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Honorable Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin:

I urge you to immediately transfer Toffiq al-Bihani, who has been detained at Guantánamo Bay without charge or fair trial since 2003. The US government has long since made it clear that it has no intention of charging him, and in fact he was officially cleared for transfer in 2010 but this transfer has never taken place. I urge you to transfer him to Saudi Arabia so that he can join his family there.

The US government's use of indefinite detention without charge as a response to 9/11 has been unlawful from the outset. This detention regime must be brought to an end, and any proposal for its continuation or expansion must be condemned.

The mistreatment of Toffiq al-Bihani is exacerbated now by the dangers to him as well as to all detainees at Guantanamo Bay by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Concerns exist over inadequate ventilators and trained ICU nurses on the base should there be an outbreak, and although a full-time independent chief medical officer is now required by law, this position has yet to be filled.

The impunity that persists in relation to the torture, enforced disappearance and other human rights violations committed against these detainees is outrageous. Torture and enforced disappearance are crimes under international law. Guantánamo is an all-too-easy location for future abuses to occur. This detention facility should be shut down once and for all.

I urge you to effect the transfer to Saudi Arabia of Toffiq al-Bihani.

And I further urge you to work toward a lawful solution for the detainees still held at Guantánamo by either bringing individuals to fair trial in ordinary federal courts or transferring them. Further, those who suffered torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment must receive genuine access to rehabilitation and redress. Those responsible for torture and enforced disappearance must be brought to justice in fair trials without recourse to the death penalty.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____ USA