

Beyond Guantanamo: A Bipartisan Declaration

Quotations on Closing the Detention Facility

“If it was up to me, I would close Guantanamo. Not tomorrow, but this afternoon.”

- *General Colin Powell*¹

“The name itself is a condemnation.”

- *Defense Secretary Robert Gates, speaking about the detention center at Guantanamo Bay*²

“Gitmo has caused us problems. There is no question about it.”

- *General David Petraeus*³

“We have many terrorists in U.S. prisons today...The truth is, there's a lot of fear-mongering about this. We've never had an escape from a supermax prison, and that's where these guys will go—and if not one of the existing ones, we'll create a new one.”

- *Defense Secretary Robert Gates*⁴

“I'd like to see it [the detention facility at Guantanamo] shut down...I believe that from the standpoint of how it reflects on us that it's been pretty damaging.”

- *Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*⁵

“Sometimes, we just didn't get the right folks.”

- *Brigadier General Jay Hood, former Commanding General of Joint Task Force Guantanamo*

“The positive effect that we'll get in winning the war on terrorism by the shutdown of Gitmo is enormous.”

- *General Wesley Clark*⁶

“I think what's going on in Guantanamo Bay and other places is a disgrace to the U.S.A. I wouldn't say it's the cause of terrorism, but it has given impetus and excuses to potential terrorists to lash out at our country and justify their despicable acts.”

- *Former President Jimmy Carter*⁷

“[Guantanamo] gives us a very, very bad name, not just internationally. I have a great deal of difficulty understanding how we can hold someone, pick someone up, particularly someone who might be an American citizen—even if they were caught somewhere abroad—acting against American interests, and hold them without ever giving them an opportunity to appear before a magistrate.”

- *Former U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker, III*⁸

¹ *Powell Urges Guantanamo Closure*, BBC News, June 11, 2007, available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/6739745.stm>.

² *Today Show: Interview with Defense Secretary Robert Gates* (NBC television broadcast May 22, 2009) (transcript available at http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2009/05/gates_on_gitmo_closing_theres.html).

³ *Live Desk: Interview with General David Petraeus* (Fox News television broadcast May 29, 2009) (transcript available at <http://thinkprogress.org/2009/05/29/petraeus-values/>).

⁴ *Today Show: Interview with Defense Secretary Robert Gates* (NBC television broadcast May 22, 2009) (transcript available at http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2009/05/gates_on_gitmo_closing_theres.html).

⁵ Robert Burns, *Joint Chiefs Chairman: Close Guantanamo*, AP, Jan. 14, 2008, available at http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-01-13-1601498333_x.htm.

⁶ *Morning Joe: Interview with General Wesley Clark* (MSNBC television broadcast Feb. 4, 2009) (transcript available at <http://securingamerica.com/node/3117>).

⁷ Cassandra Vinograd, *Carter Criticizes Iraq War, Detentions at Guantanamo*, AP, July 31, 2005, available at <http://www.commondreams.org/headlines05/0731-04.htm>.

⁸ James Baker et al, *The Report of the Secretaries of State: Bipartisan Advice to the Next Administration 3* (2008), available at http://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/conf_coll_symp_symposia/48.