



Witness to Guantanamo

Guantanamo: A Turning Point in American History (2002-Present)

VOCABULARY

- al-Qaeda:** (*noun*) A militant, radical Islamic terrorist organization responsible for various terrorist attacks around the world, including the events of 9/11.
- Bounty:** (*noun*) A payment or reward often offered by a group as an incentive for the accomplishment of a task by someone usually not associated with the group; most commonly issued for the capture or retrieval of a person or object.
- Convention Against Torture:** (*noun*) An international human rights instrument, under the review of the United Nations, that aims to prevent torture around the world; full name is **United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**.
- Detainee(s):** (*noun*) Person(s) held in custody or confinement by governments and their military, such as those it does not classify and treat as either **prisoners of war** or suspects in criminal cases.
- Detention:** (*noun*) The process of a state, government or citizen holding a person by removing their freedom of liberty.
- Due Process (of Law):** (*noun*) A 5th Amendment right of the U.S. Constitution that guarantees the government will take certain legal proceedings before taking away one's right to life, liberty or property; aimed at protecting the people from unfair government persecution.
- Enemy Combatant:** (*noun*) Prior to 2008, it meant any person in an armed conflict who could be properly detained under the laws and customs of war; after 9/11 it was used by the Bush administration to mean unlawful combatants, or persons who do not qualify for prisoner-of-war status under the Geneva Conventions.
- Executive Order:** (*noun*) Order issued by the President or the head of the executive branch; executive orders do not need the approval of Congress and are legally enforceable.
- Foreign National:** (*noun*) A person who is not a citizen of the host country in which he/she is residing.
- Frequent Flyer Program:** (*noun*) A controversial technique used at GTMO where detainees are deprived of sleep by moving them from one cell to another, multiple times a day, for days or weeks on end.
- Geneva Conventions:** (*noun*) A set of four agreements that, together, comprise the international rules of war.
- GTMO:** (*noun*) Abbreviation for Guantanamo Bay Detention Center.
- Habeas Corpus:** (*noun*) Political instrument sought by a prisoner demanding to be taken before a court to determine whether this person has been wrongly imprisoned.



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Indefinite (Detention):	<i>(adjective/noun)</i> Lasting for an unknown length of time; In reference to detention, it is the incarceration of an arrested person by a national government or law enforcement agency without a trial.
Military Commission:	<i>(noun)</i> Type of military court used to try members of enemy forces during war; judges are military officers and fulfill both the roles of judge and juror.
Osama bin Laden:	<i>(noun)</i> Founder of al-Qaeda and former fugitive on the U.S. Top Ten Most Wanted list; assassinated in a secret CIA Mission on May 2, 2011.
Prisoner of War:	<i>(noun)</i> A person—civilian or combatant—who is held in custody by an enemy power during or immediately after an armed conflict.
Rallying ‘round the Flag:	<i>(verb)</i> An increase in patriotism and presidential support during periods of international crisis or war.
Sleep Deprivation:	<i>(noun)</i> The condition of not having enough sleep; adversely affects the brain and cognitive function.
Solitary Confinement:	<i>(noun)</i> When a prisoner is isolated from any human contact, though often with the exception of members of prison staff; sometimes employed as a form of punishment, an additional measure of protection from the criminal, or to implement a suicide watch.
Terrorist:	<i>(noun)</i> A person who uses terror and coercion to influence social /political goals.
Torture:	<i>(noun)</i> The act of inflicting severe pain—physical or psychological—as a means of punishment, revenge, forcing information or a confession, or simply as an act of cruelty.
Warlord:	<i>(noun)</i> A person with power who has both military and civil control over a sub national area due to armed forces loyal to the warlord and not to a central authority.
War on Terror:	<i>(noun)</i> An international military, political, legal and ideological campaign led by the U.S. against al-Qaeda, other militant organizations and regimes that were accused of supporting them; the Obama administration now refers to it as Overseas Contingency Operation .