



Quotes on Guantánamo and Torture

"I'd like to see it shut down...I believe that from the standpoint of how it reflects on us that it's been pretty damaging."

-Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
www.miamiherald.com/guantanamo/story/378038.html

"If it were up to me I would close Guantánamo not tomorrow but this afternoon...Essentially, we have shaken the belief that the world had in America's justice system...and it's causing us far more damage than any good we get from it."

-Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State
www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSN1043646920070610

"I came to this job thinking that Guantánamo Bay should be closed."

-Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense
www.nytimes.com/2007/03/30/washington/30gitmo.html?scp=3&sq=robert+gates+guantanamo&st=nyt

"It gives us a very, very bad name, not just internationally. I have a great deal of difficulty understanding how we can hold someone, pick someone up, particularly someone who might be an American citizen—even if they were caught somewhere abroad, acting against American interests—and hold them without ever giving them an opportunity to appear before a magistrate."

-James A. Baker III, former U.S. Secretary of State
www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-advice28mar28,1,2275646.story

"The difference between us and the enemy is how we treat the enemy."

-Rear. Adm. John Hutson, former Navy lawyer
www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20060119-043756-2616r

"Torture does not work."

-Porter Goss, former director of the CIA
www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2005-11-20-cia-detainees_x.htm

“Some may argue that we would be more effective if we sanctioned torture or other expedient methods to obtain information from the enemy. They would be wrong. Beyond the basic fact that such actions are illegal, history shows that they also are frequently neither useful nor necessary.”

-David H. Petraeus, Commanding General, Multi-National Force - Iraq
www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/nation/documents/petraeus_values_051007.pdf

“Anybody with real combat experience understands that torture is counterproductive.”

-F. Andy Messing, retired major U.S. Special Forces and director of the National Defense Council
www.cvt.org/file.php?ID=5575

“Cruelty disfigures our national character. It is incompatible with our constitutional order, with our laws, and with our most prized values ...there is no more fundamental right than to be safe from cruel and inhumane treatment. Where cruelty exists, law does not.”

-Alberto Mora, former general counsel of the United States Navy
www.jfklibrary.org/Education+and+Public+Programs/Profile+in+Courage+Award/Award+Recipients/Alberto+Mora/Acceptance+Speech+by+Alberto+Mora.htm

“My approach was what we call a relationship-based approach—far more than just rapport-building. I’ve never felt any necessity or operational requirement to bring physical, psychological or emotional pressure on a source to win their cooperation. So, following the guidance in the [Army] field manual, I feel unconstrained in my ability to work in the paradigm that I’ve taught for so many years.”

-Colonel Steven Kleinman, U.S. Air Force Reserve, former military interrogator
<http://intelligence.senate.gov/070925/transcript.pdf>

“I have been hard pressed to find a situation where anybody can tell me that they’ve ever encountered the ticking-bomb scenario... a show like 24...makes all of us believe that this is real—it’s not. Throw that stuff out, it doesn’t happen.”

-Jack Cloonan, FBI special agent from 1977 - 2002
www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4193

“They prepared me for interrogations by putting electric shocks through my feet. For hours on end they would hang me up by my hands, which were bound behind my back... A doctor looked in to see if you were still alive...”

-Murat Kurnaz, on his treatment at a U.S. facility in Kandahar, Afghanistan.
He spent 5 years in Guantánamo and was released in 2006 after a personal plea from German Chancellor Angela Merkel to President George W. Bush.
Stern magazine, Spring 2008. Volume 34, no. 1, reprinted in *Amnesty International* magazine, Spring 2008

Take action to stop torture, end illegal U.S. detentions, and close Guantánamo: tearitdown.org