

Five years...

No charges...

No trials...



Shut Down Guantánamo!

On January 11, 2002, twenty hooded and shackled men arrived at the U.S. prison at Guantánamo. To sidestep the Geneva Conventions' protections for prisoners of war, the Bush administration invented a new category for them: "enemy combatant" in the "war on terror."

Total number of men and boys detained at Guantánamo: About 800

Number there now: Nearly 400

Number charged with crimes: 10

Number whose cases have gone to trial: 0

Why no charges? In most cases, it's because there's no evidence the detainees committed any crime – they were just in the wrong place at the wrong time, or were turned in by bounty hunters. The Dept. of Defense's own records say only 8 percent were Al Qaeda fighters. But hundreds remain indefinitely imprisoned.

No day in court: Some of the detainees got lawyers to challenge the grounds for their detention, using a legal right called *habeas corpus* - part of our legal tradition since 1215 A.D. The Bush administration, with support from Congress, responded by simply stripping them of the right to use *habeas corpus* and throwing their cases out of court.

Our government has locked them up and thrown away the key!

And subjected them to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment – beatings, sleep deprivation, sexual humiliation, extremes of hot and cold, religious ridicule, and more, according to FBI agents, translators, chaplains, and other U.S. military personnel.

This nightmare has gone on too long already!

It's time to insist that Bush and Congress bring it to an end!

Contact your legislators – especially Nancy Pelosi – and demand that they:

- Shut down Guantánamo, Abu Ghraib, Bagram and all other U.S. prisons overseas, including secret CIA detention facilities.
- Either charge the detainees and turn them over to an international court or release them.
- Repeal the Military Commissions Act of 2006 and restore *habeas corpus*.
- Withhold the \$125 million the administration wants for construction of new military courts at Guantánamo.
- Pay reparations to current and former detainees and their families for violations of their human rights.
- Clearly forbid torture and all other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, by the military, the CIA, civilian contractors, prison guards (inside and outside the U.S.) or anyone else.

Much of the evidence against Guantánamo detainees is "flimsy, second-, third-, fourth- or 12th-hand"

--A study by the National Journal (a mainstream D.C. publication), Feb. 3, 2006

- "Evidence" includes admissions or accusations made by other detainees after hundreds of hours of interrogations.
- A single prisoner at Guantánamo, following repeated interrogation, implicated more than 60 of his fellow inmates.
- Another detainee "confessed" following an interminable interrogation, shouting: "Fine, you got me; I'm a terrorist."
- A Yemeni accused of being a bodyguard of Osama Bin Laden eventually "admitted" to having seen Bin Laden five times: "Three times on Al Jazeera and twice on Yemeni news." In his file his interrogators wrote: "Detainee admitted to knowing Osama Bin Laden."

Guantánamo abuses reported by FBI agents:

- Chaining detainees hand and foot in fetal position on the floor with no chair, food, or water, for 24 hours or more.
- Wrapping the head of a man with a full beard in duct tape.
- Keeping detainees awake for days on end with strobe lights and loud music.
- A guard dressing as a priest and "baptizing" a Muslim detainee.
- Subjecting a detainee to a lap dance by a topless female guard.
- Interrupting detainees' attempts to pray by putting fluid on their faces and telling them it was menstrual blood.
- Beating a detainee who had recently undergone abdominal surgery.

Source: Newly released FBI documents cited by CNN 1/2/07

More information:

Amnesty International
Cageprisoners.com
Center for Constitutional Rights
Act Against Torture (Bay Area)

web.amnesty.org/pages/guantanamobay-index-eng
www.cageprisoners.com
www.ccr-ny.org
www.actagaintorture.org