

# URGENT ACTION

## TAKE ACTION ON GUANTÁNAMO, NOW ALMOST 25

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 69.26**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

**President Donald J. Trump**  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC USA  
Webform: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Dear President Trump,

As you move beyond the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and continue to reflect on the history of the United States of America, we urge you to address the detentions at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba.

It has been nearly 25 years since the first “war on terror” detainees arrived at Guantánamo in January 2002. This detention regime was from the outset, and to this day remains, incompatible with international human rights law, and continues to generate significant concern around the world because of the principles that have been flouted: indefinite detention without charge or trial, military commission proceedings falling short of international fair trial standards, torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and impunity for crimes under international law.

The Guantánamo detention regime is a stain on U.S. history and its present – you can succeed where your predecessors did not — by taking decisive action to resolve this situation and the detainee cases in full compliance with international law.

I am writing to you to ask that as a matter of urgency you ensure the transfer of three of the 15 detainees still held at the base – **Muieen Adeen Abd al Sattar (Omar al-Farouq)**, an ethnic Rohingya man; **Guled Hassan Duran**, a Somali person; and **Ismael Ali Faraj al Bakush**, who is Libyan. Each has been in U.S. custody for over two decades. Each has been approved for transfer out of Guantánamo by the U.S. government, based on a unanimous determination by U.S. military, intelligence, and law enforcement agencies, yet they remain detained and in limbo. They all require resettlement in third countries, which I believe your administration can negotiate.

I urge you to reflect now upon how human rights principles, including the rights to liberty, equality, and human dignity, have been abandoned for decades at the Guantánamo Bay prison. You can and must end this shameful chapter of U.S. history.

Sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The USA's sweeping "war" doctrine adopted in the wake of the attacks of September 11, 2001 (9/11) resulted in a range of human rights violations committed by U.S. personnel. The improvisation and perpetuation of a detention facility at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba became an icon of the failure of all three branches of the U.S. government to insist on respect for a human rights framework in the USA's counter-terrorism policies and actions.

President George W. Bush declared a "war on terror" in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks and proceeded to take an expansive view of his Commander-in-Chief authority. Days after the attacks, U.S. Congress failed to draw limits, passing instead the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF). The AUMF makes no reference to detention or trials, or indeed to human rights, yet continues to be used to underpin the Guantánamo detentions. It was not until a decade later that Congress returned to the detention authority it had supposedly given the President on September 18, 2001, but in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, it reinforced the 'law of war' detentions rather than questioning them. In 2013, President Barack Obama promised to work for repeal of the AUMF and end the USA's "perpetual wartime footing" but failed in this stated commitment.

Of the nearly 800 men who have been held as "law of war" detainees at Guantánamo Bay over the years, only 15 remain there. Nine have been charged for trial by military commissions (including two who were convicted and are serving sentences, and one who was declared incompetent to stand trial); and three who have neither been charged nor approved for transfer under the executive interagency process set up to periodically review the detentions at the base (reviewing not the lawfulness but the executive's claim to need to hold).

Three men, also never charged or tried, have been approved for transfer out the base under this process: **Muieen Adeen Abd al Sattar**, a stateless ethnic Rohingya, was brought to Guantánamo on February 9, 2002. He was approved for transfer in 2010. **Ismael Ali Faraj al Bakush**, a Libyan national, has been in Guantánamo for nearly 24 years. He was approved for transfer in 2022. **Guled Hassan Duran** is a Somali national who has been in U.S. custody for more than 22 years. He was taken into custody in March 2004 and for the next two and a half years was held in the program of secret detention operated under the authority of President Bush by the CIA. This program employed detention conditions and interrogation techniques which violated the prohibition of enforced disappearance, secret detention, torture and other ill-treatment. Those responsible for crimes under international law committed in this program continue to enjoy impunity. In September 2006, Guled Duran was transferred to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo. In November 2016, a habeas corpus petition was filed in federal court in Washington DC challenging the legality of Guled Duran's detention, which is still pending a decade after it was filed. Meanwhile, in July 2021, the executive interagency process determined that his "continued law of war detention" was "no longer necessary".

The "war on terror" detention facility at Guantánamo Bay is approaching its 25th anniversary. Anyone still held there should be brought to fair trial in accordance with international standards or released.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** English or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** August 20, 2026

**NAMES:** Muieen Adeen Abd al Sattar, Ismael Ali Faraj al Bakush, Guled Hassan Duran