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## Gitmo releases indicate scant evidence

Last update: 8:16 a.m. EST Jan. 19, 2009

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba, Jan 19, 2009 (UPI via COMTEX) -- The recent releases of at least 24 terrorism detainees from the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prison camp shows scant evidence ever existed to hold them, advocates say.

Although Bush administration officials have long insisted the harsh conditions at Guantanamo were justified because the suspects were hardcore terrorists, the recent releases are providing snapshots of the evidence used to hold them indefinitely as "enemy combatants," and in some of the cases, it is very thin, The Washington Post reported Monday.

One detainee released this weekend, Haji Bismullah, an Afghan, was held for six years despite sworn statements from the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai that he was set up by the Taliban. Another, Mohammed el Gharani, who was detained when he was 14, was ordered released by a federal judge, who said the detention was largely based on inconsistent accusations from two other Guantanamo detainees.

The detainee releases have come since a U.S. Supreme Court decision in June gave prisoners the right to have their detentions reviewed by federal judges in habeas corpus cases, the Post said.

"The house of cards is finally falling down," said Vincent Warren of the Center for Constitutional Rights

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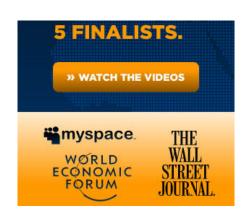
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