

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1012

To prohibit the use of funds available to the Department of Defense to transfer enemy combatants detained by the United States at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States, or to construct facilities for such enemy combatants at such locations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Mr. COLE (for himself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. WAMP, Mr. PITTS, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. AKIN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mrs. BACHMANN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To prohibit the use of funds available to the Department of Defense to transfer enemy combatants detained by the United States at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States, or to construct facilities for such enemy combatants at such locations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Guantanamo Bay De-
3 tention Facility Safe Closure Act of 2009”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) Since the United States began its Global
7 War on Terrorism, terrorists have been captured by
8 the United States and their allies and detained in
9 facilities at Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility
10 (GTMO), Cuba.

11 (2) The detainee complex at Guantanamo Bay,
12 Cuba, is the only complex in the world that can safe-
13 ly and humanely hold individuals that pose a high-
14 security risk to the United States. It is a secure lo-
15 cation away from population centers, provides max-
16 imum security required to prevent escape, provides
17 multiple levels of confinement opportunities based on
18 compliance of the detainee, and provides medical
19 care not available to a majority of the population of
20 the world.

21 (3) GTMO is the single greatest repository of
22 human intelligence in the war on terror. This intel-
23 ligence has prevented terrorist attacks and saved
24 lives in the past and continues to do so today.

1 (4) New intelligence being collected from de-
2 tainees at GTMO is being used to fight terrorists in
3 Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the globe.

4 (5) Intelligence information obtained from ques-
5 tioning detainees includes—

6 (A) the organizational structure of al-
7 Qaida and other terrorist groups;

8 (B) the extent of terrorist presence in Eu-
9 rope, the United States, and the Middle East;

10 (C) al-Qaida's pursuit of weapons of mass
11 destruction;

12 (D) methods of recruitment and locations
13 of recruitment centers;

14 (E) terrorist skill sets, including general
15 and specialized operative training; and

16 (F) how legitimate financial activities are
17 used to hide terrorist operations.

18 (6) The Expeditionary Legal Complex (ELC)
19 located at GTMO is the only one of its kind in the
20 world. It provides a secure location to secure and try
21 detainees charged by the United States Government,
22 full access to sensitive and classified information,
23 full access to defense lawyers and prosecution, and
24 full media access by the press.

1 (7) There are on average two lawyers for every
2 detainee that has been charged or had charges pre-
3 ferred against them at GTMO.

4 (8) There are 127 doctors, nurses, and medical
5 technicians dedicated to caring for and maintaining
6 the health of each detainee—a ratio of 1:2 (one
7 health care professional for every two detainees).

8 (9) GTMO is operated by the Department of
9 Defense and only interrogation techniques approved
10 by the Secretary of Defense have been used.

11 (10) Detainees are being treated humanely.

12 (11) There are no solitary confinement facilities
13 at Guantanamo.

14 (12) Water boarding has never occurred at
15 GTMO.

16 (13) Current treatment and oversight exceed
17 any maximum-security prison in the world.

18 (14) Since 2002, more than 520 detainees have
19 departed Guantanamo for other countries, including
20 Albania, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bah-
21 rain, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Brit-
22 ain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives,
23 Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Ara-
24 bia, Spain, Sweden, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey,
25 Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Yemen.

1 (15) There are approximately 245 detainees
2 from over 30 countries remaining at GTMO. These
3 detainees include terrorist trainers, terrorist fin-
4 anciers, bomb makers, Osama bin Laden body-
5 guards, recruiters and facilitators, and would-be sui-
6 cide bombers. Detainees remaining at GTMO fall
7 into three categories:

8 (A) Detainees who have been cleared for
9 release but the United States has not been able
10 to find a foreign country willing to accept them.

11 (B) Detainees who have been tried, had
12 charges referred to trial, or are awaiting for re-
13 ferral to trial.

14 (C) Detainees who are either of high threat
15 to the United States or are from countries
16 where the United States is unable to get suffi-
17 cient assurances that the country will mitigate
18 their threat if transferred.

19 (16) The Pentagon claims that 61 of released
20 GTMO detainees have “returned to the fight”.

21 (17) Said Ali al-Shihri, suspected of involve-
22 ment in the bombing of the United States Embassy
23 in Yemen on 17 September 2008, was released to
24 Saudi Arabia in 2007, passed through a Saudi reha-

1 bilitation program, and has resurfaced as the new
2 deputy leader of al-Qaida in Yemen.

3 (18) In 2007, the Senate passed a resolution,
4 94–3, stating, “detainees housed at Guantanamo
5 should not be released into American society, nor
6 should they be transferred stateside into facilities in
7 American communities and neighborhoods.”.

8 (19) On January 20, 2009, President Obama
9 instructed military prosecutors to seek a 120-day
10 suspension of legal proceedings at GTMO or what
11 administration officials called “a continuance of the
12 proceedings”.

13 (20) On January 22, 2009, President Obama
14 ordered the closing of the GTMO prisons within a
15 year.

16 (21) The United States is still in a global war
17 on terror, engaged in armed conflict with terrorist
18 organizations, and will, in all probability, continue to
19 capture terrorists who will be detained in a facility.

20 (22) If the detention facility at GTMO is
21 closed, some United States domestic or overseas
22 prison will have to house these detainees while they
23 await disposition.

1 **SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTING, IMPROVING,**
2 **MODIFYING, OR OTHERWISE ENHANCING ANY**
3 **FACILITY IN THE UNITED STATES OR ITS**
4 **TERRITORIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOUS-**
5 **ING ANY DETAINEE CURRENTLY OR PRE-**
6 **VIOUSLY HOUSED AT GUANTANAMO.**

7 The Secretary of Defense may not construct, im-
8 prove, modify, or otherwise enhance any facility in the
9 United States or its territories for the purpose of housing
10 any enemy combatant who, as of the date of the enactment
11 of this Act, is detained by the United States at Naval Sta-
12 tion, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or who has ever been so
13 detained.

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