

# Beyond Guantanamo: A Bipartisan Declaration

## Guantanamo Chronology

### 2002

January 11: First group of 20 detainees arrives at Guantanamo.

January 18: President Bush announces that detainees are not entitled to prisoner-of-war protection under the Geneva Convention.

February 22: Federal district judge dismisses challenge to detentions on standing grounds.

March 21: The Bush administration announces new military tribunal regulations.

April 25: Construction of permanent 410-bed detainee facility (“Camp Delta”) completed.

### 2003

March 11: Federal appeals court rules that the detainees have no legal rights in the United States.

May 9: Number of detainees housed at Guantanamo reaches 680.

### 2004

June 28: Supreme Court rules in *Rasul v. Bush* that detainees can challenge their detention in federal court.

July 7: To comply with *Rasul*, Pentagon creates special military panels to determine the “enemy combatant” status of every detainee.

August 24: First military commission convenes.

### 2005

June: Construction begins on a \$1 billion, high-security detention facility at Guantanamo.

July 15: Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit upholds President Bush’s powers to try Hamdan in a military commission.

### 2006

February 15: UN Report recommends closing the Guantanamo detention facility.

June 29: In *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, the Supreme Court holds that the Bush administration’s military commission system violates U.S. and international law, and rules that Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions applies to detainees at Guantanamo.

September 6: Bush administration transfers 14 "high value" detainees from secret CIA prisons to Guantanamo, including top Al Qaeda leaders such as Khalid Shaikh Mohammed.

October 17: President Bush signs the Military Commissions Act of 2006 into law, establishing new military tribunals.

## 2007

March-April: "Enemy combatant" status reviews held for numerous detainees.

## 2008

June 5: Five high-value detainees involved in planning the Sept. 11th attacks are arraigned at Guantanamo.

June 12: Supreme Court rules in *Boumediene v. Bush* and *Al Odah v. U.S.* that prisoners have the right to challenge their detention in U.S. federal courts through *habeas corpus* petitions.

## 2009

January 14: Senior Bush official publicly acknowledges that detainees at Guantanamo were tortured.

January 22: Two days after taking office, President Obama issues three executive orders mandating (1) the closure of Guantanamo in one year; (2) a review of detention policy options; (3) the termination of controversial CIA interrogation techniques.

May 15: President Obama announces that he will change, not abandon, the military tribunal system.

June 9: Ahmed Ghailani is the first non-American detainee transferred to the U.S. to face terrorism charges in federal court.

October 1: The House of Representatives votes to prohibit the transfer of terrorism suspects from Guantanamo to the U.S.

October 6: Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. says the Obama administration probably will not meet its deadline of closing Guantanamo by January 22, 2009.