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President-elect Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

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Dear President-elect Barack Obama,

I urge you as president to change the government's course on human rights and to reverse the damage done by the U.S. government's actions in the name of national security.

I call on you to demonstrate your commitment to justice by:

- ◆ Announcing a relatively short timeline for closing Guantánamo
- ◆ Issuing an executive order to ban torture and other ill-treatment as defined under international law
- ◆ Ensuring that an independent inquiry into the United States' detention and interrogation practices in its "war on terror" is set up.
- ◆ Announcing a plan to promptly charge Guantánamo detainees and send them for trial before U.S. federal courts, or else release them with full protection against further violations of their human rights.

These are four key steps on Amnesty International's checklist for your first 100 days in office.

You can counter terror with justice. We are counting on you.

Sincerely,



COUNTERING TERROR WITH JUSTICE: A CHECKLIST FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA

The actions of the United States government, and other governments, in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001 have undermined the framework of human rights. President-elect Barack Obama has the authority to undo much of that damage. Amnesty International is setting a human rights challenge for the first 100 days of the President-elect Obama's term in office. We are calling on him to:

CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO AND END ILLEGAL DETENTION

Confirm that the U.S. will permanently close the detention facility at Guantánamo and set a relatively short deadline for the closure.

Issue an executive order ending any use of rendition, secret detention or prolonged incommunicado detention by, or on behalf of, the U.S. government, anywhere in the world.

End trials by military commission and the system of Combatant Status Review Tribunals and Administrative Review Boards.

Announce a plan to promptly charge Guantánamo detainees and send them for trial before U.S. federal courts, or else release them with full protection against further violations of their human rights, and ensure that the plan is adequately resourced.

Commit the U.S. administration not to arbitrarily deprive anyone of their liberty (including by denying or interfering with effective judicial review), and immediately end the U.S. government's opposition to full habeas corpus hearings for detainees in Guantánamo and other similar situations.

ERADICATE TORTURE AND OTHER ILL-TREATMENT

Issue an executive order that the U.S. will not, under any circumstances, resort to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, as defined under international law.

Announce that the administration will not use any information obtained under torture or other ill-treatment in any proceedings, except against an alleged perpetrator of the abuse.

Order the declassification of all legal opinions and other documents authorizing or approving interrogation techniques and detention conditions that discuss whether the techniques or conditions are consistent with the national or international prohibition of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

END IMPUNITY

Ensure that criminal investigations into the programs of rendition and secret detention operated by, or on behalf of, the U.S. government are initiated.

Ensure that an independent commission of inquiry is established into all aspects of U.S. detention and interrogation practices in the "war on terror".

Make known the name, nationality, present whereabouts, status and circumstances of detention of all those who are, or have been, detained as part of programs of rendition and secret detention.

Announce that the U.S. government will work to ensure that victims of human rights violations for which the U.S. authorities may be responsible will have meaningful access to redress and remedy.

Amnesty International is a global movement of 2.2 million people in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion – and are funded mainly by our membership and by public donations.