

Retired Generals and Admirals Still Agree: Time to Close Guantanamo

- ✓ **General Charles C. Krulak, USMC (Ret.) and General Joseph P. Hoar, USMC (Ret.)**
“We should be moving to shut Guantánamo, not extend it.”¹
- ✓ **General Charles C. Krulak, USMC (Ret.) and General Joseph P. Hoar, USMC (Ret.)**
“Guantanamo is an example of what happens when we overreact. We make bad decisions. Terrorists get us to abandon our ways, our laws, our institutions, our values. That is, in fact, the only way they ever win. That is one unfortunate legacy of 9/11, and it is a mistake we must stop making.”²
- ✓ **General Colin Powell, USA (Ret.)**
“I have no problem with them being tried here in the United States. We have two million people in jail. They all have lawyers. They all went before the court of law and they all got hammered. We have got three hundred terrorists who have been put in jail not by a military commission but by a regular court system. And so I think we ought to remove this incentive that exists in the presence of Guantanamo to encourage people and to give radicals an opportunity to say, you see, this is what America is all about. They’re all about torture and detention centers.”³
- ✓ **General Jim Jones, USA (Ret.)**
“Well, I think that what we have to make sure is that we do the best we can. We’re not going to be able to keep people confined for the rest of their lives without some sort of due process. We have been working with many countries to accept them back.”⁴
- ✓ **26 Retired Generals and Admirals**
“We remain deeply concerned that the detention facility at Guantanamo remains open despite bipartisan calls to shutter the facility. Guantanamo is a symbol of torture and justice delayed. A decade later, Guantanamo remains a recruiting poster for terrorists which make us all less safe.”⁵

¹ Charles C. Krulak and Joseph P. Hoar, “Guantanamo Forever?” *New York Times*, December 12, 2011: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/13/opinion/guantanamo-forever.html>

² Charles C. Krulak and Joseph P. Hoar, “Where is President Obama’s will to win?” *Chicago Tribune*, January 30, 2011: http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/RML-Hoar-Krulak_Chicago_Tribune_2011-1-30.pdf

³ “Face the Nation,” CBS News, February 21, 2010: http://www.cbsnews.com/htdocs/pdf/FTN_022110.pdf?tag=contentMain;contentBody

⁴ “Fox News Sunday,” Fox News, February 15, 2010: <http://www.foxnews.com/on-air/fox-news-sunday/2010/02/15/transcript-gen-jim-jones-fns>

⁵ Letter to President Obama, December 4, 2012: http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/SSCI_report_letter_12_12_2012.pdf

☑ **25 Retired Generals and Admirals**

“The Guantánamo Bay prison facility has become a symbol of how the United States jettisoned its most basic principles and values out of fear, rather than rely on reason and our own world-renowned justice system. Guantánamo and the abuses that occurred there have become symbols of victory for al Qaeda, and unfortunately, remain central to its propaganda. It is high time to put a stop to that.”⁶

☑ **Rear Admiral John D. Hutson, JAGC, USN (Ret.)**

“I said every day Guantanamo is open is another day of stain on American reputation and undermining our security.”⁷

☑ **Rear Admiral John Hutson, JAGC, USN (Ret.) and Rear Admiral Donald Guter, JAGC, USN (Ret.)**

“Gitmo costs the U.S. in many ways. One way and the easiest to quantify is that it costs upwards of \$177M per year to maintain, and the Department of Defense has requested almost \$200M more to renovate it.... The average cost to house a prisoner in a supermax prison in the U.S. is less than \$30K. Try to imagine what we could buy with the savings if Gitmo were closed and the 86 detainees already cleared were in fact released, and the remaining prisoners were held in Federal Prison here instead. How many Marines, how many Navy Seals, how many bombs and bullets would those millions of dollars buy? How many veterans' claims efficiently processed and paid? How many hot lunches for underprivileged school children? It is a terrible waste.”⁸

☑ **Rear Admiral Donald Guter, JAGC, USN (Ret.)**

“Given some politicians' insistence that KSM be tried at Gitmo, you would think the military commissions system had a sterling record. In fact, it is bogged down by ever-changing rules, it has held a paltry seven trials, which have led to five plea bargains. The impact of the trial will be felt far and wide. The world will be watching, and the system of justice on display will not be the United States at its best. Al Qaida will be watching, too. They will see their members facing wartime trials in a system designed specifically for them. To deny them the martyrdom they seek, the United States should be treating them as common criminals, not warriors.”⁹

⁶ Letter marking tenth anniversary of Guantanamo: <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/Retired-Generals-Admirals-on-Ten-Year-Anniversary-of-GTMO.pdf>

⁷ Julian Barnes, “Retired Military Brass Press Obama on Guantanamo Closure,” *Wall Street Journal*, June 4, 2013: <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2013/06/04/retired-military-brass-press-obama-on-guantanamo-closure>

⁸ John Hutson and Donald J. Guter, “The Guantanamo Mess,” *Huffington Post*, April 23, 2013: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-hutson/guantanamo-obama-executive-order_b_3138404.html

⁹ Donald J. Guter, “Gitmo trials ‘not the U.S. at its best,’” *Miami Herald*, May 3, 2013: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/04/30/2776177/gitmo-trials-not-the-us-at-its.html>