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ACTIVIST TOOLKIT



Dear Activist,

Thank you so much for taking the time to join the January 11 effort to CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO and for adding your voice to the chorus of people who stand in protest of torture, abuse, and indefinite detention.

January 11, 2008 will mark the six-year anniversary of the first arrival of prison-



1 MINUTE

I TE

S CLOSE A T A O

As Americans, we say no to torture and indefinite detention.
Sign the Pledge today.

CLOSE A T A O

Show your support and remember to invite your friends to join as well.

CLOSE A T A O

S ACL E L

Get the latest news and updates about what we are doing to shut down
Guantánamo Bay and end the use of torture in America's name. Stay informed,
sign up today.

I TES

A

Get a CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO armband and wear it on January 11, 2008.

IA O

Download and print *Why I am Wearing Orange*. Display this flyer on your office or stick it in your notebook on January 11.

E C

Make sure everyone knows about January 11. Send your friends an E-Card ask-

I T E S

L E

Letters to the editor are great advocacy tools. After you write letters to your members of Congress, sending letters to the editor can achieve other advocacy goals because they:

- Reach a large audience.
- Are often monitored by elected officials.
- Can bring up information not addressed in a news article.
- Create an impression of widespread support or opposition to an issue.

Here are some basic tips on how to write a letter to the editor.

Keep it short and on one subject. Many newspapers have strict limits on the length of letters and have limited space to publish them. Keeping your letter brief will help assure that your important points are not cut out by the newspaper.

Make it legible. Your letter doesn't have to be fancy, but you should use a typewriter or computer word processor if your handwriting is difficult to read.

Send letters to weekly community newspapers too. The smaller the newspaper's circulation, the easier it is to get your letter printed.

Be sure to include your contact information. Many newspapers will print a letter to the editor only after calling the author to verify his or her identity and address. Newspapers will not give out that information, and will usually print your name and city only if your letter is published.

Make references to the newspaper. While some papers print general commentary, many will only print letters that refer to a specific article. Here are some examples of easy ways to refer to articles in your opening sentence:

- I was disappointed to see that The Post's May 18 editorial "School Vouchers Are Right On" omitted some of the key facts in the debate.

ITE A LO OST

Turn the background color on your blog to orange for January 11 to signal your opposition to the prison at Guantánamo Bay. Or add a blog post discussing your decision to wear orange. A blog post, like a letter to the editor, is best when it is clear, concise, and brief. Here are a few pointers on a good blog post:

Link (a lot) Linking allows your readers to judge your references and get more in-depth information. Link to Wikipedia, press reports, and aclu.org.

KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) When you use clear accessible language, it is easier for your audience to identify with your arguments. Don't use too much wonk-talk or jargon. Even though you may know the ins and outs of the Military Commissions Act, your reader may not. Spell things out and explain in simple terms. And do it in 250 words or less.

Personalize It When you reference your own beliefs and use personal anecdotes to talk about world issues, you demonstrate the ways in which large human rights issues affect us all.

It's All in The Headline Your headline should say it all, only better, than the rest of your post. Use it to draw your reader into the post.

Here is a sample blog post. If you put up something related to the January 11 Guantánamo anniversary let us know by sending an email to closeguantanamo@aclu.org.

Six Years Late — Close Guantánamo Now!
January 11, 2008

January 11 marks a sad anniversary: the sixth year since the arrival of the first prisoners at the Guantánamo Bay's Camp X-Ray.

Six years after the shocking photos of blindfolded detainees in orange jumpsuits shackled in outdoor cells shocked the world, Guantánamo remains a betrayal of American values and continues to shame our country internationally. Our country has held detainees, some for all six years, without granting even the most fundamental legal rights. Most prisoners are being held without any charge, sometimes even after intelligence officials have determined they are not terrorists.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell has declared that "we have shaken the belief the world had in America's justice system by keeping a place like Guantánamo open and creating things like the military commission."

The prisoners at Guantánamo should be transferred to the United States, charged with a crime and tried, or sent to countries where they will not be tortured.

It's long past time that we end this nightmarish treatment and close down Guantánamo. That's why today I'm joining with the ACLU and other human rights organizations who are calling on people of conscience to wear orange. I hope you will join me and do the same.

0 CO IT E TS

You can organize your own CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO activity on January 11. We've provided some suggestions and guidance below, but we want to help as many people as possible plan individual activities in your community, with your congre-

Take Action

Ideas

Try to relate your action to your specific environment. Tailor signs to the audience you are trying to reach. Create a visual symbol that can be widely used – from orange t-shirts, to armbands, ribbons, large banners, and coordinated signs.

We've created some general talking points. Review your basic message and stick to it.

Silence can be as or more effective than shouting. Consider using orange gags or having members of your action stand in silence to signify the predicament of people held without charge and without free and easy access to counsel.

Materials

We have posters, fact sheets, *Why I am Wearing Orange* flyers, CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO pledges, iron-ons, and other materials available for you to download and use in your action.

Plan ahead

Plan, plan, plan, and plan some more. Enlist help, stick to your message, practice your talking points, and plan ahead. The more precisely you can layout logistics and timelines, the more smooth your event will be. Run through scenarios and try to plan all the particulars.

Keep Us Informed

As you plan your events, keep us up to date. Email information to closequantanamo@aclu.org.

OST A O SE A T

If you want to do something smaller or more intimate, a house party is a great way to educate and motivate your friends, faith community, colleagues, and family.

The best house parties are those that keep it short and simple. Use our talking points to draft a short introduction, lead an activity for the group, and offer them resources to take further action. We suggest renting the film *Road to Guantánamo*, which tells the story of three British citizens who were held for two years without charge at Guantánamo Bay.

A day or 2 before your party

- Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers by sending them an e-mail. Also consider calling them to follow-up. Typically, half the people who say they will attend a house party are actually able to attend. So, if you want 5 people to come to the party, you should invite 10.
- Make a plan for how you want the party to flow. Below you will find a sample agenda to help you plan your time for a two-hour house party. Photocopy materials you would like to hand out. Download our CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO pledge, fact sheet, and tips on how to write a letter to the editor. Make sure you have enough copies for everyone.
- Decide on snacks and beverages that you would like to provide, and/or ask your attendees to bring an item.
- Send out a reminder email to your attendees the day of the party.
- Print out a sign-up sheet so your guests can sign-up for ACLU Action Alerts. Have it ready for people to sign at your party.

The day of your viewing party:

- Have hand-outs ready and in a convenient place for people to take.
- When guests arrive, make sure you welcome them. Introduce them to other guests or ask them to introduce themselves to others.
- Show *Road to Guantánamo*.
- After the movie, stimulate discussion with a few questions. Feel free to use our "*Lessons from Road to Guantánamo*" fact sheet as a guide.
- Try to keep the conversation focused and encourage everyone to speak.
- Once the conversation has wrapped up, invite everyone to take some materials, including the fact sheets and letter to the editor materials.
- Remind everyone to sign up for the ACLU Action Network.
- If you have a chance, take photos.
- Make sure to thank everyone for attending.



TEAC

Education is key to closing Guantánamo. If you would like to learn or teach others more about Guantánamo, see our suggested bibliography below. You can use the curriculum to create a discussion group, lead a workshop in your faith community or community group, set up a J-term class on your campus, or lead a free-school workshop.

We've divided it up into four sections: History, Guantánamo and the Law; Torture and Abuse; and In Their Own Words. Please check back for updates and further discussion guides.

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A Geneva Conventions Primer

Understanding the Geneva Conventions is key to understanding how arbitrary detention at Guantanamo Bay violates the law, and their interpretation is a central point of contention between government officials and advocates for justice. Start with the Red Cross's guide at www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/genevaconventions. Further information is available through a Society for Professional Journalists reference, which includes a historical overview, alphabetical index, and the original documents, available at www.genevaconventions.org

Habeas Corpus

Habeas Corpus is a Latin term meaning "produce the body," and in our legal system it provides protection from unlawful imprisonment. Its history begins in the thirteenth century, and it's the best weapon we have in the fight to close Guantánamo. The ACLU's Habeas timeline, available at www.aclu.org/safefree/detention/habeastimeline.html, provides a basic historical introduction. The ACLU has also put together a broader page of Habeas related resources at www.aclu.org/mca.

II

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Guantánamo Bay is a reminder that fundamental values of justice and fairness can sometimes be violated by the very government entrusted with upholding them. The resources below illustrate how these violations corrupt our legal system.

General

"The Hidden Power"

By Jane Mayer

The New Yorker, July 3, 2006.

Mayer explains the development of post 9/11 policies, including arbitrary detention, and the surrounding conflicts within the White House.

"The Law of War in the War on Terror"

combatant.” The Court recognized the power of the government to detain unlawful combatants, but ruled that detainees who are U.S. citizens must have the ability to challenge their detention before an impartial judge.

Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, 126 S. Ct. 2749 (2006), is a case in which the Supreme Court of the United States held that military commissions set up by the Bush administration to try detainees at Guantánamo Bay lacked “the power to proceed because its structures and procedures violate both the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the four Geneva Conventions signed in 1949.”^[1] Specifically, the ruling says that Common Article 3 of the Third Geneva Convention was violated.

Al Odah

Terrorism, the Laws of War, and the Constitution, Debating the Enemy Combatant Cases.

Edited By Peter Berkowitz

A selection of essays highlighting the importance of the separation of powers and intersections of international law and the Constitution.

[BUY AT AMAZON](#)

[BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

The Eight O'Clock Ferry to the Windward Side: Fighting the Lawless World of Guantánamo Bay

By Clive Stafford Smith

Attorney Stafford-Smith, who represents over fifty Guantánamo detainees, gives his account of their experience there and the absurdity of America's legal black hole.

[BUY AT AMAZON](#)

[BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

Storming the Court: How a Band of Yale Law Students Sued the President – and Won

By Brandt Goldstein

Tells the story of the first President Bush's attempt to detain refugees at Guantánamo Bay Cuba without charge or access to counsel in 1992.

[BUY AT AMAZON](#)

[BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

III T A

The U.S. government insists that it does not sanction torture under any circumstances. Several critical voices demonstrate that this is a blatant lie.

General

Torture & III-Treatment: The Arguments

Amnesty International offers an excellent, concise FAQ on torture.

A Standard Operating Procedure Manual for Camp Delta

This military document, intended for use at Guantánamo Bay, was recently leaked and is available on the web.

"Investigators for U.N. Urge U.S. to Close Guantánamo"

By Warren Hoge

The New York Times, February 17, 2006.

"Further Detainee Abuse Alleged"
 By Carol D. Leonnig,
The Washington Post, December 26, 2004.

"Detainee Abuse Was Well Planned"
 By Adam Zagorin
Time, May 31, 2007.

"Doctors and Torture"
 By Robert Jay Lifton
The New England Journal of Medicine, July 29, 2004.

"The Experiment"
 By Jane Mayer
The New Yorker, July 11, 2005
 Mayer's story focuses on the incorporation of the U.S. military training into torture at Guantánamo.

"The Memo"
 By Jane Mayer
The New Yorker, February 27, 2006
 Mayer's story revolves around U.S. Navy General Counsel Alberto J. Mora, who attempted to ban the torture of detainees through internal channels.

Further Reading

Guantánamo: What the World Should Know
 By Michael Ratner and Ellen Ray
 A firsthand look inside the prison at Guantánamo Bay and the stories of the detainees.
[BUY AT AMAZON](#) [BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

Oath Betrayed: Torture, Medical Complicity, and the War on Terror
 By Steven Miles
 Miles depicts the shameful role of some members of the medical profession in the torture and abuse of detainees in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Guantanamo.
[BUY AT AMAZON](#) [BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

The Administration of Torture: A Documentary Record from Washington to Abu Ghraib and Beyond

By Jameel Jaffer and Amrit Singh

ACLU attorneys Jaffer and Singh shed light on the connections between officially sanctioned torture of detainees in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Guantánamo Bay with copious government documentation.

[BUY AT AMAZON](#)

[BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

A Question of Torture: CIA Interrogation from the Cold War to the War on Terror

By Alfred McCoy

Traces the development and use of CIA torture methods.

[BUY AT AMAZON](#)

[BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

Unspeakable Acts, Ordinary People

By John Conroy

Conroy compares torture in Chicago, Ireland, and Israel, examining the pervasiveness of torture in everyday society.

[BUY AT AMAZON](#)

[BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

Torture and Democracy

By Darius Rejali

Rejali explores torture from the late nineteenth century onwards, arguing that democratic societies have “set the pace” for torture internationally by developing techniques with fewer physical, and more psychological effects.

[BUY AT AMAZON](#)

[BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

American Torture: From the Cold War to Abu Ghraib and Beyond

By Michael Otterman

Otterman outlines the use of torture in American prisons world-wide, the use of torture in military training, and the consequences of society's acceptance of torture.

[BUY AT AMAZON](#)

[BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil

By Philip Zimbardo

Zimbardo, the architect of the famous Stanford prison experiment, explains the pressures that cause ordinary people to abandon morality in favor of sadism.

[BUY AT AMAZON](#)

[BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

IV I T O S

Who are the detainees? What are their stories? The resources below help to fill in the picture.

General

"Who Is At Guantánamo Bay?"
National Journal, February 4, 2006

"List of Individuals Detained by the Department of Defense at Guantanamo Bay"
A Defense Department document listing names of detainees from January 2002 to May 15, 2006.

"Report on 517 Guantanamo Detainees"
By Mark Denbeaux
Seton Hall University School of Law, February 2006
A great resource, this report analyzes who is at Guantánamo Bay, how they got there, and the purpose of their designation as "enemy combatants."

www.cageprisoners.com
Cageprisoners houses articles, interviews, audio, and video relating to detainees at Guantánamo Bay and related issues of arbitrary detention and torture.

The Road to Guantánamo
Directed by Mat Whitecross and Michael Winterbottom.
A mix of documentary and dramatic filmmaking, this film tells the story of three British Muslims held in Guantánamo for three years before being released without charge. Available for free download.

Further Reading

Enemy Combatant: My Imprisonment at Guantánamo, Bagram, and Kandahar
By Moazzam Begg.

A former detainee details his traumatic experience and the connections between Guantánamo and U.S. prisons abroad.

BUY AT AMAZON

BUY AT POWELL'S

Inside the Wire: A Military Intelligence Soldier's Eyewitness Account of Life at Guantanamo

By Erik Saar and Viveca Novak.

A U.S. soldier explains how Guantánamo Bay defiles the values he was sworn to protect.

[BUY AT AMAZON](#)

[BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

For God and Country: Faith and Patriotism Under Fire

By James Yee and Aimee Molloy.

Formerly the U.S. Army's Muslim Chaplain at Guantánamo Bay, Yee describes how he was wrongly accused of treason, imprisoned, and released, and the role of cultural ignorance in the "war on terror."

[BUY AT AMAZON](#)

[BUY AT POWELL'S](#)

AIT ESO CES

People from all religious faiths have denounced the barbaric use of torture. During the winter holiday season and around January 11, we encourage you to take advantage of the wide array of worship materials available. Share them with your religious leaders or use them to share directly with your faith community.

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) has a great list of worship materials for your use.

NRCAT also has as a [Statement of Conscience](#) for all people of faith to declare torture a moral issue.

The Campaign to Stop Torture has anti-torture resources for the Jewish holidays.

In this article, Dr. Fida Mohammed, Ph.D. discusses Islam's prohibitions against torture.