



Select quotes from speakers at CCR's National Press Club event, "Obama's Prison: Guantánamo Turns 10":

“President Obama is largely responsible for the failure to close Guantánamo, and his administration should not take its progressive base for granted. CCR has represented men at Guantánamo for the last 10 years, and that’s 10 years too many. It is unconscionable that there are 89 men being detained who’ve been cleared for release but are still imprisoned solely for political reasons. Guantánamo is one part of an illegal, inhumane, and unjust global detention policy. Our message: ‘No excuses, shut it down.’”

- Vincent Warren, executive director, Center for Constitutional Rights

“I stood proudly behind the President in the Oval Office on the second day of his administration as he signed the Executive Order which would close the prison at Guantánamo Bay. Now, three years later, on the tenth anniversary of its opening, Guantánamo remains a stain on our effort to end terrorism and to promote the rule of law. It is worse than an embarrassment; it degrades our national security by focusing the efforts of our enemies. Politicians regularly exclaim that they will defer to our military leaders on military matters. It is time they actually do that and permit us to close that awful place.”

- John Hutson is a retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral and former Judge Advocate General of the Navy

“As a former military prosecutor who represented the government in cases against the men detained at Guantánamo, and quit because of the injustices I saw there, I stand with human rights advocates today to reiterate that President Obama must shut down Guantánamo as he promised. The Obama administration has continued the worst of the Bush administration’s policies both in its expansive use of military detentions and military strikes. We must forge a more peaceful and just path forward if we are to safeguard our citizens and our national security, and if we are to live up to our best ideals as a nation acting with justice towards the world.”

- Morris Davis was the Chief Prosecutor for the Military Commissions at Guantánamo from September 2005 until October 2007. He resigned because of his objection to the use of evidence obtained by torture and growing political interference in the military commissions.

“As one of the counsel in the case of *Boumediene v. Bush*, the landmark Supreme Court case which determined that the men detained at Guantánamo have the right to challenge the legality of their detention in federal habeas hearings, I have watched with great regret the right to effective habeas corpus at Guantánamo eviscerated by appellate court rulings in three highly significant ways. First, overbroad legal standards have been laid down which have the effect of justifying continued, indefinite detention. Second, it has been made clear that while the federal trial courts can grant habeas, they lack authority to compel the actual release of detainees. This is the exclusive authority of the President and executive branch. Third, relaxed evidentiary standards have been established—such as for allowing wide-ranging hearsay evidence—which also make the grant of habeas even harder to achieve. GTMO today, notwithstanding the *Boumediene* decision, remains for many detainees a place where they legitimately fear they may spend the rest of their lives without charge or trial. The time has come for the Supreme Court to agree to hear a certiorari petition challenging these lower court rulings which have so dramatically undercut the effect of *Boumediene* and are so contrary to long standing, fundamental principles of American law and policy.”

- Stephen Oleskey was co-lead counsel in the case of *Boumediene v. Bush*, which held that the Guantánamo detainees are constitutionally entitled to *habeas corpus* hearings.

“In its early years, Guantánamo stood as an anomaly – as a clear effort to circumvent the Constitution and laws protecting basic and universal human rights. Today, ten years since its opening and three years after Obama’s forceful promise to close it, Guantánamo has become normalized. As demonstrated by the recent enactment of the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, which codifies indefinite detention without charge or a fair trial as a feature of U.S. law, the injustice at Guantánamo stands not as a lesson learned, but as a permanent feature of the American landscape. The possibility for a just and meaningfully democratic society and the dignity of the 171 men who remain detained are just two of the numerous casualties Guantánamo’s continuing existence inflicts. Guantánamo must come to an end.”

- Baher Azmy is the Legal Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights and represented Murat Kurnaz, who was imprisoned in Guantánamo Bay as a so-called “enemy combatant.”