

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It is way past time for the Guantanamo Bay prison to be closed; based on our country's stated values, it should have never been opened. Years have passed since 49 U.S. Generals and Admirals wrote to President Obama, "Closing Guantanamo will make Americans more secure and remind the world that we are prepared to live by the rule of law and values we cherish."

Guantanamo was founded on purposeful, blatant lies -- the detainees were called "the worst of the worst" to stir fear and thereby win political support. Muslim men were sold to the U.S. for bounties up to \$5,000 each, with no corroborating evidence of terrorism: they were turned in to settle local scores, for tribal reasons, or to make money. Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, Chief of Staff to Colin Powell under President Bush, testified that hundreds of detainees were innocent, the top people in the Bush Administration knew full well they were innocent, and that information was kept from the public (https://www.huffpost.com/entry/bush-insider-reveals-guan_b_544030).

And the lies continued as the term "enhanced interrogation" was substituted for the word torture. That the prisoners in Guantanamo have been tortured is a well-known fact, and its justification for "national security purposes" has been debunked. The Senate Intelligence Committee Torture Report concluded that prisoners made false statements to end their torture and that no unique intelligence information was obtained through torture (https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/senate-report-on-cia-program-details-brutality-dishonesty/2014/12/09/1075c726-7f0e-11e4-9f38-95a187e4c1f7_story.html). The military provided the bizarre alternative explanation for the simultaneous deaths of three prisoners: that they committed suicide in an act of asymmetric warfare against the U.S. (<http://www.andyworthington.co.uk/2021/06/10/the-15th-anniversary-of-the-contentious-triple-suicide-of-three-prisoners-at-guantanamo/>).

If we are to remain dedicated to hopes for democratic and human rights values, we must close Guantanamo and make reparations to the men Cheney knew were innocent. And if we are dedicated 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.

Sincerely,

Your Name