

Guantánamo and beyond: The continuing pursuit of unchecked executive power

The USA disregards basic human rights and international legal obligations in its "war on terror". Serious violations are the inevitable result. Not a single detainee held in Guantánamo Bay has had the lawfulness of his detention judicially reviewed. The conditions remain in place for torture and ill-treatment in the US Naval Base and beyond.

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Prisoners at Guantánamo Bay, US Naval Base in Cuba.

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Guantánamo Bay - a human rights scandal

Hypocrisy, an overarching war mentality and a disregard for basic human rights principles and international legal obligations continue to mark the USA's "war on terror". Serious human rights violations are the inevitable result.

The detention camp at the US Naval Base in Guantánamo Bay in Cuba has become a symbol of the US administration's refusal to put human rights and the rule of law at the heart of its response to the atrocities of 11 September 2001. Hundreds of people of around 35 different nationalities remain held in effect in a legal black hole, many without access to any court, legal counsel or family visits.

As evidence of torture and widespread cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment mounts, it is more urgent than ever that the US Government bring the Guantánamo Bay detention camp and any other facilities it is operating outside the USA into full compliance with international law and standards. The only alternative is to close them down.

In depth report



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It is nearly a year since the United States Supreme Court ruled that US courts have the jurisdiction to consider appeals from detainees in Guantánamo Bay. This report shows how the US administration, in seeking to block judicial review every step of the way, has ensured that not a single detainee has had the lawfulness of his detention judicially reviewed. And though over a year since the Abu Ghraib torture scandal broke, the conditions remain in place for torture and ill-treatment, in Guantánamo Bay and beyond, to occur.

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Spotlight on Guantánamo Bay



"Why Murat was arrested – I don't know myself, I really don't know...The Washington Post has also recently written that he is innocent."

Murat Kurnaz has been detained in Guantánamo Bay for three and a half years. His mother, Rabiye Kurnaz talks about the Turkish, German and US authorities that are doing nothing to help her and her son.