due process, gives Middle East terrorist groups license to back their own propaganda and opposition efforts. It also causes the local people there to not trust the US and thus not cooperate with US efforts there to end the fighting.

There is a way to empty the prison at Guantanamo by first revoking Executive Order 13823 – which mandates the continuation of detention operations at Guantanamo *and has no legal justification*. Then each of the prisoners can be evaluated within the rule of law. Many of the prisoners already have legal representatives. To do this, right now there is enough money, and the legal actions required are fully defined in US and international UN law. This will include the release of the incarcerated, when found not guilty or when sufficient time has been served, into a country with adequate human rights outside the US. Each of those found guilty who have not yet served enough time will be sent to an outside country for retention in a justly run prison.

GUANTÁNAMO BY THE NUMBERS (as of December 2020)

780 -- Total number of detainees who have been held at the Guantánamo Bay facility.

700+ -- Number of detainees that have been released, most without having ever been charged, many after being detained for years.

660 -- Number of Middle East suspected terrorists who, since 9/11, have been tried and successfully prosecuted in US federal courts and are now serving in US prisons.

40 – Number of people still held at Guantánamo Bay facility who have never received a trial or been charged with any crime more than a decade after they were first imprisoned.

26 -- Minimum number of prisoners who were tortured in CIA-run facilities before being transferred to Guantánamo.

21 -- Number of children who have been imprisoned at Guantánamo.

9 -- Number of Guantánamo detainees who died while in custody, 7 by suspected suicide.

6 -- Number of prisoners who continue to be held in Guantánamo despite having been cleared for release by our government.

\$540 million -- Estimated cost to house, guard and prosecute the 40 prisoners still imprisoned at Guantánamo Bay for one year.

Suggested Actions

Online Events

- Partners in Los Angeles are hosting a digital rally on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 10am PT (1pm EST) - [Click here for more information and to RSVP](#)
- Join the [Center for Constitutional Rights](#), [Justice for Muslims Collective](#), [Amnesty International USA](#), and [Witness Against Torture](#) for a virtual conversation, [Rights or Rightlessness? The Lives of Men Imprisoned at Guantanamo](#), on January 11, 5:00- 6:30pm EST: <https://ccrjustice.org/home/get-involved/events/rights-or-rightlessness-lives-men-imprisoned-guant-namo>
- Guantanamo, a Legal Black Hole: A View From Both Sides of the Prison Bars with James "Yusuf" Yee, who served both as Muslim Chaplain and then Detainee at Guantanamo, discussing his ordeal and other aspects of "military justice" live on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=keFzSzUqbEU> Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 4:30 PM EST
- New School Peace Action Webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56VbWR37yQk&feature=youtu.be>

Add Your Name to the Close Guantanamo Petition: <https://nrcat.salsalabs.org/close-guantanamo-petition/index.html>

Submit Letters to President-Elect Biden, Congress, and the Press and/or Call the White House and Congress.

- Use talking points (<http://www.nrcat.org/national-security/close-guantanamo/act-guantanamo/ite-talking-points>)

Lead a brief prayer vigil on Facebook Live and share this information on social media.

For more information on Guantánamo and action alerts for Congress and the President to close the detention center, go to

Human Rights First:

- <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/detaining-and-prosecuting-terrorism-suspects/>

Just Security:

- <https://www.justsecurity.org/72367/toward-a-new-approach-to-national-and-human-security-close-guantanamo-and-end-indefinite-detention/>

National Religious Campaign against Torture

- <http://www.nrcat.org/national-security/close-guantanamo/act-guantanamo>

Witness against Torture

- <http://witnessagainsttorture.com/news/>

*This leaflet was prepared by the
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Campaign against Torture*