



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
**Anti-Torture Advocates to Fast and Vigil
for the 40 Muslim Men Still Locked in Guantanamo Prison**

WASHINGTON DC (June 21, 2021) — From June 21st to June 26th members and allies of the U.S. based human rights organization, Witness Against Torture, will fast in solidarity with the men detained in Guantanamo Bay. Then on June 26, advocates will commemorate the International U.N. Day of Support for Victims of Torture by holding a solemn virtual vigil proclaiming the names of these human beings who have been tortured and remain imprisoned indefinitely by the U.S.

The fasters' stated purpose is to use their bodies to "deepen their understanding of the U.S. use of torture against the Muslim men locked in Guantanamo." During the week they will be taking concrete actions to oppose torture and support torture survivors from their homes. Some of these actions include writing to the men in Guantanamo, contacting legislators and President Biden, writing letters to the editor, as well as holding and attending local vigils and events. Throughout the week fasters will be having Zoom calls to reflect on their experiences.

The week will culminate with a virtual vigil focused in Lafayette Park, where a small group in orange jumpsuits and hoods will gather together to read the names of the men and information about their situations.

Fast participant Tom Casey said, "We must not only close Guantanamo, we must make reparations to the men. And if we are dedicated to the 'the rule of law' we must hold accountable those who very purposefully created Guantanamo and authorized torture, which is prohibited by U.S and international law."

Witness Against Torture members hope that this vigil will bring greater attention to the issues of torture and indefinite detention and inspire more people to urge President Biden to close Guantanamo. Vigil organizer, Herb Geraghty, said, "The United States government has been operating this illegal and immoral prison for 19 years too many. It is time that President Biden keep his promise and shut down Guantanamo for good."

The vigil will be live-streamed from the Rehumanize International Facebook page:
facebook.com/rehumanizeintl.

EVENT INFORMATION:

June 26th, 2021 2 PM ET Lafayette Park Washington DC

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