

Close Guantanamo Bay Prison and Bring our Country Back!

East Bay Citizens for Peace

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Bristol, Barrington, East Providence, Portsmouth and Warren Rhode Island

East Bay Citizens for Peace is a grassroots organization that began in February 2003 in response to the imminent US invasion of Iraq. We are committed to peaceful solutions to conflict and to social and economic justice through the promotion of open dialogue. We have repeatedly called for the closing of Guantanamo Bay prison which has now existed for eight years. This prison has operated outside the boundaries of the system of laws that are at the core of our Constitution. It has not conformed to the Geneva Convention, which ironically we count on when our own troops are imprisoned. It has strained our relationships with our allies and worked against our purported aim of spreading democracy and hope to others. Further it has acted as a recruitment tool for extremist groups. We applaud the fact that the Obama administration has recognized that torture is illegal and has called a halt to all torture. We believe that other steps are necessary and call for an end of the practice of extraordinary rendition* and the torture being committed in our name in prisons like Bagram (Afghanistan). We also believe that to uphold the law and to send a clear message that torture will never again be tolerated it is necessary to bring to justice those who are responsible for past abuses. We call upon President Obama to fulfill his campaign promise to close Guantanamo Bay prison and bring our country back to the rule of law.

**Extraordinary rendition is the practice of sending suspects outside the USA for interrogation or imprisonment in countries where often safeguards against torture are looser. This is done without the benefit of formal charges or trial – a violation of our Constitution.*