

## Take Torture Off the Table: Close Guantanamo NOW

The cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment -- torture -- inflicted on disfranchised subjects, from Pelican Bay in California to Bagram, Afghanistan, must not only end; the presumption of American immunity to international law must be repudiated. Dismantling of U.S. torture camps can't wait. And that is up to us.

On New Year's Eve 2011, President Obama signed an appropriations bill into law that effectively reneged on his election promise to close Guantanamo. 60 illegally detained men remain in Guantanamo, including 20 uncharged "forever prisoners." Not a single senior official has yet faced accountability for the systematic torture of detainees.

The human cost of this failure has been documented. The New York Times maintains a docket of the roughly 780 men detained at Guantanamo over the years, nine of whom died while in custody. A new book by psychologist/reporter/activist Jeffrey Kaye, *Cover-up at Guantanamo*, examines so-called suicides at the Cuba-based U.S. interrogation and detention camp, between 2006 and 2009.

While Obama dallies, Congress threatens to institutionalize the indiscriminate application of criminal laws and the wanton treatment of suspected criminals at Guantanamo. Last month the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would block transfers of detainees from the Guantanamo Bay prison to the U.S. mainland or any foreign country, reports Sputnik News. Amnesty International USA Security with Human Rights Coordinator Elizabeth Beavers urges a presidential veto, and speaks to election season silence on the issue. "It is unfortunate that they [candidates] don't talk about it because the decisions that the future president will make will have implications for generations to come."

Guantanamo's ill-conceived structures (military tribunals employed to sidestep due process) cannot provide justice. "Indefinite detention is a violation of international human rights law," continues Beavers. "By continuing to prop up a parallel detention system in which individuals can be held for more than a decade without charge or trial, the United States has built a dangerous precedent upon which human rights violations can be normalized and then expanded upon. The public has been primed to accept violations of rights in the name of national security, and that is a treacherous foundation on which to build a future."

What happens when you don't deal with the crime of indefinite detention? 800 years of Habeas Corpus law, the right to know why you are being held captive by the State, comes undone. We witness no savior from the Democratic Party. It's up to people living in the United States to mobilize against agents of denial and neglect.

Prosecute key officials for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Contact World Can't Wait to tell us how you want to help: [sf@worldcantwait.net](mailto:sf@worldcantwait.net)

# Indict John Yoo For War Crimes

The University of California harbors a war criminal. John Yoo was a principal legal architect of the Bush/Cheney torture machinery, before returning to Berkeley Law where he now teaches the next generation of lawyers and judges.

The torture operations designed, ordered, and carried out under Bush received the 'stamp of approval' from torture team lawyer John Yoo. The lawless detention policy derived from his work product at the

Office of Legal Counsel — the now discredited 'unitary executive theory' freeing the President of constitutional constraints — resulted in the torture and death of scores of illegally held prisoners suffering the U.S. war of terror on the Middle East.



Despite a worldwide outcry, UC has yet to respond to charges of ethical misconduct against professor Yoo. Feigned helplessness to do so has been supplanted by promotion of a lawyer whose career hallmark is his stint in Bush's Justice Department providing legal-sounding excuses so that torture could be used under color of presidential power, can not be a role model for students. John Yoo should be in prison, awaiting trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity!

Culpability for the legacy of ruined lives and damaged minds at the hands of CIA interrogators extends to apologists for what *California Law Review* calls "flawed and eccentric historical theory [that] came to underpin the government's conduct of war and foreign policy."

It is our responsibility to call out criminal and enabler alike.

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