



2023: Guantánamo turns 21

Amnesty International USA - Action Guide

Summary

January 11th 2023 will mark 21 years since the opening of the detention facility in the US naval base in **Guantánamo Bay, Cuba**. The US Government created the prison at Guantanamo 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. President Biden now has only a short window of time left in his term to begin to right the massive wrong that is the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay.

Updates on Guantánamo

Guantánamo is still open, and houses 35 Muslim men who have been imprisoned there for nearly two decades without a fair trial.

Only 12 of the remaining 35 detainees at Guantanamo have been charged with crimes.

There are now 20 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 report on Guantanamo: [USA: Right the Wrong, Decision Time on Guantanamo](#), and check out our [Guantanamo web page](#).

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 and e-mails to the White House, live and virtual protests featuring the voices and perspectives of former detainees, and educating the public by sharing information and media about Guantanamo.

Here are ways AIUSA groups can keep up the momentum to close Guantánamo....



WRITE TO THE WHITE HOUSE

AIUSA has set up this easy online action you can take to tell President Biden to close Guantanamo now!

<https://bit.ly/3H20nDy>

VIRTUAL RALLY

On January 11th join speakers from around the world, including formerly detained men and Amnesty representatives.

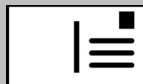
[Watch & share excerpts from last year's rally.](#)



IN-PERSON PROTEST



You can set up demonstrations in your community with appropriate COVID-19 precautions, including vaccines, masks and physical distancing, following CDC and local guidelines.



SEND POSTCARDS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

We have postcards urging Secretary of State Blinken to transfer Toffiq al-Bihani, a detainee who's been cleared for release from the prison since 2010 but is still there. Tell Secretary Blinken to Close Guantanamo and Transfer Toffiq now!

ONLINE QUIZ FOR MEMBERS



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



ENGAGING THE MEDIA

Share [this op-ed](#) by Amnesty International Secretary General Agnes Callamard and [this article in Just Security](#) by AIUSA's Daphne Eviatar!

Key talking points include:

- *The military prison at Guantánamo Bay represents grave violations of human rights by the U.S. government.*
- *Twenty-one years after it opened as a way to avoid the requirements of US law, Guantanamo continues to hold 35 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.)

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! (Connect with [this Amnesty group](#) to learn more about how.)

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.