

Landmark Agreement Ends Indefinite Solitary Confinement in California

Thanks to your support, our clients who have spent more than a decade in extreme and unrelenting isolation, will be released into the general prison population where they will finally be allowed to hug their loved ones, talk to their friends, and feel the sun on their faces.

On September 1, CCR reached a historic settlement with the state of California that ends indefinite solitary confinement in California state prisons. The *New York Times* editorialized: “meaningful reform got a big shove in the right direction. In a sweeping, unprecedented class-action settlement, California officials have agreed to a drastic overhaul of the state’s

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CCR's expert reports on the impact of longterm solitary confinement were featured in an article on the front page of the *New York Times* science section.

Fighting for Life Beyond Guantánamo



CCR's Omar Farah outside the courthouse where he urged a court to release his client Tariq Ba Odah, who is “on the precipice of death.”

On September 11, CCR filed a reply brief in further support of our request for the emergency release of our client, Tariq Ba Odah. Imprisoned at Guantánamo for 13 years despite being cleared for release, Tariq has been on hunger strike to protest this injustice for over eight years. He currently weighs 74 pounds and is gravely ill.

After filing our motion in June, the government requested multiple extensions before finally opposing. In doing so, Guantánamo’s Senior Medical Officer conceded that Ba Odah’s condition is “dangerous.”

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Together we are a force for justice

Thanks to the generosity and political courage of donors like you, the Center accomplished a lot of incredible things this year (**see below for highlights of what you made possible**).

These battles were hard fought, against well-resourced opposition, and we were only able to prevail because of YOU.

When you stand with CCR, you stand for the human and civil rights of ALL people and against the powers that be and the status quo.

THANK YOU for making that choice!



Vince Warren,
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'VW', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

What (Else) You Made Possible in 2015!

- **A blow against high-level impunity** for post-9/11 human rights abuses in *Turkmen v. Ashcroft* when the judge allowed the Center's claims against Ashcroft and other Bush officials to move forward;
- **Victory for our clients!** The removal of four Muslim American men who resisted coercion by the FBI to spy on their communities from the "No Fly List," enabling them to freely travel for the first time in 5+ years;
- **Implementation of numerous reforms** to the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) use of stop-and-frisk to comport with the U.S. constitution; and
- **A huge win in court** recognizing that New Jersey Muslims who have been subjected to the NYPD's program of blanket, suspicionless surveillance stated a valid claim of discrimination on the basis of their religion.

Sara Rios, in Memoriam

Sara Rios passed away in September after a long battle with ALS. CCR was grateful to have had Sara as a part of our community for so many years—first as a staff attorney, and later as a champion at the



Sara Rios, CCR staff member from 1987-1994

Ford Foundation, where she directed the Human Rights and Justice docket from 2005-2011. It was Sara's championship within Ford that got CCR our first-ever Guantánamo grant, in 2005. This grant opened the floodgates for other foundations and donors to support this then-controversial work. Without Sara's support, the Center would not have been able to lead the GTMO fight for the past 13 years. We will miss Sara's commitment to justice and her love for CCR.

Solitary Confinement (continued)

solitary confinement system.”

This tremendous victory would never have been possible without your steadfast support. We compiled an unprecedented body of expert research for this case and spent countless hours in depositions—expenses covered entirely by you, our loyal donors. The impact has been far ranging, with observers asking if this is the beginning of the end of solitary confinement in the U.S.

The struggle has been led all along by people

in prison and their families. It was incarcerated activists who first brought the case that became *Ashker v. Governor of California* and who organized the hunger strikes that made the barbaric reality of solitary a political and policy issue. Their organizing efforts—in the face of unimaginable obstacles—have been extraordinary.

To watch a video that CCR produced featuring our clients, learn more about the settlement terms, or read any of the dozens of articles about the settlement, visit: CCRjustice.org/Pelican-Bay.

Life Beyond Guantánamo (continued)

Tariq’s attorney, Omar Farah said:

“If the president cannot compel the agencies of his own administration to stand down in this case in order to pave the way for the urgent release of a dangerously weak 74-pound man who was cleared for release more than six years ago, then he will almost certainly fail to close the prison in what remains of his second term.”



CCR has been doing everything within our power to force the Obama administration’s hand. In July, *Rolling Stone* magazine featured a piece about Tariq written by Farah. The *New York Times* Editorial Board excoriated the Obama administration for its “senseless” opposition to Tariq’s motion for release and recalcitrance regarding closing the prison.

A handwritten note from Mohammed Kamin to his CCR attorney, Shayana Kadidal.

Yet officials are unmoved.

As we press for Tariq’s release, CCR continues to represent prisoners in hearings before the Periodic Review Board (PRB), the outcome of which determines their eligibility for release. In October, because of CCR’s efforts, the PRB cleared our client, Mohammed

Kamin. Moving men from the indefinite detention to the cleared category is a necessary step for the prison’s closure.

Thanks to your generous support, CCR has taken on new clients and visited Guantánamo twice in recent months to prepare for these pivotal PRB hearings.

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Fighting for Life Beyond
Guantánamo



Historic #Law4BlackLives
Converging In NYC



New Report Documenting
Efforts to Silence U.S.
Activists

Join us on the frontlines for
social justice!

CCRjustice.org/donate

Why I support CCR ...

“For 30 years, both as an activist and as a funder, I have turned to CCR for work that is commensurate with the human rights and constitutional challenges of our time. No organization has proven more acutely responsive. They do not always win, at least not right away; but they always raise the most essential issues to the level of public and legal attention. And they always raise the bar toward the justice that we seek and that oppressed individuals and classes of plaintiffs deserve. My gratitude for the staff of CCR is boundless.”



- Harriet Barlow, CCR Donor and Foundation Supporter (the HKH Foundation)

CCR does not accept corporate or government funding. We rely on your dedication and generosity to fuel the fight for justice. Please give today!