
GUANTANAMO BAY AND BELMARSH - PROTEST NOW

"A monstrous failure of justice"

Lord Steyn

Guantanamo Bay: For almost 2 years, following the war in Afghanistan, around 650 people have been held in a prison camp at the US military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

- They have been denied the status of Prisoners of War, without therefore the attendant rights allowed by the Geneva Convention. The US instead has labelled them 'Enemy Combatants', a term which does not exist in International Law, and which has been used as an excuse to treat them in unacceptable ways.
- Since they are held outside the US itself they have no rights in US Law. They have not been charged with anything and have no idea how long they will be held. *"The military would act as interrogators, prosecutors, defence counsel, judges and executioners. Trials would be held in secret, with none of the basic guarantees for a fair trial."* (Lord Steyn - a senior British Law Lord).
- The Red Cross has described the camp as *"principally a centre of interrogation rather than detention"* and have described the techniques of interrogation used as *"not quite torture, but as close as you can get."* These include the use of manacles, cages, blindfolds and masks.

- A report by the International Bar Association Task Force on International Terrorism called the treatment of the detainees *"a violation of International Law"*, yet the British Government continues to condone the US actions.

Belmarsh Prison, London: Under recent anti-terrorism laws, about 14 foreign nationals, all men, have been held for over 2 years now in high security conditions at Belmarsh prison, with no charges brought against them and therefore no trial. Under the law they can be held indefinitely, the justification being that the Home Secretary has been shown evidence to convince him that they are a threat to the security of this country, evidence which has not been shared with the prisoners or their legal representatives. This legal limbo is the British version of Guantanamo Bay.

Please write (using some of the above facts if you wish) to one or more of the following:

- (1) Your MP, House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA.
- (2) David Blunkett MP, Home Secretary, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.
- (3) Jack Straw MP, Foreign Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH.

CAMPAIGN FOR A FREE TIBET

Any group working for peace and justice needs to be aware of the on-going situation in Tibet and the plight of Tibetans living in exile.

Tibet was virtually closed to foreigners until the early 1950s, when the Chinese invaded and gradually occupied this mountainous land, bringing their own language, farming techniques and infrastructure, banning religion and making Tibetans second-class citizens in their own land. Some call it "ethnic swamping" and material development; others claim it's the attempted obliteration of a wise, noble and ancient civilisation.

In 2004, religious leaders, monks and nuns are still imprisoned, and over a million Tibetan people have braved the escape over the Himalayas to live in exile in, for example, refugee villages in India and Nepal.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Nobel Peace Prize winner, has raised the profile of Tibet by writing numerous books and inspiring people everywhere to practise kindness. He is coming to Glasgow this May to give teachings and public talks. But will he ever be able to go home?

Shropshire Tibet Group has been working for 9 years to raise awareness of the Tibetans' situation. We raise funds, listen to travellers' tales and spread the wisdom and beauty of their culture. Some of us sponsor a Tibetan child, some write protest letters for the Free Tibet Campaign, while others meditate and pray for freedom for Tibet.... there are many ways that we can help.



March 7th: Tibet Day

Every year, there is a march from the Chinese Embassy in London followed by a Tibetan cultural event in the afternoon to commemorate an uprising and the escape of the Dalai Lama in 1959.

If you feel drawn to help or find out more, contact **Shropshire Tibet Group:** 01743 366246
Free Tibet: www.freetibet.org, 020 7324 4605
Tibet Foundation: www.tibet-foundation.org
Tibet Society: 020 7272 1414

Tibetans need to know that we care. We need to know how much we can benefit from their wisdom.

Picture: His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama