



Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States of America

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20500
United States of America

Subject: Urgent renewal of efforts to close Guantanamo Bay detention facility

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, appeal to the United States Government to finally close Guantanamo Bay military prison facility and to bring to an end the unlawful practice of indefinite detention without charge or trial.

In its 21 year history, Guantanamo Bay has held 779 prisoners. We remind you that most of these men found themselves in Guantanamo Bay as a result of unlawful capture and rendition by the United States authorities, on faulty intelligence, without any due process. They were held without access to justice, subjected to torture and deprived of their fundamental rights. Nine have died before they ever saw freedom. Fewer than twenty have ever been charged with any crime by your Government, let alone tried or convicted. The majority are innocent men, and should never have been imprisoned.

UN experts have described Guantanamo as “a site of unparalleled notoriety,” “defined by the systematic use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment,” which despite “forceful, repeated and unequivocal condemnation” has remained open for 21 years, in a manner “simply unacceptable for any government, particularly a government which has a stated claim to protecting human rights.”¹

Only 30 prisoners remain in Guantanamo. 16 of these have been cleared for release, having - to repeat - never been charged with any crime. Nonetheless they remain imprisoned and

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/01/guantanamo-bay-ugly-chapter-unrelenting-human-rights-violations-un-experts>

continue to endure the trauma of their ordeal. Many of them are now suffering from advancing age and serious health conditions, but are denied access to appropriate medical treatments. The urgency of their situation is therefore becoming even more acute. They cannot wait any longer for their freedom.

We call on the United States to abide by its obligations under international law, and to urgently close Guantanamo. We pledge to work in our Member States and the European Union to assist your country in expediting the closure of this notorious and shameful facility, and to ensure that the remaining prisoners can access medical treatments, reunite with their families, and begin to rebuild their lives.

Together, we can close a dark chapter in the history of the United States. Let us delay no longer.

Respectfully,

Members of the European Parliament

1. MEP Clare Daly
2. MEP Mick Wallace