



The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States of America

The Honorable Kamala Harris
Vice-President of the United States of America
and President of the Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the United States House of
Representatives

Berlin, January 2022

Close the Guantánamo detention camp and establish due process

Dear Mr. President,
Dear Madam Vice-President,
Dear Madam Speaker,

Twenty years ago, on 11 January 2002, the first prisoners were brought to the specially created detention camp at the US military base in Guantánamo Bay. The torture center and the special tribunals conducted there have become symbolic of the brutal excesses of the USA's war on terror, alongside the images of prisoner abuse by members of the US forces in Abu Ghraib in Iraq, for example, and reports of CIA secret prisons around the world.

There were, at times, 780 people detained at Guantánamo, some for decades without charge. Amnesty International has documented a host of human rights violations at the prisons in Guantánamo, while Human Rights Watch has deplored the "systematic torture" there. In the 2021 documentary "*Slahi und seine Folterer*" (engl. "Slahi and his torturers") produced by the German public television station ARD, an individual from the US security apparatus involved in the "interrogations" speaks of torture for the first time. Today, almost 40 people remain in detention at Guantánamo under the pretext of the "global war on terror" and in violation of the principles of due process.

Guantánamo is a facility that "never should have been opened in the first place", said President Barack Obama at the end of his time in office.

Mr. President,

We call upon you to uphold the rights of all detainees and to close the prison camp on Cuba once and for all, as already promised by you in your role as US Vice-President at the Munich Security Conference in 2009.



Madam Vice-President,
Madam Speaker,

We call upon the United States Congress to consign the untenable conditions of violence and an absence of rights at Guantánamo to the history books after twenty long years. We ask that you do your part to help restore due process by closing Guantánamo.

Respectfully,

Bergt Bengt
Member of the German Bundestag

Sevim Dagdelen
Member of the German Bundestag

André Hahn
Member of the German Bundestag

Anke Hennig
Member of the German Bundestag

Andrej Hunko
Member of the German Bundestag

Andreas Larem
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Gesine Löttsch
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Susanne Menge
Member of the German Bundestag

Sören Pellmann
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Victor Perli
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Peggy Schierenbeck
Member of the German Bundestag

Michael Schrodi
Member of the German Bundestag

Alexander Ulrich
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Maja Wallstein
Member of the German Bundestag