



Where to Learn More About Guantanamo and Why It Should Be Shut Down!

Info on Guantánamo

- Guantánamo By the Numbers (Full Text below)
http://www.ccrjustice.org/files/9.15.11_Guantánamo%20by%20the%20Numbers.pdf
- Guantánamo Timeline, Washington Post,
<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/Guantánamo/timeline/>

Poems about Guantánamo

- URGENT CALL, Matilde De la Sierra and Jim Manzardo
- “There Is A Man Under That Hood” by Peace Poet Luke Nephew (Full Text below)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hVaoqjZzuA>
- Death Poem by Jumah al Dossari (former detainee of Guantánamo) (Full Text below)
<http://www.uiowapress.org/books/2007-fall/falpoefro.html>
- Is It True? poem by Osama Abu Kabir (former detainee of Guantánamo) (Full Text below)
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=11354562>

Write to the men in Guantánamo

The British organization Reprieve has names and addresses for many Guantánamo men and a little blurb about who they are and what they are interested in.

<http://www.reprieve.org.uk/articles/writetoGuantánamo/>

BOOKS

- *Guantanamo: What the World Should Know*, by Michael Ratner and Ellen Ray
- *Poems from Guantanamo: The Detainees Speak*, edited by Marc Falkoff
- *Witness Against Torture: The Campaign to Shut Down Guantanamo*, by Anna J. Brown
- *The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How The War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals* by Jane Mayer
- *The Least Worst Place: Guantanamo's First 100 Days*, by Karen Greenberg
- *Enemy Combatant: My imprisonment at Guantanamo, Bagram, and Kandahar*, by Moazzam Bagg
- *Guantanamo Boy* by Anna Perera
- *The Guantanamo Files: The Stories of the 759 Detainees in America's Illegal Prison*, by Andy Worthington
- *Origins of the Fifth Amendment: The Right Against Self-Incrimination* by Leonard Levy
- *The Guantanamo Lawyers: Inside a Prison, Outside the Law* by Jonathan Hafetz
- *The Interrogators: Inside the Secret War Against al Qaeda* by Chris Mackey

- *The Challenge: Hamdan v. Rumsfeld and the Fight over Presidential Power* by Jonathan Mahler
- *Be Not Afraid: An Alternative to the War on Terror* by Tom Cordaro

WEBSITES

- Witness Against Torture: witnessstorture.org
- No More Guantánamos: nogitmos.org
- Andy Worthington's Blog: andyworthington.co.uk
- Witness to Guantánamo: witnessstoguantanamo.com
- Human Rights Watch has written many reports: hrw.org
- Amnesty International: amnestyusa.org
- Waging Nonviolence Blog: wagingnonviolence.org
- Truthout.org has many articles about Guantánamo
- The National Religious Campaign Against Torture: nrcat.org
- Center for Constitutional Rights: ccrjustice.org
- The Guantánamo Testimonial Project: humanrights.ucdavis.edu/projects/the-guantanamo-testimonials-project
- Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition: tassc.org
- Common Dreams: commondreams.org
- Democracy Now: democracynow.org
- War Resisters League - www.warresisters.org
- World Can't Wait: worldcantwait.net

FILMS/ VIDEOS

- Taxi to the Dark Side, directed by Alex Gibney
- Ghosts of Abu Ghraib, directed by Rory Kennedy (found on youtube)
- Torturing Democracy, produced by Sherry Jones
- Primetime Torture from Human Rights First
- The Road to Guantánamo
- Gitmo: the New Rules of War
- The Response (this movie also has an excellent website !)
- Torture on Trial.
- The Torture Question
- Outside the Law: Stories from Guantánamo, directed by Polly Nash and Andy Worthington
- Breaking the Silence: Torture Survivors Speak Out, directed by Valliere Richard Auzenne
- Justice Denied: Voices from Guantánamo
- The Guantánamo Trap
- 4 Days Inside Guantánamo

FULL TEXT OF SOME ITEMS LISTED ABOVE

Guantánamo by the Numbers: What You Should Know & Do About Guantánamo

600 men have been released from Guantánamo, and most are now peacefully rebuilding their lives.

171 men remain imprisoned at Guantánamo, from 23 countries.

92 percent of the men ever held in Guantánamo are not “Al-Qaeda fighters,” by the U.S. government’s own records.

89 men have been cleared for release from Guantánamo but remain in detention.

58 Yemeni men are cleared to be sent back home, but remain indefinitely detained based solely on their nationality.

46 men are slated for indefinite detention without charge or trial. The government claims they can neither be released nor prosecuted.

22 or more prisoners were under 18 when captured.

20 or more men could leave Guantánamo immediately, but for the fact that they fear torture or other human rights violations in their countries of nationality, or because they are stateless. These men will remain in detention until other countries offer them safe havens and a chance to rebuild their lives.

10 is the number of years of arbitrary detention at Guantánamo which the detained men have now entered.

8 men have died in the prison.

7 men have been charged with a crime, and two of these men are now free.

2 men have been forcibly transferred by the Obama administration to Algeria, despite their credible fears of abuse in Algeria.

1 man has left Guantánamo alive in 2011. The 8 months since his transfer mark the longest period that has ever lapsed without a release from the prison. He was transferred against his will. Two other men left in coffins.

0 senior government officials have been held accountable for wrongful detention and torture.

URGENT CALL, Matilde De la Sierra and Jim Manzardo

Blood stained and tainted streets,
Desolate villages covered with mutilated bodies,
Despairing women, mothers, screaming,
Disappeared men,
Crying children in search of their mothers,
Hopelessness, nightmares, darkness,
Bitterness, desolation,
Human and architectural destruction.
Listen well. This is called War, Occupation

We call upon the spirits of Segundo Montes, Maura Clark, Victor Jara and Penny
Lernoux who lived in the world of the poor and oppressed, and understood what it was to
be powerless, to be like Christ.
Let us enter into solidarity with the poor and oppressed and receive the freedom that
transcends even death.

People suspected of being terrorists,
Detained, imprisoned, in deplorable conditions,
Tortured, humiliated, stripped of their dignity.
Human beings crying out to be rescued,
To be liberated from Satan's hands,
Even pleading to be killed,
To be sucked of their very last drop of blood
Listen well. This is called Guantanamo Bay.

We call upon the spirits of Joaquin Lopez y Lopez, the martyrs of El Mozote, Elba and
Celina Ramos and Rutilio Grande who understood that to be a true Christian is a
dangerous thing, that Jesus himself would be accused of being a rabble-rouser, of
confusing the people with ideas against democracy, against the wealthy minority and be
crucified again.
Let us be attentive to the voice of truth within and around us and receive the courage to
choose the path of self-sacrifice and loving service.

Men and Women in camouflaged uniforms,
Occupying and bombarding entire cities,
Supporting tyrannical presidents,
Announcing with pride and authority,
The deaths of innocent victims.
False warriors for peace,
Their souls and hands marked
With the blood of defenseless bodies.
Listen well. This is called Militia and Horror.

We call upon the spirits of Ignacio Ellacuría, Ignacio Martín-Baró, Juan Ramon Moreno,
Amando Lopez and Oscar Arnulfo Romero who spoke truth to power, who urged soldiers
to stop the repression, in the name of God, in the name of our tormented people.
Let us, out of love for those who have no voice or power, receive the boldness to speak
truth to oppressive and violent power.

Now Pay Attention
We cannot ignore all of this.
We cannot keep pretending to have some physical impediment,
To suffer from dementia, blindness and deafness.
We cannot ignore the pain of our brothers and sisters.
We cannot be indifferent, apathetic to this reality.
Not when your government,
The government of the country in which I live
(Guilty of the atrocities of my country)
Is the representative of all this abomination.

We call upon the spirits of Ita Ford, James “Guadalupe” Carney, Dorothy Kazel and Dean Brackley who left the comforts and security of life in the United States of America and faced their deepest fears, to become messengers not of military might but of peace. Let us receive the humility to examine our consciences and discover how we too can be witnesses of peace with our lives.

Today I invite you to take up arms.
Yes, the arms of compassion, love and justice,
But also arms of perseverance, patience,
Arms of courage and boldness
Because this is not an easy enemy to overcome.

We call upon the spirits of Jean Donovan, Stanley Rother, Sr Alicia Domon and Cesar Chavez who chose the extremely powerful weapon of their own lives, for others, in total nonviolent struggle for justice.

Let us receive the wisdom to discern between the reasonable thing and the path of suffering with the poor bruised victims.

It will take us years, but we must not give up.
Let us unite our forces, our hearts.
Let us begin the Revolution for peace and justice.
Our legacy will be a transformed, free and healed world.

We call upon the spirits of Dorothy Day, Francis of Assisi, Rufina Amaya and Juan Gerardi who understood that peace is possible when born from the liberating and humanizing truth that makes it possible for men and women to come to terms with themselves and their life stories.

Let us recognize our individual and collective responsibility and receive the perseverance and strength to commit ourselves to action so that abominable acts never happen again.

THERE IS A MAN UNDER THAT HOOD by Peace Poet Luke Nephew, January 2011

We are not here to make angels out of prisoners.
We don't know them. But we know that they are men...
And so we defend those who disappear under hoods and into jumpsuits,
Bringing back into the light every CIA black cite, because right now...
There is a man under that hood
There is a brother breathing prayers of desperation,
Striking hunger so hard that his ribs are about to crack,
There is a man under that hood in Afghanistan, Guantánamo and Iraq
That is being treated as less than human...
His rights have been dismissed with the label terrorist
And just for saying this, they'll probably put my name on a list
But this is too dangerous for us to not resist...
Mr. President, I want you to know, that if it were you hooded and chained
We would be standing right here, demanding the same- basic human rights for you...
If it were you facing indefinite detention Mr. Senator,
We would march in these streets with your name on our backs
We would fast
In solidarity with your hunger strike, Mrs. Congresswoman

Even while months of breathing through black cloth made you cough
We would speak for you
Mr. Newsman, Mrs. Citizen, we would be here for you
Because no matter how hollowed out the night
We remember that human rights are universal,
This is life, not a rehearsal!
You cannot steal years of men's lives based on lies extracted from torture and bribes,

We cannot decide who is human and who is not
Without becoming the greatest threat to ourselves
I have sat inside a cell, and it taught me how wrong it is to cage men
And then say it's all right to keep them...
Because they fell like corpses into the category of 'enemy combatants'
I will not act like nothing happened when it's happening now
I will not bow to this injustice.
I will speak for the change that was promised,
I'm not ashamed to be honest: And tell you:
We have all cried, Mr. President,
Clouds of consciousness overflowing out our eyes, Mr. President...
For those brief seconds when we've had the courage to realize
That there is a man under that hood,
No matter how beaten and bruised
There is a man under that hood
That is exactly as human as you
There is a man under that hood
Regardless of his religion, There is a man
Who doesn't understand, why we don't see him...
Why it's so hard for us to imagine what it would be like to be him...
There where they sit in our prisons, hidden from our justice system, locked away,
Are we going to pretend that they are less than men and just walk away?
Or will we raise our eyes above the walls,
Raise our voices up to call out our government,
To say we see you, we are watching what you're doin',
No matter how many times you call them terrorists,
We'll still recognize them as human
And to the detainees,
No matter how tortured or shattered or forgotten you feel
Please know that there are people in these United States,
Who see you and hear you and know that you are real
And to the people of my country,
Do not pretend we are seeking freedom,
Or justice, or any common good,
Until we are ready
To respect the human rights
Of every
Single
Man...
under that hood.

Death Poem
by Jumah al Dossari

Jumah al Dossari is a thirty-three-year-old Bahraini who has been held at Guantánamo Bay for more than five years. He has been in solitary confinement since the end of 2003 and, according to the U.S. military, has tried to kill himself twelve times while in custody. He was released in 2007 to Saudi Arabia.

Take my blood.
Take my death shroud and
The remnants of my body.
Take photographs of my corpse at the grave, lonely.
Send them to the world,
To the judges and
To the people of conscience,
Send them to the principled men and the fair-minded.
And let them bear the guilty burden before the world,
Of this innocent soul.
Let them bear the burden before their children and before history,
Of this wasted, sinless soul,
Of this soul which has suffered at the hands of the “protectors of peace.”

Is It True? by: Osama Abu Kabir

Osama Abu Kabir is a Jordanian water truck driver who worked for the municipality of Great Amman. After joining an Islamic missionary organization called Jama'at al'Tablighi, he traveled to Afghanistan, where he was detained by anti-Taliban forces and handed over to the U.S. military. One of the justifications offered for his continued detention is that he was captured wearing a Casio digital watch, a brand supposedly favored by members of al Qaeda because some models may be used as bomb detonators. He was released back to his home in Jordan in 2007

Is it true that the grass grows again after rain?
Is it true that the flowers will rise up again in the Spring?
Is it true that birds will migrate home again?
Is it true that the salmon swim back up their streams?

It is true. This is true. These are all miracles.
But is it true that one day we'll leave Guantánamo Bay?
Is it true that one day we'll go back to our homes?
I sail in my dreams. I am dreaming of home.

To be with my children, each one part of me;
To be with my wife and the ones that I love;
To be with my parents, my world's tenderest hearts.
I dream to be home, to be free from this cage.

But do you hear me, oh Judge, do you hear me at all?
We are innocent, here, we've committed no crime.
Set me free, set us free, if anywhere still
Justice and compassion remain in this world!