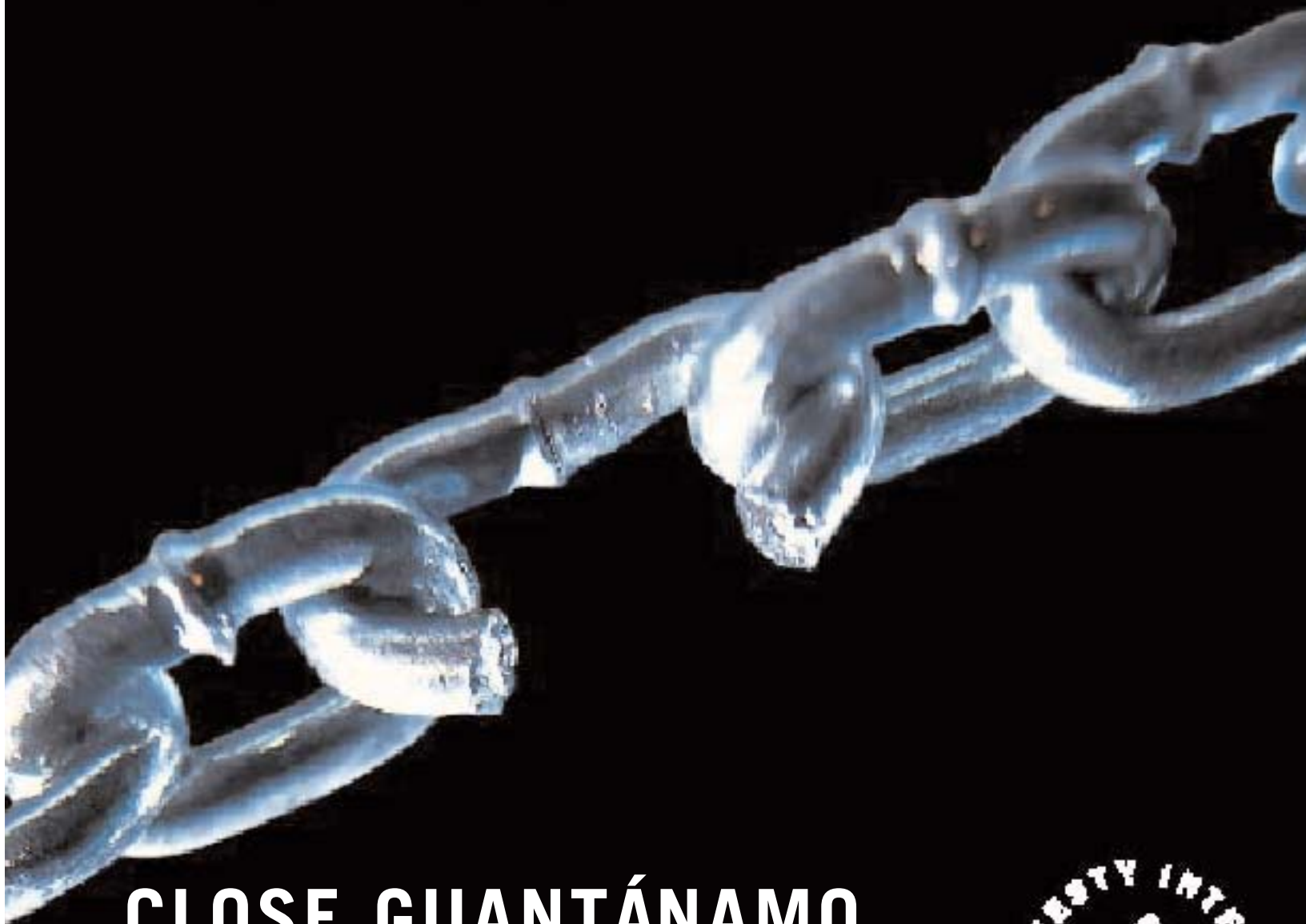


DENOUNCE TORTURE



**CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO
ACTION GUIDE**





DENOUNCE TORTURE

CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO ACTION GUIDE

Dear Activist:

Thank you for joining us to oppose the prolonged indefinite and arbitrary detention of those held at the prison facilities in Guantánamo. On January 11, 2002, the US transferred the first detainees to the US Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Five years later, despite widespread international condemnation, hundreds of people of more than 30 nationalities remain there.

Why focus on Guantánamo Bay? Because the US administration chose Guantánamo as the location for this detention facility in an attempt to hold detainees beyond the reach of US and international law. Because Guantánamo has become the most visible symbol of US human rights abuses in the name of the “war on terror.” Because five years of lawlessness is too long. Because Guantánamo must be closed.

Our central message is that the totality of the detention regime in Guantánamo – harsh, indefinite and isolating – that amounts to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and is in violation of international law. All those who remain in detention must either be charged with a crime and given a fair trial or released unconditionally.

This guide includes background information, flyers and actions you can use to mark the five years of these unlawful detentions. Plan a vigil or rally in front of your local or federal courthouse on **January 11, 2007**, to educate the public and demand that the US government end this dark chapter in US history by closing the facilities in Guantánamo Bay and disclosing the rest of the detention centers. In addition to events all across the country and around the world, there will be a press conference and rally in front of the US Supreme Court in Washington, DC demanding access to justice and human dignity for all.

Included in this action guide is information that will assist you in planning public events, a letter writing action, template letter to the editor, and the America I Believe In pledge. Our goal is to gather 500,000 signatures on the “America I Believe In” pledge by June 2007 so we encourage you to keep the pledge on hand and collect signatures at all of your upcoming activities and events.

Over the coming weeks, there will be more opportunities to take action on this important issue - we look forward to your continued participation! Together we will ensure that Guantánamo detainees receive a fair trial or are released unconditionally, and that the detention facility is closed for good. Five years of indefinite detention is five years too long.

Sincerely,

Suha Dabbouseh
Denounce Torture Initiative, Project Manager
600 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
Washington DC 20003
sdabbous@aiusa.org 202.544.0200 ext. 243

INTRODUCTION



DENOUNCE TORTURE

CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO ACTION GUIDE

Guidelines For Public Events on The Closure of Guantanamo Bay

These guidelines are intended to advise Amnesty International groups regarding participation in public events for January 11—the five year anniversary of when detainees were first brought to Guantánamo Bay. It is important that, while representing or speaking for Amnesty International, members remain mindful of what AI does and does not say regarding the detention facility. More detailed information is available, however these are the main themes to stress.

- Since January 11, 2002 over 700 people from more than 40 countries have been held the vast majority without charge or trial.
- None of the Guantánamo detainees have been granted prisoner of war status or brought before a “competent tribunal” to determine his status, as required by international law.
- None of the Guantánamo detainees have been convicted of any criminal charge. Hundreds have been released from the base without charge or any form of compensation for the years they were unlawfully detained at Guantánamo.
- Some of the detainees are held in maximum security blocks, confined in their cells for up to 24 hours a day and with very little out-of-cell exercise time. The detainees have also been subjected to repeated interrogations sometimes for hours at a time and without the presence of a lawyer.
- Anyone who was involved in committing war crimes or crimes against humanity should be held accountable by a court of law. However, any trial must meet minimum standards of due process found in U.S. and international law.
- In early September 2006, US authorities transferred to Guantánamo 14 men who had been held in secret CIA custody. President George W. Bush finally acknowledged that the US has been disappearing people into secret detention facilities, which is a crime under international law.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is still the only non-governmental organization allowed access to the detainees.
- The prohibition on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment applies to all detainees in U.S. custody or control, regardless of what agency is detaining them. All detainees must be registered and allowed access to the International Committee of the Red Cross, attorneys, and family.
- No one should be transferred to a country where they would face torture or other inhuman treatment.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION



DENOUNCE TORTURE

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Joining & Organizing Events

Amnesty International groups and members may join events with groups who share AI concerns about the human rights situation at the detention facility. AI groups are encouraged to sponsor or co-sponsor protests and events on Guantánamo when they are able to articulate AI's concerns as a component of the event. Members and groups should of course adhere to AI's policies as summarized above in any statements/banners/leaflets etc. Some suggested slogans are included below. If in any doubt, please contact your Regional office or the Denounce Torture Initiative, Project Manager, Suha Dabbouseh at 202.544.0200 ext 243 or sdabbous@aiusa.org.

DO SAY:

- Ensure the protection of rights of all detainees
- Register all Detainees with the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- All trials must meet international fair trial standards.
- Detainees should be charged and tried in a trial that meets international fair trial standards or otherwise released unconditionally and not sent to a country where they are at risk of torture or other human rights violations.

DON'T SAY:

- Impeach the President or any other elected official.
- Everyone held at Guantanamo is innocent.
- Anything that distracts from the main AI concerns.
- Anything you are unsure about.

Suggested slogans for AI banners at your Close Guantanamo events. These are not intended to be definitive and we'd like to hear your ideas.

5 Years Is Enough!	Shut Down Guantanamo
Guantanamo —A Life Sentence with No Trial	End Indefinite Detention
Guantanamo Shames Us All	Fair Trials for All
The America I Believe In Would Shut Down Guantanamo	Don't Violate Detainee's Human Rights
Uphold the Geneva Conventions	Charge or Release Them

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION



DENOUNCE TORTURE

CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO ACTION GUIDE

Guantanamo Bay Fact Sheet

6.5 x 8 feet – approximate size of cell in Guantánamo

1805 – number of days that hundreds have been held at Guantánamo Bay without charge or trial as of December 10, 2006

430 – Approximate number of people in custody at Guantánamo Bay as of November 17, 2006

14 – number of “high value detainees” held at Guantánamo

13 – age of Mohammed Ismail Agha when taken into US custody in Afghanistan in late 2002 before later being transferred to Guantánamo

10 – number of people in Guantánamo who have been charged with any crime

Attempted Suicides

350 – incidents of self-harm in Guantánamo Bay in 2003

120 – incidents were “hanging gestures” in 2003

110 – incidents of harm/suicide were reported for 2005

34 – number of prisoners whose self-harm incidents were labeled “attempted suicide” by the US since January 2002

23 – number of prisoners that tried to hang or strangle themselves in August 2003

21 – number of the 23 prisoners whose attempts were written off as “attention-getting” gestures

2 – number of the 23 prisoners classified as attempting suicide.

3 – number of prisoners who died in detention of apparent suicides at Guantanamo Bay

Detained without Adequate Proof

55% – percent of detainees not determined to have committed any hostile acts against the United States

40% – percent of detainees who have no definitive connection with Al Qaeda

18% – percent of detainees who have no definitive connection to either Al Qaeda or Taliban

8% – percent of detainees characterized as Al Qaeda fighters

Bought Detainees

At the time when the United States offered large bounties for capture of suspected enemies:

86% – detainees were not detained on the battle field but were instead arrested by either Pakistan or the Northern Alliance and turned over to United States custody

66% – detainees were captured by Pakistani authorities

20% – detainees were captured by the Northern Alliance/Afghan authorities

8% – detainees were captured by the US authorities

3% – detainees were captured by other coalition forces

¹ “Detainee Transfer Announced,” Defenselink, 16 October 2006.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/Releases/Release.aspx?ReleaseID=10081>

² “President Discusses Creation of Military Commissions to Try Suspected Terrorists”

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/09/20060906-3.html>

³ Constable, Pamela, “An Afghan Boy’s Life in US Custody,” The Washington Post, 12 February 2004.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&contentId=A33696-2004Feb11¬Found=true>

⁴ “Mass Guantanamo Suicide Protest,” BBC News, 25 January 2005.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4204027.stm>

⁵ “Guantanamo suicides ‘acts of war’” BBC News, June 11, 2006

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/5068606.stm>

⁶ Results based on CSRT report data extracted by Seton Hall University study.

http://law.shu.edu/news/guantanamo_report_final_2_o8_o6.pdf

⁷ Results based on CSRT report data extracted by Seton Hall University study.

http://law.shu.edu/news/guantanamo_report_final_2_o8_o6.pdf



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Text from flyers the US posted and dropped in Afghanistan and Pakistan

The flyers promised large sums of money as a reward for captured Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters.¹

“Get wealth and power beyond your dreams...You can receive millions of dollars helping the anti-Taliban forces catch al-Qaeda and Taliban murderers. This is enough money to take care of your family, your village, and your tribe for the rest of your life. Pay for livestock and doctors and school books and housing for all your people.”

“Dear countrymen: The al-Qaeda terrorists are our enemy. They are the enemy of your independence and freedom. Come on. Let us find their most secret hiding places. Search them out and inform the intelligence service of the province and get the big prize.”

Statements Made By Government Officials Regarding Guantanamo Detainees

“There’s always been some hard-core people down there who want to do very bad things to the United States. And some who weren’t — but now they’re very upset.”

- Jeffery K. Sieber, former resident agent in charge of the law enforcement task force at Guantánamo ²

“Sometimes, we just didn't get the right folks.”

- Brigadier General Jay Hood, former commander of Guantánamo ³

“Most of these guys weren’t fighting. They were running.”

- General Martin Lucenti, former deputy commander of Guantánamo ⁴

“We absolutely got the wrong people.”

- Michael Scheuer, a CIA agent who headed the agency’s Osama bin Laden unit until 1999 ⁵

“Yes, they could be held there for the duration of their lives.”

- Cully Stimson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Detainee Affairs ⁶

¹ “Report on Guantanamo Detainees,” Seton Hall University.

http://law.shu.edu/news/guantanamo_report_final_2_o8_o6.pdf

² “Gitmo interrogations spark battle over tactics” By Bill Dedman, Investigative reporter, MSNBC.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15361458/>

³ Jan. 26, 2005 Wall Street Journal

⁴ US officer predicts Guantánamo releases By Mark Huband, October 4, 2004.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/192851d2-163b-11d9-b835-00000e2511c8.html>

⁵ “Innocence Ignored at Guantanamo” by Richard Ackland, Sydney Morning Herald, February 23, 2006.

⁶ Roberts, Kristin. “Guantanamo May Be Final Home for Detainees,” Reuters, 29 October 2006.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N28311630.htm>



DENOUNCE TORTURE

CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO ACTION GUIDE

TALKING POINTS

Please write a letter to the editor of your local paper, either in anticipation of the January 11 anniversary, or in response to stories noting the anniversary. Using information from the quote and fact sheets, make some or all of the following points. The sample letter which follows is just an example. Please focus, using your own words, on whatever issues you think are most compelling. Make sure to let us know if your letter is published. Send copies to dtorture2@aiusa.org.

- January 11, 2007 is the fifth anniversary of the arrival of first detainees to Guantánamo Bay.
- The vast majority of Guantánamo detainees have been for up to five years without charge or trial. Many of the detainees were handed over to the US in exchange for bounties.
- The US government has consistently tried to deny detainees the right to challenge their detention.
- Only 10 people have been charged with any crime.
- Harsh conditions and the sheer length of detention have led to the International Committee of the Red Cross—which is usually silent about its work—to condemn the conditions as amounting to cruel, inhuman and degrading (CID) treatment.
- Many detainees have attempted suicide, and three have died from apparent suicides.
- Allegations of torture and other abuses of detainees have not been adequately investigated.
- The United States government should close down Guantanamo and detainees should either be charged and given a fair trial, or released.

TALKING POINTS



DENOUNCE TORTURE

CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO ACTION GUIDE

SAMPLE LETTER TO EDITOR

January 11, 2007 marks the fifth anniversary of the arrival of the first detainees to Guantánamo Bay. For five years, the vast majority of these men have been held in indefinite detention, without charge or trial. For five years, we have heard stories of torture and ill-treatment, hunger strikes, and suicides attempts and apparent suicides. And for five years, we have been assured that these detainees were captured “on the battlefield” and represent the “worst of the worst”.

Yet our government’s own tribunals have determined that over half of those detained never committed any hostile acts against the United States. And most of those held at Guantánamo were not captured on any battlefield, but were handed over to the US by others in exchange for cash rewards.

Undoubtedly, this practice of paying bounties for prisoners has led to mistakes, yet for five years the US government has denied that these men have the basic right to challenge their detentions.

[Action File Groups – insert sentence on specific case.]

The past five years have been a degrading experience, both for Guantánamo Bay detainees and for the United States. The America I believe in does not torture people, leave people in a hopeless legal limbo, or undermine due process. It is time for the US government to end this unhealthy attachment to Guantánamo Bay. We should close Guantánamo, and either charge and fairly try the detainees, or release them. Five years of lawlessness is too long.

[Your name]

[Amnesty International, group # or other AIUSA affiliation]

[Daytime phone number, not for publication, just for verification of authorship]

APPENDIX: SAMPLE LETTER TO EDITOR



DENOUNCE TORTURE

CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO ACTION GUIDE

Supporting Materials: Media Advisory Template

For Immediate Release:
[Date submitted to the media]

Contact: [Your name]
[Your contact number]

[Your city/town] Amnesty International Group
to Host Protest Vigil on January 11, 2007,
to Mark Fifth Anniversary of Guantanamo Bay

[Your town, state] – The [your city/town] Amnesty International group will host a vigil at [location] on [date] to mark the fifth anniversary of the first arrival of detainees at the U.S.-controlled detention center in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Guantánamo has held more than 700 men captured in the U.S.-led war on terror, and to date, only 10 have been charged with a crime – a regime of indefinite detention, in clear violation of international law.

“The practices in the war on terror pioneered at Guantánamo Bay have corroded America’s moral standing, and Guantanamo has come to symbolize the administration’s human rights violations in the war on terror as a whole,” said [group member’s name]. “In the process of restoring the America we believe in, closing Guantánamo is a critical step.”

The [your city/town] Amnesty International group welcomes members of the media and the general public to its meetings, which take place [detail schedule of meetings].

WHO: [List AI group/members]
WHAT: [one line description of event]
WHEN: [Date and time]
WHERE: [Location, with specific street address]

###

APPENDIX: MEDIA ADVISORY



**DENOUNCE
TORTURE**

CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO ACTION GUIDE

*“Yes, they could be held there for the duration of their lives.”
Cully Stimson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Detainee Affairs*

Rally to Close Guantánamo Bay

For the past five years, the US Government has detained hundreds of men in Guantánamo Bay, denying them their rights under US and international law. The detention facility at Guantánamo Bay must be closed.

All detainees should either be charged and tried in accordance with international fair trial standards or released unconditionally.

WHEN:

WHERE:

WHY: On Thursday, January 11, Amnesty International activists around the country and the world will mark the fifth anniversary of the first transfer of detainees to Guantánamo Bay by holding public actions demanding that the detention facility be closed.

**THE AMERICA I BELIEVE IN WILL SHUT DOWN
GUANTÁNAMO BAY**

**APPENDIX: SAMPLE FLYER FOR
PUBLIC EVENTS**



Stand up

for the America you believe in. Sign the pledge.

The America I Believe In doesn't torture people or use cruel, inhuman treatment. . . doesn't hold people without charge, without fair trials, without hope, and without end. . . doesn't kidnap people off the street and ship them to nations known for their brutality. . . doesn't condone prisoner abuse and excuse high-ranking government officials from responsibility for that abuse. . . doesn't justify the use of secret prisons. . . and does not rob people of their basic dignity.

I'm joining with Amnesty International USA to restore The America I Believe In. The America I Believe In leads the world on human rights.

I'm committing to tell friends and family about the campaign. I'm also committing to contacting my members of Congress and my local media to tell them that the America I Believe In defends human rights and justice for all.

FIRST NAME: LAST NAME: EMAIL: ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP/POSTAL CODE:	FIRST NAME: LAST NAME: EMAIL: ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP/POSTAL CODE:
FIRST NAME: LAST NAME: EMAIL: ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP/POSTAL CODE:	FIRST NAME: LAST NAME: EMAIL: ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP/POSTAL CODE:
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Return to: DENOUNCE TORTURE INITIATIVE Amnesty International 600 Pennsylvania Ave, S.E., 3rd Floor Washington D.C. 20003

APPENDIX: AMERICA I BELIEVE IN PLEDGE



DENOUNCE TORTURE

CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO ACTION GUIDE

Denounce Torture Regional Office Contacts

The Denounce Torture Regional Office staff contacts can answer questions about your organizing efforts, give you ideas for actions, help you think through and organize actions, and answer policy questions you might have. They are a tremendous resource, so be sure to let them know when you organize your January 11 or any other event related to the Denounce Torture Initiative.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

Contact: Folabi Olagbaju, Regional Director
600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE 5th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20003
phone: (202) 544-0200 ext 284 fax: (202) 546-7142
folagbaj@aiusa.org

The Mid-Atlantic Office covers the following states: DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV

Mid-West Regional Office

Contact: Adriana Portillo-Bartow, Deputy Director
53 West Jackson Suite #731
Chicago, IL 60604
phone: (312) 435-6395 fax: (312) 427-2589
apbartow@aiusa.org

The Mid-West Office covers the following states: IN, IL, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI

Northeast Regional Office

Contact: Joshua Rubenstein, Regional Director
58 Day Street
Davis Square
Somerville, MA 02144
phone: (617) 623-0202 fax: (617) 623-2005
jrubenst@aiusa.org

The Northeast Office covers the following states: CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, VT, RI

Southern Regional Office

Jared Feuer, Regional Director
730 Peachtree Street NE Suite 1060
Atlanta, GA 30308
phone: (404) 876-5661 fax: (404) 876-2276
jfeuer@aisua.org

The Southern Office covers the following states: AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, OK SC, TN, TX

Western Regional Office

Erin Callahan
San Francisco Office
350 Sansome St Suite 630
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ecallaha@aiusa.org

The Western Offices cover the following states: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY

**APPENDIX: REGIONAL POINT PEOPLE
CONTACT INFORMATION**