



January 11, 2022: 20 Years of Guantánamo

Amnesty International USA - Action Guide

Summary

January 11th 2022 marks 20 years since the opening of the detention facility in the US naval base in **Guantánamo Bay, Cuba**. The US Government created the prison at Guantánamo to detain people outside the reach of the law after the attacks of September 11, 2001. President Biden has said he supports closing this notorious site of torture and indefinite detention, but we have seen little progress and it remains open today.

Amnesty International has been campaigning globally for the closure of Guantánamo almost since its creation two decades ago. President Biden campaigned on the promise that he would put human rights at the center of his foreign policy, yet Guantánamo remains an ugly stain on the human rights record of the United States. He has an opportunity now to follow through on President Obama's failed commitment, and to begin to right the massive wrong that is the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay.

Updates on Guantánamo

Guantánamo is still open, and houses 39 Muslim men who have been imprisoned there for nearly two decades without a fair trial.

Only 12 of the remaining 39 detainees at Guantánamo have been charged with crimes.

There are now 13 men cleared for release by an internal review process, but there are no apparent plans to actually transfer them out.

There has been no accountability in the US for the significant violations of human rights law perpetrated by the US, including torture, enforced disappearance, and a complete lack of due process.

Learn More

To learn more, see Amnesty's latest report on Guantánamo: [USA: Right the Wrong, Decision Time on Guantánamo](#).

Goal

Amnesty International's goal is for the Biden administration to finally close Guantánamo and to transfer or release the men detained there. If there is sufficient admissible evidence to prosecute any of the men for internationally recognizable criminal offenses, then the US government should do so in a federal court, adhering to standards for a fair trial, and without recourse to the death penalty.

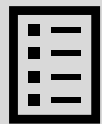
Activities

Amnesty International has many ways to pressure the Biden administration, including through calls to the White House, live and virtual protests featuring the voices and perspectives of former detainees, sharing information and media about Guantánamo, and even through making and sharing art!

Here are ways AIUSA groups can keep up the momentum to close Guantánamo on January 11 and beyond....

POSTER CONTEST

Because art can both educate and motivate activism, Amnesty is mobilizing members and sections worldwide for a global poster-making contest. We will launch the poster contest on 11 January!



GLOBAL CALL-IN ACTION TO THE WHITE HOUSE

AIUSA is setting this tool up for folks to take action on Jan. 11! We will circulate details in early January.

VIRTUAL RALLY

On January 11th join speakers from around the world, including formerly detained men and Amnesty representatives. Details will be forthcoming in a calendar invite.



IN-PERSON PROTEST

We may participate in a protest in front of the White House, with appropriate COVID-19 precautions, including vaccines, masks and physical distancing, following CDC and local guidelines.

If members want to engage in in-person protests in their communities, be sure to follow CDC and local guidelines. Contact deviatar@aisua.org for more details about AIUSA COVID-19 policies.

ONLINE QUIZ FOR MEMBERS

Test your knowledge about Guantánamo on our [online quiz!](#)



ENGAGING THE MEDIA

Amnesty will circulate relevant statements and published op-eds before and on January 11. Members should write letters to the editor of your local papers, or draft and pitch op-eds!

Key talking points include:

- *The military prison at Guantánamo Bay represents grave violations of human rights by the U.S. government.*
- *Twenty years after it opened as a way to avoid the requirements of US law, Guantanamo continues to hold 39 Muslim men, most without charge, none having received a fair trial.*
- *The existence of an offshore prison for Muslim men who are denied due process of law is a blatant example and encouragement of Islamophobia and racism.*
- *Guantanamo is a stain on the human rights record of the United States.*
- *The continued existence of Guantanamo and indefinite detention severely undermines the United States' credibility as an advocate for human rights globally.*
- *The United States must reckon with its post-9/11 human rights abuses, and that must include closing Guantanamo.*
- *Indefinite detention without charge or fair trial is a blatant violation of international human rights.*
- *The Guantanamo military commissions have failed to bring justice to the victims and survivors of the 9/11 attacks, while denying due process to the accused.*

EDUCATE YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNITY

Read, discuss and share the new book by former detainee Mansoor Adyafi, [Don't Forget Us Here: Lost and Found at Guantánamo](#).



Host online screenings for your local groups of the Hollywood movie, [The Mauritanian](#), about the experience of former detainee Mohamedou Salahi, based on his bestselling book, [Guantanamo Diary](#). (Note that the screenings must be limited to specific groups and not available to the public to comply with copyright law, email alli.jarrar@amnesty.org to get information about this!).

Share [our video](#) of film stars Jodie Foster and Shailene Woodley urging everyone to watch the film.

Urge your local cinemas to screen *The Mauritanian* in your hometown!

Call the White House and write to the State Department urging them to transfer all cleared detainees out of Guantanamo now. (Read and share our [Action Brief](#)).

Host virtual events about Guantánamo. If you would like a formerly detained man to participate in your event, you can reach out to alli.jarrar@amnesty.org to be connected to them. We will host a global virtual event, too, with details forthcoming.

POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA



You can post on any social media platform and tag decision-makers: President Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Tweet at @POTUS and @SecBlinken on January 11 to urge them to close Guantanamo and transfer all detainees not charged with crimes. Tell them it is time to #CloseGuantanamo!

Questions? Comments? Ideas?

Reach out! Contact AIUSA's Director of Security with Human Rights Daphne Eviatar, deviatar@aiusa.org.