

## RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting the closure of the prison at Guantánamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba in the interests of human rights, national security and justice; calling on Congress to remove the senseless ban on the domestic transfer of those detainees approved for transfer; and offering to welcome one or more approved for transfer detainees into the Portland community.

WHEREAS, the continued detention without charge or trial of the men in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba who have been approved for transfer is a violation of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and human rights treaties to which the United States is a party, and is incompatible with our national and local values of freedom and justice; and

WHEREAS, these detainees have been deemed no future threat by unanimous agreement of the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Joint Chiefs of Staff; and

WHEREAS, Guantánamo detainees have undergone a wide range of interrogation procedures that constitute torture or maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Barbara Lee writes: "Guantánamo...has led the world to question America's commitment to the rule of law, due process, and the rejection of torture as an acceptable interrogation practice..."; and

WHEREAS, In January 2014, 29 retired Generals and 3 Admirals wrote President Obama reminding him they oversaw his signing of 3 executive orders that banned torture, closed CIA "black sites" and put Guantanamo on a path to closure. They further urged him to transfer all cleared detainees as soon as possible and complete reviews on the remaining eligible detainees by the year's end further stating, "Guantanamo does not serve America's interests. As long as it remains open, Guantanamo will undermine America's security and status as a nation where human rights and the rule of law matter."; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has vowed repeatedly to close the detention center at Guantánamo Bay Naval Base, stating in January 2009 that Guantánamo would be closed by January 2010, later stating that, "It is a recruitment tool for extremists"; and

WHEREAS, many detainees cleared for transfer cannot be repatriated for various reasons; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has shamefully passed a ban on the transfer of any cleared detainees onto our own soil, even while the Obama Administration sends ambassadors around the world looking for foreign sanctuary for these approved for transfer detainees; and

WHEREAS, according to Portland Online Code and Charter, Section 23.01.010 "It is the policy of the City of Portland to eliminate discrimination based on race, religion...national origin..."; and

WHEREAS, the city of Portland has many resources to help such detainees with trauma from their imprisonment, and is known as a progressive, welcoming community; and

WHEREAS, the ban on the domestic transfer of detainees reflects widespread misinformation and Islamophobia that is detrimental to cohesion and inclusiveness in our communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Portland that Portland City Council:

- 1) Supports and reaffirms President Obama's call for the closure of Guantánamo in furtherance of our country's human rights and national security interests;
- 2) Calls on Congress to remove its senseless ban on the domestic transfer of detainees;
- 3) And makes known that one or more detainees approved for transfer would be welcome into the Portland community.

*Be it further resolved that copies of this Resolution be sent to the President and Attorney General of the United States, the United States Senators for Oregon, Senator Ron Wyden and Senator Jeff Merkley, and the United States Representatives for Portland, Representative Susan Bonamici, First District and Representative Earl Blumenauer, Third District.*

List of endorsers:

- 9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows
- ACLU of Oregon
- Amnesty International Group 48
- Amnesty International Group: Reed College
- Amnesty International Group: Lewis and Clark College
- Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights (AUPHR)
- Buddhist Peace Fellowship (BPF)
- Code Pink: Portland Chapter
- Individuals For Justice, Portland Chapter
- Jewish Voice for Peace, Portland Chapter
- National Lawyers Guild (NLG), Portland Chapter
- National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)
- Occupy Portland Elder Caucus
- Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (OPSR)
- Pacific Green Party
- Portland City Human Rights Commission
- Students United For Palestinian Equal Rights (SUPER), PSU
- Veterans for Peace (VFP), Portland Chapter
- War Resisters League (WRL), Portland Chapter
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Portland Chapter

The prison at Guantanamo was opened in January 2002 by George W. Bush through executive order without Congress' approval.<sup>1</sup> Nearly 800 people were imprisoned there including children.<sup>2</sup> Additionally Bush made a declaration that these captured people were not prisoners of war denying them the rights of the Geneva Conventions forcing the U.S. into an era of illegal detention and torture.<sup>3</sup> Very few if any of those imprisoned at Guantanamo have any **CHARGES** against them. Convictions are often obtained through torture or bribery.<sup>4</sup> More detainees have died at Guantanamo (9) than have been convicted by military commissions (8).<sup>5</sup> Of the remaining 76 prisoners, only a handful are actually being tried in military commissions. Nearly every case that's been won in Gitmo has later been overturned in federal court. "They've managed zero convictions that aren't guilty pleas in 15 years."<sup>6</sup> Not to mention the fact it also cost taxpayers \$5.5 million per prisoner for 2015, that's \$445 million a year to keep it open.<sup>7</sup>

As you know, our resolution in part supports the President's call to close Guantanamo and it is modeled after those from other cities who have already passed such resolutions: Berkeley, CA, Amherst, MA and Leverett, MA. It is in Portland's best interest to join the other cities who have already passed such resolutions because it falls in line with another resolution already passed by the city, resolution #37172 reaching out to the Muslim, immigrant and refugee communities. During the Muslim Educational Trust Community Center grand opening and at the City Council meeting on December 16, 2015 with the passage of Resolution #37172 the fact that the Japanese community was the first to reach out to the Muslim community after 9/11 was honored since the Japanese community knew persecution from their internment in this country during the 1940's. We have an opportunity to speak out against another interment, the Muslim internment that is taking place in Guantanamo. It may not be as large in numbers of people imprisoned, though it did reach nearly 800, it is just as illegal. It is also worth considering what the next president will do with Guantanamo.

Portland's reaching out to Muslim, immigrant and refugee communities is a great step in the right direction. However, for all of us to turn a blind eye to Guantanamo where Muslims are illegally imprisoned and tortured, to let that slide without speaking out and standing up for human rights goes against our own values in every city of this country. This is one of many reasons why it is also an issue for every citizen in every city. Today our country looks back on the WWII Japanese internment with regret. We are now living in similar circumstances with Guantanamo where every citizen and every city can speak out against it by passing resolutions. To not do so is to allow history to repeat itself.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.democracynow.org/2016/1/6/executive\\_action\\_bush\\_opened\\_guantanamo\\_without](http://www.democracynow.org/2016/1/6/executive_action_bush_opened_guantanamo_without)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.andyworthington.co.uk/2011/06/11/wikileaks-and-the-22-children-of-guantanamo/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.andyworthington.co.uk/2012/02/14/george-w-bushs-torture-program-began-ten-years-ago/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.eurasiareview.com/17122015-zahir-hamdoun-21st-guantanamo-prisoner-seeking-release-via-a-periodic-review-board-oped/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.salon.com/2016/03/08/what\\_exactly\\_is\\_going\\_on\\_in\\_guantanamo\\_an\\_expert\\_explains\\_the\\_indefinite\\_detention\\_and\\_lawlessness/](https://www.salon.com/2016/03/08/what_exactly_is_going_on_in_guantanamo_an_expert_explains_the_indefinite_detention_and_lawlessness/)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/inside-gitmo-americas-shame-20151230>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/obama-guantanamo-bay\\_us\\_575eb733e4b0ced23ca88cb3](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/obama-guantanamo-bay_us_575eb733e4b0ced23ca88cb3)

CITY COUNCIL 8/10/16

Amnesty International envisions a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These rights apply to an Iranian imprisoned for speaking out at a student demonstration; they apply to a baby born in a North Korean labor camp; and they apply to the men at Guantanamo Bay.

Most Amnesty International campaigns involve other countries, but at Guantanamo, human rights abuses are being committed by our own government, in the name of our safety.

I want to have a voice when my own government violates international human rights law. Congress is not a vehicle for this human rights voice—Congress is speaking from a place of fear and ignorance. So I hope to find a less fearful voice locally, here in Portland.

This is a local issue for two reasons: One, we have seen time and again that national movement often only happens after states and municipalities show leadership. So as active citizenry, we must apply pressure where there is possibility of movement, and sometimes that's at the local level. Second, the difficulty of transferring detainees to third party countries is cited as one of the major reasons Guantanamo can't be closed. But why would we ask other countries to take these detainees if we won't take that responsibility ourselves? There must be a brave, informed, local voice welcoming these cleared-for-transfer detainees who have never been charged with a crime. National security agencies have unanimously approved these transfers.

Portland should follow the lead of Berkeley, CA and the two cities in MA that have spoken with this voice. The Portland City Council made me proud with City Council resolution 37172, passed in December, expressing solidarity for Muslim, immigrant and refugee communities. And I am proud to know that discussions are underway about the creation of a New Portlanders Policy Commission on par with the Human Rights Commission.

To close, I just want to share a few words from a former detainee. Fahd Ghazy, a detainee from Yemen finally released from Guantanamo earlier this year, once said, "I want to have the honor to speak out in my own voice and reach you directly – you who are thinking people. I want to say thank you for caring. You are willing to view me as a human being, and that is something so precious to me." So to you thinking people, thank you for hearing us out this morning.

Our proposed resolution is supported by Amnesty International USA, 9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, ACLU of Oregon, Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights (AUPHR), Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Pacific Green Party, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Portland City Human Rights Commission.

**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** Kevin <matronic@riseup.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 5:10 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Megan Harrington; Marty Fromer  
**Subject:** Communication Request

Ms. Karla Moore-Love,

Hello. I would like to sign up for a Communication on the morning of August 10th.

My information is:

Kevin Martonick  
6111 NE Vera Street  
Portland, OR 97213  
503 381 9737

I would like to speak about our resolution supporting the closure of Guantanamo modeled after resolutions already passed in other cities.

Please let me know if you need any other information.

Thank you,  
Kevin

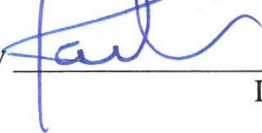
Request of Kevin Martonick to address Council regarding a resolution supporting the closure of Guantanamo (Communication)

AUG 10 2016

PLACED ON FILE

Filed     AUG 02 2016    

**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By   
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		