



National Religious Campaign
Against Torture

www.nrcat.org
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202-547-1920

May 12, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

cc: Members of the House of Representatives

Dear Representative,

As leaders of many different faith communities, we call on you to take the necessary steps to close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay before the end of the year.

Guantanamo is a place where prisoners were tortured and where most continue to be held without charge or trial. These are things that violate the values of our respective faith traditions and make a mockery of the idea of American values.

It appears nearly certain that the next President will either be someone who will close Guantanamo, or someone who has vowed to resume torturing prisoners and to even target the families of those suspected of being connected with terrorism. In the first instance, keeping the prison open past this year will only delay its inevitable closure – costing hundreds of millions or billions of dollars, hurting our reputation around the world, and prolonging a moral travesty – for no ultimate purpose. In the second instance, keeping the prison open may mean it is again used as a place for unspeakably brutal acts of torture – torture that was rejected in legislation passed by a Republican Congress and signed by a Democrat President and which can have no place in a moral society.

The prison at Guantanamo was created to hold people outside the reach of U.S. law. The torture that was inflicted upon prisoners there and the indefinite detention they continue to suffer is deeply immoral. If there was ever any logic for keeping Guantanamo open, that time has passed. Both morality and logic point toward closing Guantanamo as soon as possible. Please take action to do so now.

Sincerely,



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Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.
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