

Guantánamo and Accountability for Torture

Monday, March 9, 2015,
15:00-17:00

Room XXIII
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland



13 years after opening, the prison at Guantánamo Bay still holds 122 prisoners. 55 of these men are cleared for release from the prison yet remain detained. Another 34 men have been designated for indefinite detention without charge or trial, and 7 men face charges in the flawed military commission system. Last December, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (“SSCI”) released a summary of its Study of the CIA’s Detention and Interrogation Program, which included significant new information relating to the commission of serious crimes, including torture, homicide, and sexual assault.

The side event will provide updates on efforts to close Guantánamo and end the regime of indefinite detention and unfair trials. The panel will also discuss United States’ obligations to conduct independent investigations into allegations of torture, provide redress to victims of abuse—especially in light of the release of the SSCI report—and the consequences for failing to do so. The panel will also provide information regarding current accountability efforts in European countries for complicity in CIA secret detention and interrogation operations. Video testimonies of former prisoners will be presented by Witness to Guantánamo Project.

Panelists:

- Juan E. Méndez, Special Rapporteur on torture
- Jamil Dakwar, Director, Human Rights Program, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- Peter Jan Honigsberg, U of San Francisco Law School, Founder & Director of Witness to Guantánamo
- Julia Hall, Expert on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights, Amnesty International

Moderator: Connie de la Vega, University of San Francisco Law School & Human Rights Advocates



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