

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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## Guantánamo detention centre – human rights timeline 2009

Two days after taking office on 20 January 2009, US President Barack Obama announced he would close down the US detention centre in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba within a year. 198 men continue to be held there today. Amnesty International has compiled a timeline of developments in relation to Guantánamo during 2009.

### 2009

#### January

14 January - Susan Crawford, convening authority for the military commissions at Guantánamo told the Washington Post that the reason she would not allow the prosecution of Mohamed al-Qahtani to go forward was because he had been tortured.

17 January – Six detainees were transferred out of Guantánamo: Four to Iraq ([Ali Abdul Motalib Awayd Hassan al Tayeea](#), [Hassan Abdul Said](#), [Arkan Mohammad Ghafil al Karim](#) and [Abbas Hapid Rumi al Naely](#)), one to Algeria ([Hassan Mujamma Rabai Said](#)) and one to Afghanistan. ([Haji Bismullah](#)).

20 January - Barack Obama was inaugurated as President of the United States of America.

22 January - President Obama signed three executive orders, one of which stated that Guantánamo "shall be closed as soon as practicable, and no later than one year from the date of this order." The order also required a review of all Guantánamo detentions and of conditions of detention and a halt to military commission proceedings.

#### February

Amnesty International learned that Guantánamo detainees on hunger strike were still being force fed using methods that may have amounted to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. They lacked access to independent medical experts. At the time approximately 50 of the detainees were participating in the hunger strike. The organization issued an urgent action on their behalf.

Amnesty International issued an urgent action on behalf of Mohammed al-Gharani, taken into custody when he was a child. He was repatriated to Chad four months later.

Amnesty International issued an urgent action on the deteriorating health of Ahmed Zaid Salim Zuhair, a Saudi Arabian national who had been on hunger strike since 2005. He was repatriated to Saudi Arabia four months later.

18 February – The US Court of Appeals overturned an earlier District Court ruling ordering the release into the USA of 17 Uighurs held at Guantánamo. Ten of the men have since been transferred to Bermuda and Palau.

23 February – Ethiopian national and UK resident Binyam Mohamed was repatriated to the UK.

25 February – The US government issued a review of conditions of detention at Guantánamo. Amnesty International said that not all concerns had been addressed.

### **March**

15 March – A leaked confidential report by the International Committee of the Red Cross described the torture and ill-treatment of 14 “high value detainees” in CIA custody, adding further details to allegations of torture and ill-treatment in the USA’s secret detention programme.

### **May**

10 May – Yemeni national Adnan Farhan Abdul Latif, held in Guantánamo’s psychiatric ward, attempted to kill himself during a meeting with his lawyer.

15 May - President Obama announced he would revive military commission trials of detainees.

15 May – Lakhdar Boumedienne, Algerian national and former citizen of Bosnia-Herzegovina was transferred to France where he has been offered humanitarian protection.

21 May – Amnesty International expressed concern about the health and well-being of Syrian national Mohammed Khan Tumani, detained at the age of 17. Mohammed Khan Tumani has since been transferred to Portugal.

21 May – In a major speech on national security, President Obama restated his commitment to closing Guantánamo but endorsed indefinite preventative detention.

21 May - The US Department of Justice announced that Tanzanian national Ahmed Ghailani would be tried in federal court under an indictment pending against him in the New York Southern District Court.

### **June**

1 June – Yemeni national Mohammed al-Hanashi died in Guantánamo after an apparent suicide in the detention centre’s psychiatric ward. Amnesty International expressed concerns for the safety others held in the same ward, including Adnan Farhan Abdul Latif, who had previously attempted suicide.

9 June – Ahmed Ghailani was transferred to New York for trial. He is charged with involvement in the 1998 bombings of the US embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. In a hearing on the day of his transfer, he pleaded not guilty.

10 June - Jawad Jabber al-Sahlani was repatriated to Iraq.

11 June – Four Uighurs, Khaleel Mamut, Abdulla Abdulqadir, Salahidin Abdulahat and Ablikim Turahun were transferred to Bermuda. Their transfer came more than eight months after a US judge ruled their detention unlawful and ordered their immediate release into the USA. Mohammed al-Gharani was transferred to Chad. He was 14 when he was arrested in Pakistan in 2001.

12 June – Three Saudi Arabian nationals [Khalid Saad Mohammed](#), [Ahmed Zaid Salim Zuhair](#) and [Abdalaziz Kareem Salim al Noofayae](#) were repatriated.

### **July**

31 July – A US District Court judge ordered the release of Afghan national Mohammed Jawad, a child when he was first detained in 2003.

**August**

24 August - [Mohamed Jawad](#) was transferred to Afghanistan

25 August - Canadian authorities announced they would be appealing against court orders requiring it to request the USA to repatriate Canadian national Omar Khadr.

28 August – Syrian nationals [Muhammed Khan Tumani](#) and [Moammar Badawi Dokhan](#) were transferred to Portugal where they have been offered humanitarian protection.

**September**

25 September – Two Uzbek nationals were transferred to Ireland where they have been offered humanitarian protection. Yemeni national [Ali Bin Ali Aleh](#) was repatriated.

**October**

8 October – One Kuwaiti national was repatriated and one Syrian national was transferred to Belgium where he has been offered humanitarian protection.

31 October – Six Uighur detainees were transferred to Palau.

**November**

13 November – US Attorney General Eric Holder announced that five detainees from Guantánamo will be transferred to the US mainland to face trial in federal court. He also announced that five other detainees will face trial by military commission.

18 November – President Obama acknowledged that his administration will fail to meet its deadline of closing Guantánamo before 22 January 2010.

30 November – Tunisian nationals [Adel Ben Mabrouk](#) and [Mohamed Ben Riadh Nasri](#) were transferred to Italy to face possible trial. Algerian national and former resident of Bosnia-Herzegovina Saber Lahmar was transferred to France where he has been offered humanitarian protection. An unidentified Palestinian was transferred to Hungary where he has been offered protection.

**December**

9 December – Kuwaiti national, Fouad Mahmoud Al Rabiah, was repatriated.

15 December – President Obama issued a memorandum directing the eventual relocation of some Guantánamo detainees to the Thomson Correctional Center in Illinois.

20 December – 12 detainees were transferred out of Guantánamo. Six repatriated to Yemen, two to the Somaliland region and four to Afghanistan.

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