

CLOSE GUANTANAMO!

12 Years of Imprisonment without End!!

January 10,
2014

January 11 marks 12 years since the U.S. facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba opened as an indefinite detention/torture facility. On the day after Christmas, President Obama signed the new budget deal and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2014. The president made a lot of noise in his signing statement about the desire to close Guantanamo, but the time to press Congress on that was before they sent the bill. Alternatively, he could have vetoed it.

According to Common Dreams (12/12/13), the bill eases restrictions on transferring prisoners from Guantanamo to third countries, but continues the ban on transferring the prisoners to U.S. soil.

They quote the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), who wrote "We hope that President Obama will make swift use of the new NDAA provisions to actually act on his removal of the ban. Despite President Obama's announcement in May that he would lift his self-imposed ban on transfers to Yemen, seven months later not a single Yemeni has been released."

On January 11 in Washington, DC, CCR and seven other organizations are marking the "unacceptable 12th anniversary of indefinite detention" with a rally and march at the White House. The march sponsors plan to call on President Obama to "finally fulfill his broken promise to shut down" Guantanamo, noting that "158 men remain detained at Guantanamo; most should never have been detained in the first place and are entering their 13th year of being deprived of their liberty without any charge or trial. They must be tried in a fair court or released; Guantanamo must be shut down."

(The other organizations behind the DC rally include Witness Against Torture <<http://witness torture.org>>, Amnesty International, CODEPINK: Women For Peace, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, the World Can't Wait. Blue Lantern Project, & CloseGitmo.net).

In 2013, nearly 100 of the prisoners engaged in a hunger strike. The U.S. responded by force-feeding many of the inmates (which is against international law). When the number of strikers fell below 20, the U.S. stopped sending information to the media about the protest. Though media access to the facility is extraordinarily limited, the Miami Herald found at least 14 people still on hunger strike in early November.

In 2012 on the 10th anniversary, the call to action was made, which is still valid:
Close Guantánamo & end abuses at Bagram (in Afghanistan); end indefinite detention & military commissions; charge and fairly try detained men in federal court or release them; ensure accountability for torture & other serious abuses; fully investigate; prosecute and provide remedy for victims; counter Islamophobia underpinning Guantánamo & US detention policies more broadly; and ensure security with human rights.



Photo of demonstrators at the White House from the Nation (of Pakistan), May 27, 2013

This flyer was prepared in January, 2014 by the
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Contact us about our meetings!
Meetings usually 2nd Tuesdays, 7 PM; next one is January 14.