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Guantánamo Anniversary: International calls for closure

"I think sooner or later there will be a need to close Guantánamo, and I think it will be up to the government to decide, and hopefully to do it as soon as is possible."

Kofi Anan, former UN Secretary General, 17 February 2006.

"[Guantánamo] either needs to be closed down or cleaned up."

Bill Clinton, former US President, 19 June 2005.

"Our government needs, first of all, to close down Guantánamo."

Jimmy Carter, former US President, 9 June 2005.

"An institution like Guantánamo can and should not exist in the longer term."

Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, 7 January 2006.

"I too think that these centres, where episodes have taken place that have been condemned by the whole world, must be closed as swiftly as possible."

Silvio Berlusconi, then Italian Prime minister, 23 February 2006.

"The continuing detention without fair trial of prisoners is unacceptable in terms of human rights. But it is also ineffective in terms of counter-terrorism."

Margaret Beckett, UK Foreign Secretary, 13 October 2006.

"It is time, in my view, that it should close."

Lord Goldsmith, UK attorney General, 7 May 2006.

"[The European Parliament] calls on the US Administration to close the Guantánamo Bay detention facility and insists that every prisoner should be treated in accordance with international humanitarian law and tried without delay in a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent, impartial tribunal."

European Parliament, 13 June 2006.

"European foreign ministers have recently stressed on the basis of a unanimously agreed position that it would be important if the Government of the United States of America were to proceed soon to closing down the Guantánamo Bay detention center. Italy shares the European position and hopes that the Government of the United States may proceed in the direction that has been desired by European ministers as soon as possible."

Massimo D'Alema, Italian Deputy Prime Minister, 16 June 2006.

"The focus of attention should be on closing Guantánamo."

Jose Diaz, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, 13 June 2006.

"We emphatically support the recommendations that the U.S. either expeditiously bring all detainees to trial or release them without further delay and that the U.S. government should promptly close the Guantánamo detention facility."

Bob Edgar, General Secretary, National Council of Churches, 23 February 2006.

"A model like Guantánamo is an insult to countries that respect laws... It delegitimizes us. It is a place that needs to disappear immediately."

Baltasar Garzon, Spanish investigative magistrate, 4 June 2006.

"Every time I've met him (Bush) I've told him that we think it is neither reasonable nor acceptable to detain people indefinitely without clarifying their situation."

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Danish Prime Minister, 2 May 2006.

"It seems clear that in this prison man's dignity is not being respected at all. Everyone always has the right to an equitable and just judgement."

Cardinal Renato Martino, Vatican's Minister for justice and peace, 3 March 2006.

"Of course we support this [the closure of Guantánamo] and hopefully all the Saudis there will be returned to their homeland."

Prince Nayef bin Abdul-Aziz, Saudi Arabia's Interior Minister, 26 June 2006.

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