

Guantánamo Update 2005

In February 2002, when few were willing to question the Bush Administration's rampant abuse of power, the Center for Constitutional Rights took on the case of two Australians, David Hicks and Mamdouh Habib, and two British citizens, Shafiq Rasul and Asif Iqbal, who had been detained as enemy combatants at the Guantánamo Bay prison camp. The attorneys at CCR did not know then that many of the people there would prove to be innocent, but they knew that the Administration's attempt to put them beyond the reach of law and keep them detained indefinitely, without due process, access to counsel or the chance to challenge their detention or know the charges against them was a chilling and extremely dangerous precedent. CCR went on to win *Rasul v. Bush* in the Supreme Court when the justices ruled that the detainees at Guantánamo Bay had the right to challenge their detention in U.S. courts.

CCR has continued to spearhead the fight to seek justice for the hundreds of men and minors who have languished at Guantánamo for more than three years and to seek redress for the abuse and torture many have suffered at the hands of military interrogators and private contractors there, at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, in Afghanistan and at secret detention facilities around the world. CCR is fighting to put an end to the Bush Administration's abuse of executive power and unlawful practices like extraordinary rendition – where torture and interrogation are literally outsourced to other countries. CCR is fighting to bring back the rule of law.

Working outside the courtroom, CCR is mobilizing activists and raising awareness of these critical issues through education, the press, and a variety of web-based actions. To get involved and find out what you can do to join the fight, please visit www.ccr-ny.org.

Cases in CCR's Guantánamo Global Justice Initiative

Rasul v. Bush

The Bush Administration has continued to flout the Supreme Court's ruling by stonewalling access to the courts. Two lower courts recently issued conflicting rulings about the detainees' rights, which are now on appeal.

Doe v. Bush

The Bush Administration has refused to provide a list of those detained at Guantánamo. Most of the cases filed are on behalf of detainees whose families have had the means and ability to reach out for help. In February 2005, CCR filed suit on behalf of the hundreds of unnamed detainees to try to represent them and to ensure that they received the same rights as the others. This case is pending.

The Individual Habeas Petitions

CCR is currently litigating on behalf of approximately 180 detainees and leading a team of more than 350 attorneys around the country working on the Guantánamo cases. CCR took the lead in

saving hundreds of the detainees from being secretly rendered back to countries with a history of human rights abuses where they were in danger of being tortured.

Rasul v. Rumsfeld

CCR has filed a damages suit against Donald Rumsfeld for the abuse and torture of former detainees who were released without charge and reported horrifying conditions at Guantánamo.

Arar v. Ashcroft

CCR brought the first ever suit to challenge the unlawful practice of outsourcing torture known as extraordinary rendition. Canadian citizen Maher Arar was sent by the U.S. government sent to Syria to be tortured and kept in an underground cell the size of a grave for nearly a year. He was released without charge and is back with his family in Canada.

Saleh v. Titan

CCR is suing the private military contractors CACI, Inc. and Titan for their role in the torture and abuse at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere in Iraq on behalf of former prisoners.

Turkmen v. Ashcroft

CCR is suing John Ashcroft and other current and former officials for the abuse and unlawful detention of hundreds of Muslim and Arab Americans who were swept up on immigration violations in the immediate aftermath of 9/11.

For updates on these and other cases or to see what you can do to help expose and stop detention abuses, visit our website at www.ccr-ny.org.

Join the fight. The Center for Constitutional Rights is working to organize people around the country to stand up and demand that the extremist policies of the Bush Administration be stopped. From responding to CCR's action alerts to putting on nation-wide readings of the play, *Guantánamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom*, we can take back our country from those who would undermine our most fundamental rights.

Please consider making a gift in support of our work to help hold our government accountable and restore respect for the rule of law and the U.S. Constitution. Contributions may be made on line at www.ccr-ny.org or sent to the Center for Constitutional Rights at 666 Broadway, 7th floor, NY, NY 10012.

CCR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions to CCR are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Obtain CCR's latest annual report by writing to CCR or the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, NY, NY 10271.