

Beyond Guantanamo: A Bipartisan Declaration

Fact Sheet

- Approximately 775 people, ranging in age from 13 to 98, have been detained at Guantanamo since January 2002.¹
- According to one study, 55% of the detainees that the government has designated as enemy combatants have been determined not to have committed any hostile acts toward the United States or its coalition allies.²
- More than 550 detainees have been released from Guantanamo.³
- There were approximately 215 detainees in Guantanamo as of November 2009 and the vast majority of them have never been charged with a crime.⁴
- The approximately 215 current detainees include close to 100 Yemenis; the others are from various countries, including: Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, and Uzbekistan.⁵
- Six detainees have died while in custody at Guantanamo.⁶
- As of September 2009, charges were pending, in six separate cases before military commissions, against a total of 10 detainees.⁷
- Only three terrorism suspects have been convicted in military commissions in the eight years since they were first established. None of those convicted were considered high-level terrorism suspects.⁸
- U.S. federal courts have convicted 195 terrorism suspects since 2001, including 9/11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui and shoe bomber Richard Reid.⁹
- Since 2001, there is a 91% conviction rate for terrorism suspects charged in federal courts. Among those suspects who were originally acquitted or had their charges dismissed after arraignment, many were subsequently prosecuted and convicted pursuant to new charges.¹⁰
- Terrorists convicted in federal courts are now imprisoned in U.S. supermax prisons, from which no one has ever escaped.¹¹
- Estimated operational costs for the Guantanamo Bay detention facility range from \$90 to \$118 million per year, which is \$418,000 to \$548,000 per detainee.¹²
- The annual cost of confining one person in solitary confinement at a U.S. supermax facility is \$75,000.¹³
- Defense Secretary Robert Gates and at least 19 current and former admirals and generals, including Colin Powell, David Petraeus, and Wesley Clark, believe the Guantanamo Bay detention facility should be closed.¹⁴

- Former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger, James Baker, Warren Christopher, Madeleine Albright, Colin Powell, and Condoleezza Rice all support closing Guantanamo.¹⁵

¹ ACLU, *Guantanamo Fact Sheet*, Nov. 2008, http://www.aclu.org/pdfs/safefree/closegitmo/gitmo_factsheet.pdf.

² Mark Denbeaux et al., *Report on Guantanamo Detainees: A Profile of 517 Detainees through Analysis of Department of Defense Data 2*(2006), http://law.shu.edu/publications/guantanamoReports/guantanamo_report_final_2_08_06.pdf.

³ 'Difficult' to Meet Guantanamo Closure Deadline: Holder, Agence France-Presse, Oct. 6, 2009, available at <http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/usattacks Guantanamo prison>.

⁴ Lara Jakes, *Obama Revives Military Trials at Guantanamo*, AP, Oct. 28, 2009, available at <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=8941465>.

⁵ Press Release, Human Rights Watch, *US: Mark Guantanamo's Seventh Year by Closing It*, Jan. 9, 2009, available at <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/01/09/us-mark-guantanamo-s-seventh-year-closing-it>.

⁶ Jane Sutton, *FACTBOX – Facts about Guantanamo prison detainees*, Reuters, Nov. 5 2009, <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN05149893>.

⁷ Human Rights Watch, *The Guantanamo Trials*, <http://www.hrw.org/features/guantanamo>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Richard B. Zabel & James J. Benjamin, Human Rights First, *In Pursuit of Justice: Prosecuting Terrorism Cases in the Federal Courts, 2009 Update and Recent Developments* 9 (July 2009), available at <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/pdf/090723-LS-in-pursuit-justice-09-update.pdf>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Human Rights First, *Liz Cheney's Myths . . . and the Facts that Debunk Them*, <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/pdf/091013-LS-liz-cheney-myths-facts.pdf>.

¹² David Bowker & David Kaye, *Guantanamo by the Numbers*, N.Y. Times, Nov. 12, 2007, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/10/opinion/10kayeintro.html>.

¹³ Jeffrey I. Ross, *Is the End in Sight for Supermax*, Forbes, Apr. 18, 2006, available at http://www.forbes.com/2006/04/15/prison-supermax-ross_cx_jr_06slate_0418super.html.

¹⁴ Press Release, Human Rights First, *Statement From 16 Retired Admirals And Generals* (Jan. 22, 2009), available at <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/media/usls/2009/alert/388/index.htm>; *Morning Joe: Interview with General Wesley Clark* (MSNBC television broadcast Feb. 4. 2009) (transcript available at <http://securingamerica.com/node/3117>); *Radio Free Europe: Interview of U.S. Central Commander Chief, General David Petraeus* (RFE/RL radio broadcast May 24, 2009) (transcript available at http://www.rferl.org/content/transcript_RFERL_Interviews_US_Central_Command_Chief_General_David_Petraeus/1738626.html); Reuters, *Colin Powell Says Guantanamo Should be Closed*, June 10, 2007, available at <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSN1043646920070610>.

¹⁵ Aaron G. Sheinin, *Former Secretaries of State: Close Guantanamo*, Atlanta J. Const., Mar. 27, 2008, available at http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/stories/2008/03/27/secstate_0328.html.