



Amnesty International

Group 524

JULY 2023



July In-Person Meeting Summer Postcard Action Guantanamo -Toffiq al-Bhihani

Welcome

I hope everyone is well and have enjoyed some summer activities. We are planning to meet in person and this month's focus is on a postcard action and Guantanamo prisoners.

Summer Post Card Action: Leonard Peltier and Rocky Myers

Amnesty has launched a summer postcard action in support of two prisoners we have written in support of for years. Details are on page 2.

Guantanamo: Toffiq al-Bihani and UN Report

Toffiq al-Bihani is one of 17 prisoners at Guantanamo that have been cleared for release. See details on page 3 and a sample letter on page 4. An Amnesty press release concerning a UN report on Guantanamo is on page 5.

Ukraine: Cluster Munitions

Amnesty's response to the decision to send cluster munitions to Ukraine is on page 6.

Amnesty International Group 524

Meeting Schedule: Third Tuesday of the month, at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: The Commons Residence Providence Heights
9000 Babcock Blvd.



Contact John Belch (joheb@aol.com or 412-766-1894) for more information on material in this mailing, or visit the Amnesty USA web site (www.amnestyusa.org) and Group 39's Amnesty Pittsburgh web site (www.amnestypgh.org).



SUMMER SOLIDARITY POSTCARD ACTION

FROM JULY TO AUGUST 2023 SEND A POSTCARD AND
TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS!



TAKE ACTION

Scan the QR code to report back on your
action and your name will be entered into a
raffle to win a \$50 gift card to support your
local bookshop!



SCAN ME

LEONARD PELTIER

SEND A POSTCARD TO PRESIDENT BIDEN URGING TO GRANT CLEMENCY
AND FREE NATIVE AMERICAN ACTIVIST LEONARD PELTIER

Leonard Peltier, a Native American activist, and member of the American Indian Movement (AIM), has been imprisoned for nearly 50 years in the USA for a crime he maintains he did not commit. Amnesty International is seriously concerned about the fairness of the proceedings leading to his conviction, and we believe that bias against Native Americans may have influenced the trial. Given these concerns, time served, and his serious health issues, the interests of justice are best served by clemency and his release. Tribal Nations, Nobel Peace Laureates, former FBI agents, and even the former U.S. Attorney, whose office handled the prosecution, have also called for his release. Your postcard to President Biden will be part of a larger, global campaign to convince the President to free Leonard Peltier.

Mail to: President Biden; 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20500



ROCKY MYERS

SEND A POSTCARD TO ROCKY MYERS IN SOLIDARITY



Rocky Myers has been on Alabama's death row for nearly half his life despite serious flaws in his case including racial and class bias, inadequate legal representation, and allegations of police pressure. On July 16th Rocky Myers turns 62. His birthday wish is to travel with his family. To celebrate his birthday, Amnesty International is taking Rocky on a world tour through postcards. Please send postcards from your hometown or travels and include birthday wishes, a short description of the location portrayed in the postcard, and a message with a mention of "Rocky's postcard world tour", to help connect all postcards and give a sense that he is traveling with us all during this action. For example, "I hope you enjoyed this stop in Rocky's postcards world tour". For this action, we are symbolically taking Rocky Myers on a journey outside of the prison, so we encourage you to focus on messages of hope and avoid messages that focus on his case or life on death row.

Mail to: Rocky Myers, AIS 00002563 Holman Correctional Facility, M-44 Holman
3700 866 Ross Road Atmore, AL 36503

Please keep messages simple ("We are thinking of you"), refrain from discussing politics or particular accusations against the individual, and choose postcard images (in the case of picture postcards) with sensitivity to different cultural and religious symbols.



How long the 17 men approved for release from Guantánamo have been held since those decisions were taken (as of Apr. 5, 2023)

4,821 days (since Jan 22, 2010)



Ridah Al Yazidi (ISN 38)
Muleen Abd Al Sattar (ISN 309)
Tawfiq Al Bihani (ISN 893)

511 days (since Nov 10, 2021)



Suhayl Abdul Anam Al Sharabi (ISN 569)
Guleed Hassan Ahmed (ISN 10023)

859 days (since Nov 27, 2020)



Said Salih Said Nashir (ISN 841)

464 days (since Dec 27, 2021)



Moath Hamza Ahmed Al-Alwi (ISN 28)
Omar Al Rammah (ISN 1017)
Mohammed Abdul Malik Bajabu (ISN 10025)

692 days (since May 13, 2021)



Uthman Abd al-Rahim Uthman (ISN 27)

357 days (since Apr 13, 2022)



Said Bakush (ISN 685)
Hassan Bin Attash (ISN 1456)

666 days (since Jun 8, 2021)



Sharqawi Abdu Ali Al Hajj (ISN 1457)
Abd Al-Salam Al-Hillah (ISN 1463)

260 days (since Jul 19, 2022)



Khalid Qasim (ISN 242)

545 days (since Oct 7, 2021)



Sanad Al Kazimi (ISN 1453)

194 days (since Sep 23, 2022)



Ismael Ali Bakush (ISN 708)

The military detention facility at Guantánamo Bay is a glaring, longstanding stain on the human rights record of the United States. Today, it continues to hold 30 Muslim men, most without facing charges or a trial. Many, like Toffiq al-Bihani, were tortured by the U.S. government. And Toffiq, along with 16 other detainees, has been cleared for transfer to other countries, yet he remains behind bars without charge or trial

President Biden has a critical window of opportunity to end these ongoing abuses by closing the detention center before the end of his term.

Help us close Guantánamo and ensure the transfer of all cleared detainees to countries where their human rights will be respected.

On the following page is a sample letter to Secretary of State Blinken calling for Toffiq's release.

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July 2023



Secretary Antony Blinken
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

I urge you to immediately arrange for the transfer of Toffiq al-Bihani, who has been detained at Guantánamo without charge or fair trial since 2003. The US government has long since made it clear that it has no intention of charging him, and he has been cleared for transfer since 2010. I urge you to transfer him to a country where he will be safe and his human rights will be respected.

The US government's use of indefinite detention without charge as a response to 9/11 must be brought to an end.

Guantánamo is an all-too-easy location for future abuses to occur. This detention facility should be shut down once and for all.

I urge you to help lay the groundwork for a lawful solution for the detainees still held at Guantánamo. There should be a fair judicial resolution for those charged with crimes; all others should be transferred to other countries where they will be safe. Those who suffered torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment must receive genuine access to rehabilitation and redress. Those responsible for torture and enforced disappearance must be brought to justice in fair trials without recourse to the death penalty.

Sincerely,



UN Special Rapporteur’s findings reinforce urgent need to close Guantánamo and provide redress for past and present detainees

June 26, 2023

In response to a report presented today by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism about the detention facility at the US Naval Station at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, Amnesty International’s Secretary General Agnès Callamard said:

“The findings presented today highlight the urgent need for President Biden to finally close the detention facility at the Guantánamo Bay military base, and to end the unlawful practice of indefinite detention without charge or trial.

“The scathing report reviews more than 21 years of indefinite detention for 780 Muslim men and boys, and the myriad human rights violations against them.

“Very few of these men have ever been charged with a crime, and absolutely none have faced a fair trial. It is well past time to demand the closure of the prison, accountability from US officials, and reparations for the torture and other ill-treatment that the detainees have suffered at the hands of the US government. There remains a shocking lack of access to justice for those currently or previously detained – and many have complex and untreated healthcare needs as a result of their ill-treatment.

“The military commissions created for Guantánamo Bay detainees, including those alleged to have planned or assisted the September 11 attacks, have been a complete failure through which the United States government has intentionally skirted US and international law and abused the rights of those still imprisoned at the facility – jeopardizing the rights of survivors and families of victims of the September 11 attacks to receive justice.

“Amnesty International applauds the Special Rapporteur for conducting the technical visit and acknowledges that this is the first time a UN Rapporteur has been allowed to conduct such an in-depth visit.”



Amnesty International Opposes the Transfer of Cluster Munitions to the Armed Forces of Ukraine

July 6, 2023

Responding to reports that the Biden Administration is planning to transfer cluster munitions to the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Daniel Balson, Amnesty International USA’s Advocacy Director for Europe and Central Asia said:

“Amnesty International USA opposes this proposed move. Cluster munitions are an indiscriminate weapon that presents a grave threat to civilian lives, even long after a conflict has ended. Their transfer and use by any country under any circumstances is incompatible with international law.”

“The Biden Administration must understand that any decision enabling the broader use of cluster bombs in this war will likely lead to one predictable outcome: the further death of civilians.”

“The Convention on Cluster Munitions, which entered into force on August 1 2010, and has over 100 states parties, bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions. The strong global consensus against these devastating and inherently indiscriminate weapons is no accident. Many systems have an extraordinarily high “dud” rate, up to 20 percent, contaminating large areas with ordnance for years or even decades.”

