



STOP TORTURE AND INDEFINITE DETENTION!

Shut Down Guantánamo Now!

The facts speak for themselves: torture is an integral strategy of the U.S. government's so-called "war on terror". This is unacceptable. But it won't end until we demand that our government immediately stop torturing people and end the practice of "indefinite detention".

- Around 500 people from 35 countries continue to be held without charge or trial as of January 2006, four years after the Bush administration began locking up detainees at Guantánamo Bay.
- Detainees remain in a legal black hole, many with no access to any court, legal counsel, or family visits.
- There's mounting evidence that detainees have been subjected to torture and other forms of mistreatment. This evidence comes not only from the few detainees who have been allowed to meet with lawyers and the fewer who have been released, but also from FBI agents and former military personnel who were assigned to Guantánamo.



Guantánamo

If the U.S. government has evidence that Guantánamo detainees have committed crimes, they should be charged and brought to fair trial. If not, they must be released.

- Many detainees are confined in small cells for up to 24 hours a day, with minimal opportunity for exercise. Detainees are often kept in isolation, sometimes for months, as punishment for the infraction of strict camp rules.

- Several detainees have attempted suicide. In desperation, between 100 and 150 recently embarked on hunger strikes. They are being kept alive, sometimes against their will, through painful forced-feeding procedures.
- The U.N. Commission on Human Rights, in a report of Feb. 2006, stated that "the legal regime applied to these detainees seriously undermines the rule of law and a number of fundamental universally recognized human rights, which are the essence of democratic societies," and concludes that "The United States Government should close the Guantánamo Bay detention facilities without further delay."

Quick Facts About Torture

- At least 27 detainees died in U.S. custody due to suspected or confirmed criminal homicides. Seven people were tortured to death. At least 141 detainees died while in U.S. custody in Iraq or Afghanistan.
- Only 1 of the criminal homicides occurred at Abu Gharib. At least 73 of the detainees died at locations other than Abu Gharib.
- At least 54 detainees have died in U.S. custody since Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld was informed of the abuses at Abu Gharib on January 16, 2004.
- As of June 2005, 68,000 people have been taken into U.S. custody, and about 30,000 of those were entered "into the system," and assigned internment serial numbers in Iraq, Guantánamo Bay, and Afghanistan.
- Reportedly 100-150 individuals have been rendered from U.S. custody to a foreign country known to torture prisoners, including to Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Pakistan.
- There are 6 main acknowledged U.S. detention facilities worldwide--3 in Iraq, 2 in Afghanistan and Guantánamo Bay.
- There are also approximately 25 transient facilities - field prisons designed to house detainees for a short period until they can be released or transferred to a more permanent facility in Afghanistan or Iraq.
- There are believed to be at least 9 "secret" detention locations used since September 2001. They are CIA facilities in Afghanistan, Guantánamo, and Jordan; detention facilities in Alizai, Kohat and Peshawar in Pakistan; a facility on the U.S. Naval Base on the island of Diego-Garcia; and detention facilities aboard U.S. ships, particularly the USS Peleliu and USS Bataan.
- Nearly 13,000 people are currently in U.S. detention in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantánamo Bay. As of October 3, 2005, in Iraq, there were 11,800 detainees in U.S. custody; as of May 2005, the U.S. was holding approximately 520 detainees in Afghanistan; as of October 1, 2005 there were approximately 505 detainees held at Guantánamo Bay and at least 2 enemy combatants held in the U.S..
- The U.S. transferred at least one dozen prisoners out of Iraq for further interrogation in violation of the Geneva Conventions.

Source:

www.humanrightsfirst.org/us_law/etn/misc/factsheet.htm

Ten things you can do to stop torture and indefinite detention!

- Educate yourself. See www.ActAgainstTorture.org for articles and links.
- Talk about it with friends and co-workers.
- Write letters to Bush and your congressional representatives.
- Publish. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
- Print out our posters and post them at work, in your window, or on the street.
- Put an **Act Against Torture** bumper sticker on your car or bike.
- Spread the word. Make copies and pass them on to friends and co-workers.



Abu Gharib

- Print out **Act Against Torture** information cards and leave them in cafés, schools, and other public places.
- Donate to organizations working to end torture and indefinite detention.
- Organize. Hold a meeting with your friends to plan an action against torture.

Act Against Torture is a coalition of activists based in the San Francisco Bay Area working to end the U.S. government's torture and indefinite detention of prisoners throughout the world. For more information, visit us at:

www.actagainsttorture.org