

SHUT DOWN GUANTANAMO! Ten Years Too Many!

January 6,
2012

January, 2012 National Days of Action Against Guantánamo



Demonstration in London, 2008

Guantánamo: Ten Years Too Many

The first prisoners were brought to detention facilities at Guantánamo Bay on January 11, 2002. This year marks a distressing anniversary; **ten years is too many** for a prison camp that should never have existed at all.

The State of Guantánamo

* **The imprisoned:** 171 men remain imprisoned at Guantánamo. The last two prisoners who left did so in body bags. (Eight people have now died in custody.)

* **Judiciary:** Despite the Supreme Court's 2008 ruling that detainees have the right to challenge the legality of their detention, the legal process has been virtually stalled by lower courts. Military commissions have been reinstated; their procedures offer little to no chance for fair trials.

* **Executive:** Despite their claim to support closing Guantánamo the Obama Administration has demonstrated very little political will in doing so. Additionally, the Administration has issued directives that effectively institutionalize indefinite detention without charge or trial.

* **Legislative:** Provisions in defense legislation now make it impossible to transfer detainees to US soil, including for trials. Most recently, legislation has been introduced which threatens to make military custody of all terrorist suspects mandatory.

* **Expansion:** While the number of men in Guantánamo has leveled off, thousands more are detained in Bagram and black sites operated by the US around the world. There is no end in sight as the US plans to expand detention facilities in Afghanistan.

Call for Action

The situation is bleak. "The land of the free and home of the brave" imprisons indiscriminately and acts out of fear instead of principle. Our government continues to deepen its policies of indefinite detention and exhibit contempt for the rule of law with little public outrage. Yet we gather this year with a renewed hope in nonviolent social change as we witness the power of people standing together to challenge injustice. This tenth anniversary we must act on behalf of those whose lives are being devastated. We must withdraw our consent in the presence of lawmakers and remind the public of the cruelties committed in their name.

On January 11, 2012 in Washington, DC groups will form a human chain between the White House and the Capitol in protest of the 10th anniversary of the Guantánamo prison and the human rights violations it represents, including torture, detention without charge, unfair trials, Islamophobia, and impunity for crimes by US government officials.

Guantánamo is a global symbol of human rights violations and lawlessness by the US government. According to military experts it is counterproductive to security.

We call on President & Congress to: Close Guantánamo & end abuses at Bagram; 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.

**Please wear orange or black and bring signs that say
"No Guantánamo. No Torture. No Excuses!"**

Info: www.witnesstorture.org, www.amnestyusa.org/jan11,
www.ccrjustice.org/closegitmo, or www.nrcat.org/gitmo2012

This flyer was prepared using information from
Voices for Creative Nonviolence (www.vcnv.org)
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Contact us about our meetings!**

Meetings usually 2nd Tuesdays, 7 PM; next one is January 10.