

# Witness Against Torture

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

<https://witnessagainsttorture.com/2016/02/08/february-newsletter-update-muslimsrally2closegitmo-save-the-date/>

### Newsletters

We save our lengthy posts for this site. If you want quicker, more frequent updates about our actions, along with photos and videos, please head over to our [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) pages.

We hear a beautiful sound  
It is the breaking of chains  
We see a path full of hope  
We have found the way  
Let them go home  
Let them go home  
Let them go home  
Let them go today

Dear friends,

The detention facility at Guantanamo Bay has now been open longer during Obamas presidency than the Bush administration. A month ago, on January 11, we gathered and brought our visions for the detainees homecoming to the White House. [See video here](#). We sang our hearts (and voices) out asking for the immediate release of the men detained in Cuba. Over and over we sang our plea, [Let them go home](#) so they can return to their families, to their friends, to their homes. We celebrate the release of 12 men since leaving Washington D.C. These men are free and one step closer to going home. We are excited to say that one of these men is [Fahd Ghazy](#), who was detained in Guantanamo as a juvenile. Throughout 2015, we focused on Fahds story, holding a banner with his portrait and reading his words in front of the White House and throughout D.C. The freedom of these 12 men is a beautiful sound and we hope they are doing well.

President Obama has the power to continue to push for the release of the 91 men that remain in Guantanamo. Before he leaves office, he should use everything at his disposal to send these men home. Any plan to further detain them in the U.S. is unacceptable. The torture and indefinite detention they have and continue to suffer must end now. They have waited too long for their freedom.

During our trip to Cuba in November, we started formulating some demands concerning the release of the men left at the prison and communicated them to the U.S. Ambassador to Cuba, Jeffrey DeLaurentis. We in the WAT community insist that shutting down Guantanamo must mean shutting down indefinite detention. We submit the following demands as critical to the effort to close Guantanamo once and for all Please share this with friends as widely as you can:

#### #MuslimsRally2CloseGitmo

Another important piece of the work to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay Prison is the fight to end Islamophobia. On January 29, 2016, our own Maha Hilal and Uruj Sheikh were part of an online panel discussion with Aliya Hussain from CCR and Noor Mir from Amnesty International to discuss their activism as muslims and how the continued detention of muslim men at Guantanamo bay is important in the fight against Islamophobia. The Panel was hosted by the National Coalition to protect Civil Freedoms. [Here is the link to video](#).

**WAT Retreat: Save the Date April 1- 3, 2016**

## WITNESS AGAINST TORTURE ANNUAL RETREAT



APRIL 1-3, 2016 • CLEVELAND, OHIO

Join us for our Annual Retreat in Cleveland, OH from April 1-3<sup>rd</sup> 2016.

Every spring, we gather to reflect on the years work and plan our work moving forward. You are invited to join us as we build together. Please email [witnesstorture@gmail.com](mailto:witnesstorture@gmail.com) to RSVP or if you have any questions. There will be more details to coming soon.

Thank you for your participation in this work to shut down Guantanamo Bay Prison! We cannot do this without your continued support.

### **Witness Against Torture on Social Media:**

Please like us on [Facebook](#) & follow us on [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#).

Check out our latest news and updates on [Tumblr](#).

Post any pictures of your local activities to our [flicker account](#) and we will help spread the word.

### **Donate to support our work:**

Witness Against Torture is completely volunteer driven and run. We have no paid staff, but do have expenses associated with our organizing work. If you are able, please donate here: <http://www.witnesstorture.org>.