

# **Witness Against Torture**

## **Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists**

**<https://witnessagainsttorture.com/2018/02/01/human-rights-activists-protest-trumps-order-keep-guantanamo-open/>**

## **Public Facing Advocacy Writing**

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For immediate release

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Human Rights Activists to Protest Trumps Order to Keep Guantanamo Open in Grand Central Station, Thursday 2/1 @ Noon

What: Demonstration/vigil to Protest Trumps Guantanamo Policy

Where: Main Terminal, Grand Central Terminal

When: Noon, Thursday, February 1

Human rights activists from Witness Against Torture, the Justice for Muslims Collective, World Cant Wait, the Center for Constitutional Rights and other groups will gather at noon on Thursday, February 1 at the Main Terminal in Grand Central Station to protest Trumps recent Executive Order on Guantanamo. Announced in the State of the Union address, the Order directs that the detention camp remain open, reversing the policy of President Obama to try to close the prison.

Demonstrators will hold a solemn vigil, with some people in orange jumpsuits and black hoods and others holding signs condemning Trumps policy.

The camp at Guantanamo has been a place of torture and other gross human rights abuses. It continues to imprison 41 men including 26 held without charge or trial and 5 whom the US government had already cleared for release. Trumps policy also freezes any releases from the prison and orders that new captives can be brought there.

Guantanamo remains a blight on the US Constitution, the rule of law and basic democratic values. Trumps policy, as challenged in a lawsuit brought by the Center for Constitutional Rights, is based in his well-documented racism and Islamophobia.

Trumps Executive Order brings us back to the darkest days of the Bush administration, when lawlessness and cruelty ruled, says Jeremy Varon, an organizer with Witness Against Torture from Brooklyn. President Trump is an anti-Muslim bigot, pro-torture, and favors keeping a torture prison open forever, says Maha Hilal of the Justice for Muslims Collective. With the Guantanamo policy, New Yorkers and the peoples of the world now have another reason to loathe this terrible leader.