

Six Critical Demands for Closing Guantanamo

Excerpted from WAT's February 2016 Newsletter

We in the WAT community insist that shutting down Guantanamo must mean shutting down indefinite detention. We submit the following demands as critical to the effort to “close Guantanamo” once and for all.

1. Each Guantánamo detainee must either be charged and fairly tried in federal court, or be released to countries that will respect their human rights.
2. Expedite the release of those that are cleared. 20 of the current prisoners have been cleared for release, yet they continue to languish behind bars. Justice delayed is justice denied.
3. Release the men who have been tortured. The US is a signatory of the UN Convention Against Torture. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture has reported that the Guantanamo Bay prison is non-compliant to this Convention and has named indefinite detention as a form of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. The U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee's Torture Report has extensively documented instances of torture by the CIA. Some of the victims are currently housed in Guantanamo.
4. Provide reasonable resettlement options, including torture treatment services and reparations. To ensure accountability for torture and indefinite detention, released prisoners should be provided with critical social services to facilitate their re-entry into society.
5. Publicly acknowledge and apologize for the egregious human rights violation at Guantanamo during the War on Terror. This acknowledgement is essential for preventing torture, indefinite detention, and other violations from being perpetrated by future administrations.
6. Close the base. The U.S. must immediately relinquish Cuba's sovereign territory.