

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 Guantanamo 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 4

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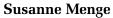
Andreas Larem

Member of the German Bundestag

**Gesine Lötzsch** 

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Member of the German Bundestag

Sören Pellmann

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Alexade Wil

**Alexander Ulrich** 

Member of the German Bundestag

Maja Wallstein

Member of the German Bundestag