

## DID YOU KNOW...?

- In 12 years, 779 people have been imprisoned in Guantanamo. Of those prisoners, only 5% were captured by U.S. troops
- U.S. admits 92% of Guantanamo prisoners were never a Qaeda fighters.
- 86 who have been cleared for release, some since 2004, are still being held.
- The vast majority of the prisoners have been held under inhumane conditions for more than 11 years without any charge or fair trial, and with no end to their detention in sight.
- Every branch of the U.S. government has participated in creating and continuing the inhumane and illegal nightmare of Guantánamo.

## References

- 1) "Guantanamo By Numbers." ACLU. Dec 2012. <http://www.aclu.org/national-security/guantanamo-numbers>
- 2) "AMA opposes forced feedings at Guantanamo." Miami Herald. April 2012. <http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/04/30/3372407/guantanamo-hunger-strike-holds.html>
- 3) "Current Conditions of Confinement at Guantanamo." Center For Constitutional Rights. <http://ccrjustice.org/learn-more/reports/current-conditions-confinement-guantanamo>
- 4) "Guantanamo Guards Allowed to Continue Detainee Genital Searches." Jurist. July 2013. <http://jurist.org/paperchase/2013/07/guantanamo-guards-allowed-to-continue-detainee-genital-searches.php>
- 5) "Marking 10 Years Since Guantanamo's Opening" Council For American Islamic Relations - Chicago. Jan 2012. <http://www.cairchicago.org/2012/01/11/marking-10-years-since-guantanamos-opening-the-aclu-releases-report-on-guantanamo-detainees/>

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# VETERANS FOR PEACE



## Close Guantanamo

*Guantánamo Bay undermines any U.S. commitment to the rule of law, making that principle less secure for all of us.*



**Exposing the True Costs of War  
and Militarism Since 1985**

## PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PLEDGE

On his second day in office in 2009, President Obama pledged to close Guantánamo within a year. January 11, 2014 marked the 12th year that the infamous Guantanamo prison has been in operation, undermining America's values and national security.

In 12 years, 779 people have been imprisoned in Guantanamo. Of those prisoners:

- 86 who have been cleared for release, some since 2004, are still being held.
- Only 5% of prisoners were captured by U.S. troops.
- 86% were turned over to coalition forces in response to a bounty offers of millions of dollars.<sup>5</sup>
- U.S. admits 92% were never a Qaeda fighters.
- The youngest prisoner was 13 years old when captured; the oldest is 98 years old.<sup>1</sup>

## CONDITIONS

The vast majority of the 166 remaining prisoners have been held under inhumane conditions for more than 11 years without any charge or fair trial, and with no end to their detention in sight.

Solitary confinement, sensory deprivation, environmental manipulation, and sleep deprivation are daily realities for these men and have led to the steady deterioration of their physical and psychological health.

At times, detainees have been subjected to brutal physical assaults by the Immediate Reaction Force (IRF), a team of military guards comparable to a riot squad, who are trained to respond to alleged "disciplinary infractions" with overwhelming force. Detainees have also been deprived of virtually all meaningful contact with their families, and have suffered interference with and abuse related to their right to practice their religion.<sup>3</sup>

A U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled to allow searches which include guards wedging their hands between the genitals and thighs of the detainees as many as four times when moving them to a meeting and back to their cells. A District Court judge had called the searches "religiously and culturally abhorrent" to Muslims. He portrayed the procedure as unnecessary and intended to "actively discourage" meetings with lawyers.<sup>4</sup> More than 200 FBI agents have reported witnessing abusive treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo.<sup>5</sup>

*"The existence of Guantánamo likely created more terrorists around the world than it ever detained."*

*-President Barack Obama*



## RESPONSIBILITY

Every branch of the U.S. government has participated in creating and continuing the inhumane and illegal nightmare of Guantánamo. The Bush Administration created the extra-legal detention center. The Supreme Court has stood by while the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has negated habeas protections for Guantánamo prisoners, making it almost impossible for them to meaningfully challenge their detention. Congress has repeatedly voted to restrict the President's authority to transfer prisoners, even those who have been cleared for release from Guantánamo, most recently in the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act. President Obama threatened to veto that legislation but backed down as he has before.

## CLOSE GUANTANAMO

Veterans For Peace calls for the immediate closure of Guantánamo. Guantánamo harms our nation every day it stays open, and it continues to serve as a potent symbol for terrorist recruitment. As President Obama himself stated in a speech in early 2009, "the existence of Guantánamo likely created more terrorists around the world than it ever detained." That remains true today. Guantánamo undermines our bedrock commitment to the rule of law, making that fundamental principle less secure for all Americans.



**For More Information visit:**

- [CloseGitmo.net](http://CloseGitmo.net)
- [CloseGuantanamo.org](http://CloseGuantanamo.org)
- [Human Rights Watch-Guantanamo](http://HumanRightsWatch-Guantanamo)