



**Abner Mikva and William S. Sessions Statement
Regarding Legislation Banning Use of Defense Funds to Transfer
Detainees to U.S. for Criminal Trial**

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WASHINGTON – Abner J. Mikva and William S. Sessions released the following statement:

We strongly urge Congress and the Administration to work together to reverse the language contained in the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act that bars the use of defense funds to transfer Guantanamo detainees to the United States, even for prosecution.

This legislation not only removes one of the most reliable and effective tools we have in the fight against terrorism—the use of federal criminal courts to try terrorism cases—it also represents a clear intrusion on the authority of the executive branch to decide where prosecutions should be brought.

U.S. civilian courts have successfully overseen 400 terrorism related trials, compared with only 5 cases handled by the military commissions. Denying the president the use of this proven tool is not in the best interest of our national security and will only continue to delay justice for 9/11 victims and their families.

Abner J. Mikva is a former Member of Congress (D-IL), 1969-1973, 1975-1979. He also served as White House Counsel for the Clinton administration and as Chief Judge to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, 1979-1994.

William S. Sessions is a former Director of the FBI, 1987-1993. He also served as Chief Judge and Judge to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, 1974-1987.