

Al Qaeda and ISIS Use of Guantanamo Bay Prison in Propaganda and Materials

National security experts and U.S. officials have long stated that the Guantanamo Bay detention center acts as a powerful propaganda symbol in terrorist groups' recruiting materials. According to Admiral Mike Mullen, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "[I]t has been a symbol, and one which has been a recruiting symbol for those extremists and jihadists who would fight us."¹ President George W. Bush wrote in his memoir *Decision Points*, "[T]he detention facility had become a propaganda tool for our enemies and a distraction for our allies."² President Obama agreed, saying, "It is used by terrorists around the world to help recruit jihadists."³ In this brief, we demonstrate exactly how al Qaeda and ISIS use the existence of the offshore prison and the notorious mistreatment of detainees there Guantanamo Bay to their advantage by providing examples.

We identify here numerous examples of al Qaeda, its affiliates, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS, also known as ISIL or Islamic State) using the prison at Guantanamo Bay in their propaganda since 2009. The groups reference Guantanamo Bay mostly in an attempt to paint the United States as hypocritical and amoral, and as a call to arms for fellow Muslims, but also in more simplistic, symbolic terms (ISIS use of orange jumpsuits for their hostages, for example).

This is not an exhaustive list, but attempts to point out many relevant examples. Of course, Guantanamo is not to blame for any of the crimes committed by these groups and it is not the only or even primary reason for al Qaeda or ISIS targeting the United States. But there is no doubt that the detention center at Guantanamo has been, and continues to be, a powerful propaganda tool for violent terrorists who seek to harm the United States.

July 2017

- ✓ From ISIS publication *Rumiyah* issue 11:⁴ An article on when it is permissible to steal from nonbelievers includes a picture of Guantanamo detainees wearing orange jumpsuits and being forced to kneel, with the text "The Muslim imprisoned by the kuffar [nonbeliever] can take their wealth through talassus [stealing through fraud and deception] once he is free."

August 2016

- ✓ From Jabhat al Nusra's publication *Al Risalah* issue 3:⁵
 - "Jihad: A Lifetime, Part 2": An article written by a former Guantanamo detainee describing his time at the prison, including his arrival, interrogation, prison conditions, alleged abuse, and eventual release.

¹ <http://abcnews.go.com/ThisWeek/story?id=7664072&page=1>

² <https://books.google.com/books?id=iUJTvsUGWOcC&pg=PA180&lpg=PA180&dq=#v=onepage&q&f=false>

³ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/18/remarks-president-city-club-cleveland>

⁴ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2017/07/rome-magazine-11.pdf>

⁵ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2016/08/al-risacc84lah-magazine-3.pdf>

Spring 2016

- From Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's publication *Inspire* issue 15:⁶
 - "Inside Obama's Rationality": "'Recently in the news there has been much debate on the closure of Guantanamo Bay. Obama's rationality is that he never wants the 'terrorists' to benefit from it, and **described Guantanamo as the "recruitment brochure for our enemies."**, while others cited multiple security concerns. I will not be adding anything to this – lest I give Obama an extra line in his next speech - but I would like to talk on the whole idea as to why this 'rational' president would consider closing Gitmo. Maybe if we had Hitler instead of Obama he would not have closed Guantanamo, he would not have been affected by our so called 'rhetoric'. But think of Obama as a witty dictator. The basic principles as to why Obama closes Guantanamo brings to light many questions than answers. If the question of morality, principles, humanity, security and denying us the 'benefit of rhetoric' would make Obama think of Guantanamo, then one asks himself why doesn't the same logic apply to every other issue affecting the Muslims? Before Guantanamo, we had Palestine. **If our 'rhetoric' is among Obama's decision to close Guantanamo, then one wonders why America boastfully talks on how partisan they are when it comes to supporting Israel.** The plight of the Palestinians has been our talk from years before, many have joined Jihad because of the Palestinian 'rhetoric' compared to Guantanamo. In fact we can say Guantanamo and 9/11 would not have existed if the Americans had not had a hand in the oppression of Palestinians."
 - Interview with Abu-Khubeyb As-Sudani (aka Ibrahim al Qosi): "With regards to political consequences [of 9/11]; the strikes uncovered the mask behind America's ugly face. That mask fell the moment the World Trade Center buildings and the pentagon collapsed. Letting the world discover that all the claims of freedom, justice, human rights principles and principles of the founding fathers that America boast about, were but a lie. **That mask fell to let the world discover the real values of America's human rights violations in Guantanamo, Abu Ghuraib and in the secret detention facilities.**"

June 2015

- From Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent publication *Resurgence* issue 2:⁷
 - "From the Editor": "The American government should be under no illusions that its attempts to conveniently brush aside the plight of Muslim prisoners like Shaykh Omar Abdul Rahman, Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, **and countless Mujahideen being held in Guantanamo** and the black sites of CIA will pass without notice ... For the duration of his stay, [Al Qaeda captive] Dr. Weinstein was not once shackled or kept behind bars, but was allowed to interact with the brothers who would stay with him, something which left a deep impression on him. Lo Porto was similarly given a decent treatment, **a far cry from the ordeal our prisoners have to go through on a daily basis at Guantanamo** and the dungeons of the CIA. This is because our war is not for oil or imperial interests which necessitate extraordinary renditions, black sites, Guantamos and Abu Ghraibs."
 - Interview with Adam Gadahn: "The Pakistan Army and its intelligence agencies are also responsible for the abduction of hundreds of emigrant Mujahideen—both commanders and soldiers—and **their "rendition" to Guantanamo** and other prisons, dungeons and concentration camps around the world, where many of them were subjected to torture and summary execution; and that's not counting the thousands of local and emigrant

⁶ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/inspire-magazine-15.pdf>

⁷ https://ia601502.us.archive.org/9/items/regurance_summer/Resurgence.pdf

Mujahideen and their supporters who have been imprisoned, tortured and “disappeared” or died in mysterious circumstances within Pakistan.”

March 2015

- From ISIS publication *Dabiq* issue 8:
 - Obituary for Abdur-Rauf Khadim al-Khurasani, (aka Mullah Abdul Rauf): “He was appointed by the Taliban as the director of the military college in Kabul, and also went on to play an important role as a field commander on the frontlines during the crusader invasion of Afghanistan. **He was captured by the Americans in one of the battles and was amongst a number of prisoners who were transferred to Guantanamo where he was imprisoned for six and a half years in some of the most horrifying conditions.** The Americans then handed him over to their Afghan puppets and he spent another year and a half imprisoned by the murtadd regime.”⁸
- ISIS creates prison modeled on Guantanamo: Spanish journalist Javier Espinosa’s fellow prisoner, American journalist James Foley told him that ISIS had **modeled the facility that held them and other Western prisoners after the prison at Guantanamo Bay**, and that, “They had designed the project for a long time. The Iraqi sheikh himself explained from the first moment they [wanted to] kidnap Westerners to lock them in a high security prison with cameras and numerous guards.”⁹

January-February 2015

- ISIS pictures of Coptic prisoners, videos of Japanese hostages and Jordanian pilot being murdered: Early in 2015, ISIS released images and videos of two Japanese hostages being killed, both **dressed in orange jumpsuits** similar to those worn at one time by the detainees at Guantanamo.¹⁰ In February, ISIS released a video of Jordanian pilot Moaz al-Kasasbeh being burned alive. In the video, Kasasbeh is shown wearing an orange jumpsuit.¹¹ Also in February, the group released the seventh issue of its publication *Dabiq*, which featured photos of Coptic Christian prisoners wearing the orange jumpsuits.¹² The same month, Brian McKeon, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, told Congress, “It is no coincidence that the recent ISIS videos showing the barbaric burning of a Jordanian pilot and the savage execution of a Japanese hostage each showed the victim clothed in an orange jumpsuit, believed by many to be the symbol of the Guantanamo detention facility.”¹³

January 2015

- Eulogy for Abu-Anas al-Libi: “Not so long ago, we heard of the crimes of America in the prisons of Bagram, [Camp] Bucca, **and Guantanamo**, and in the secret prisons—where our brothers were exposed to torture and humiliation in the dark cellars and cells of these prisons—at the hands of the intelligence services officers who practiced any type of torture and brutality they wanted until they were exposed by the report presented by the [US] Congress last month.”¹⁴

⁸ https://ia801503.us.archive.org/10/items/Dabiq8/Dabiq_8.pdf

⁹ <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/isis-hostages-subjected-mock-executions-syrian-gitmo-article-1.2150658>, <http://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2015/03/15/5502e97d22601d8a288b456f.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/24/world/isis-japan-hostages/>, <http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/31/middleeast/isis-japan-jordan-hostages/>

¹¹ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2938199/Burned-alive-cage-ISIS-release-video-claiming-horrifying-murder-captured-Jordanian-pilot.html>

¹² <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2015/02/the-islamic-state-e2809cdc481biq-magazine-722.pdf>

¹³ <http://www.c-span.org/video/?324186-1/hearing-guantanamo-detention-facility-outlook>

¹⁴ https://admin.govexec.com/media/gbc/docs/pdfs_edit/open_source_propoganda_gtmo_jan2015.pdf

Winter 2014

- Ayman al-Zawahiri (al Qaeda leader) statement in *Azan* magazine: “As for the Muslim prisoners **in Guantanamo** and the secret prisons of the CIA, they do not deserve freedom. They must be tortured, deprived of their rights and imprisoned without any sentence by a court for the long periods determined by the American government on its own. This is because they are not ‘humans’ in the first place for America to give them any ‘human rights’. They are not subject to those conventions by which America is bound in its treatment of the rest of humanity. This is the logic of power and arrogance. This is not about human rights; it is about the rights of the man who opposes Islam. It is about his rights when he is aggressing against a Muslim.”¹⁵

December 2014

- Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) video on unsuccessful U.S. hostage rescue attempt: “Are we have right [sic] requesting freedom of Sheikh Omar Abdulrahman and are we trying to free him? Can they explain fate of imprisoned Afia Sidiqi, and can they free her after two long years of injustice and torture and arrest? We have brothers and sisters, who are jailed and **put in Guantanamo Bay prison**, in prisons of American collaborators in Islamic countries and in American security prisons which are spread all over the world. They have a right to be free. We try to free them from their tragic situation and barbaric injustice, which is far away from convention of human rights. Is there anything in this and another list of American injustice and tyranny we can negotiate about with America? This American answer and behavior confirm the truth what mujahideen think, that there is impossible to have agreement with American government except in a way of straightforward killing and facing tyranny which put the lives of all Americans in danger, inside and outside of America, in the air, on the ground and the sea.”¹⁶

September-November 2014

- ISIS video series “Lend Me Your Ears”: The six-episode video series features British journalist and ISIS prisoner John Cantlie speaking about ISIS. In each video, Cantlie is **dressed in an orange jumpsuit**, styled after the orange jumpsuits worn by Guantanamo detainees.¹⁷

November 2014

- From ISIS publication *Dabiq* issue 5: “From this blessed land, the light of Islam spread to the rest of the corners of the Earth by the guiding book and supportive sword ... The istishhādiyyīn of September 11th, the prisoners behind the bars and wires of al-Hāyir (a prison in the Arabian Peninsula) and **Guantanamo Bay**, the operations against the murtaddīn and crusaders in the Arabian Peninsula, and the pure blood spilled upon its blessed land, were all from the fruits and blessings of the light shining forth from the Arabian Peninsula.”¹⁸

Fall 2014

- From al Qaeda publication *Resurgence*, issue 1: A full-page spread of images of prisoners and men being arrested by police with the text “**Guantanamo**. Islamabad. Bagram. Cairo. Dhaka. Names change. Motives don’t.”¹⁹

¹⁵ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/azan-magazine-5.pdf>

¹⁶ <http://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2014/12/al-qaeda-in-yemen-releases-video-blames-obama-for-failed-us-hostage-rescue/>, <http://justpaste.it/idpo>

¹⁷ <http://leaksource.info/2014/09/18/islamic-state-hostage-uk-journalist-john-cantlies-lend-me-your-ears-video-series-dabiq-articles/>

¹⁸ <http://media.clarionproject.org/files/islamic-state/isis-isis-islamic-state-magazine-issue-5-remaining-and-expanding.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://www.worldanalysis.net/download/2014/oct/resurgence01.pdf>

September 2014

- Video of ISIS executing American hostage Steven Sotloff: “Obama, your foreign policy of intervention in Iraq was supposed to be for the preservation of American lives and interests, so why is it that I am paying the price of your interference with my life. Am I not an American citizen? You've spent billions of U.S. tax payers dollars and we've lost thousands of our troops in our previous fighting against the Islamic State, so where is the people's interest in reigniting this war? From what little I know about foreign policy, I remember a time you could not win an election without promising to bring our troops back home from Iraq and Afghanistan and to **close down Guantanamo**. Here you are now, Obama, nearing the end of your term, and having achieving none of the above, and deceptively marching us the American people in the blazing fire.”²⁰

Spring 2014

- From AQAP publication *Inspire* issue 12:
 - Article by Abu Abdillah Amoravid: “[W]e are certain that the sweet dream America propagated vanished into a terrifying nightmare: Abu Ghraib, black sites, **Guantanamo** and the US soldiers' crimes in Afghānistān and Irāq are too clear to need clarification. Actually, there is no possible way to express these inhumane crimes perpetrated against human rights. Here we could say America has lost the most important element of global leadership: morals and principles. The name 'America' has become firmly connected with occupation, atrocities, violation of rights of nations and oppression to humankind..”²¹

March 2014

- Ibrahim al Rubaish (AQAP official) shown making statement on AQAP video: Ibrahim al Rubaish, a Saudi who was once held at Guantanamo and served as a top sharia official in AQAP, is shown speaking in the video. Rubaish praises the newfound freedom of some jihadist fighters, including those shown in the video, but he **laments** the fact that others **remain imprisoned in Guantanamo** and elsewhere.²²

July 30, 2013

- Ayman al-Zawahiri statement: “The [hunger] strike by **our brothers at Guantanamo** unmasks the true ugly face of America. We pledge to God that we will spare no effort to free all our prisoners, on top of whom are Omar Abdel Rahman, Aafia Siddiqui, Khaled Sheikh Mohammed [who is held at Guantanamo] and every oppressed Muslim everywhere ...”²³

Spring 2013

- From AQAP publication *Inspire* issue 11:²⁴
 - Article by Abu Abdillah Almoravid: “If we note down all that has been and is still being carried out by America against the Muslim nations, we will run out of pages. There is plundering and stealing of Muslims' wealth in different ways, supporting tyrannical rulers like the example of Mubarak of Egypt, Saudi family of Saudi Arabia, Ali Saleh of Yemen and Ben Ali of Tunisia. There is also the secret prisons and black sites file, we could not miss out **Guantanamo Bay detention camp**. The American nation should have a good grasp of all of these and other historical facts so that they can comprehend the

²⁰ <https://news.siteintelgroup.com/Jihadist-News/is-behead-steven-joel-sotloff-threatens-to-execute-briton-david-cawthorne-haines.html>

²¹ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/inspire-magazine-issue-12.pdf>

²² http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2014/04/a_video_released_by.php

²³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/31/us-usa-qaeda-guantanamo-idUSBRE96U07K20130731>

²⁴ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/inspire-magazine-issue-11.pdf>

background and the context of the Boston Marathon operation, Detroit, September 11 and other operations which are barely a wave of anger; vengeance.”

- From AQAP publication *Inspire* issue 10:²⁵
 - Ayman al-Zawahiri piece on “Innocence of Muslims”: “America has allowed the production of a film which commits blasphemy against the Prophet [Arabic symbol], under the pretext of freedom of expression. But this freedom declamation did not stop Americans from torturing Muslim prisoners in Bagram, Abu Ghraib, **Guantanamo** and other secret prisons. May the blessings of Allah be upon those, enthusiastic Muslims, who torched the American Embassy in Benghazi, those who protested in front of the US Embassy in Cairo, those who replaced the American flag with the flag of Islam and Jihad. I call upon them to continue to confront the Zio-American crusade on Islam and Muslims. And I call upon all Muslims to follow their example. This is not the first incident of its type, rather it represents a recurring mode practiced by the US soldiers in Guantanamo, Bagram, Iraq and Afghanistan.”
 - Article by Abu Mus’ab Al-Suri (al Qaeda strategist): “In Afghanistan, tens of thousands were killed in the December 2001 invasion by the Americans in blind rage, most were innocent civilians. **Guantanamo has been filled with not only with your mujhideen brothers but also with hundreds of innocent civilians.** All being tortured and subjected to the most despicable crimes.”
 - Article on Anwar al-Awlaki (AQAP official): “He said to the Muslims ‘for how long will you people sleep and dream, whilst the thundering sounds of tomahawk and cruise missiles are above your heads, for how long will you sleep to the sounds of B-52 bombers and screams from your wives and children? For how long will you watch the best of **your sons sent to Guantanamo**, whilst the tyrants wine and dine in the white house?’ ... So with a fading economy, disunited political entity, multi quagmires abroad (Iraq & Afghanistan), Obama and his gang decided o [sic] slaughter freedom in front of the whole world once again. They did so many times before in Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay, Iraq War, Assassination of Shaykh Usama bin Laden.”

June 22, 2012

- Abu Yahya Al-Libi (al Qaeda official) statement, “The American Army and the Ethics of War”: “These aren’t just casual cases committed by some lunatics, as their leaders and media want to make us see it. And thus falls the ulster which they always tried to blur on the fools: that they are an army of civilization, spreading values and maintaining human rights, and who doesn’t own a matter cannot give it, and let the Muslim know that what leaks to them through the media every now and then is only a drop from the sea of their criminality, degeneration and lowliness, which they commit shamelessly behind the walls of their bases and the darkness of their prisons. Wasn’t **their disgrace in Guantanamo** prison expressing the morals of the American army? Were the scandals of Abu Ghraib prison just an individual action that doesn’t reflect the values of the American army?”²⁶

December 20, 2011

- Anwar al-Awlaki (AQAP official) address: “We the Muslims do not have an inherent animosity towards any racial group or ethnicity. We are not against Americans for just being Americans. We are against evil and America as a whole has turned into a nation of evil. What we see from America is the invasion of (inaudible) countries, we see Abu Ghraib, Baghram and **Guantanamo Bay**, we see cruise missiles and cluster bombs and we have just seen in Yemen the death of 23 children and 17 women. We cannot stand idly in the face of such aggression

²⁵ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/inspire-magazine-issue-10.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pe9t7sCM7yc>

and we will fight back and incite others to do the same.”²⁷ [Also quoted in *Inspire Magazine* issue 1, Summer 2010]²⁸

December 1, 2011

- ☑ Ayman al-Zawahiri statement on captured USAID worker Warren Weinstein: Zawahiri has made the following demands (summarized below) of the US and Israel in order to obtain the release of Weinstein:
 1. Open the border between Egypt and Gaza.
 2. Halt US and Israeli airstrikes in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, and Gaza.
 3. Release all Qaeda and Taliban prisoners, "even if they were handed over to another country, like Abu Musab al Suri."
 4. **Close Guantanamo** "and the secret American prisons."
 5. Release Sayyid Nosair and Ramzi Yousef, "and those with them."
 6. Release Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who is better known as the Blind Sheikh.
 7. Release Osama bin Laden's family.
 8. Release female al Qaeda operatives, such as Aafia Siddiqui and Hasna, "the widow of Abu Hamza al Muhajir," the former leader of al Qaeda in Iraq who is also known as Abu Ayyub al Masri.²⁹

Fall 2011

- ☑ From AQAP publication *Inspire* issue 7:³⁰
 - Article by Yahya Ibrahim (*Inspire* editor-in-chief): "We have been preaching that the West is propping up values such as equality, freedom and human rights as a façade to cover its real face of imperialism and greed, but 9/11 did what was impossible for our words to do. It showed the world the reality and exposed the West for what it really is. Abu Ghraib, **Guantanamo Bay** and secret extraordinary renditions showed the world the American understanding of human rights."

October 11, 2011

- ☑ Ayman al-Zawahiri statement, "And the Americans' Defeats Continue": "O our people in Libya, you snatched this big victory by your blood and body parts, so don't allow anyone to take it away from you, because there are many who are lying in wait for you in order to take from you all that victory or some of it. On top of these is the **Western gang of NATO** – NATO, which is killing your brothers in Afghanistan and Iraq, torturing them in its secret prisons and in **Guantanamo**, sending the criminal Zionists to your brothers in Jerusalem, and stealing the wealth of your Ummah under the threat of its barges and planes."³¹

June 2011

- ☑ Al Qaeda statement on the succession of Osama bin Laden: "We have not forgotten our brothers in **Guantanamo**, Baghram, and Abu Ghuraib, the rest of the secret and open prisons of America, and every other Guantanamo erected by the agents of America under their supervision across the Muslim lands."³²

June 11, 2011

- ☑ Ayman al-Zawahiri's eulogy for Osama bin Laden: "America that signed the Geneva [convention] agreement to protect civilians and prisoners became the first to violate them in

²⁷ <http://worldanalysis.net/modules/news/article.php?storyid=1311>

²⁸ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2010/06/aqap-inspire-magazine-volume-1-uncorrupted.pdf>

²⁹ http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2011/12/zawahiri_claims_al_qaeda_holdi.php

³⁰ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/inspire-magazine-7.pdf>

³¹ <http://triceratops.brynmawr.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/10066/14396/ZAW20111011.pdf?sequence=1>

³² <http://archive.org/download/Succession.Statement/bayan.srt>

Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, **Guantanamo** and her underground prisons around the world.”³³

Spring 2011

- ✓ From AQAP publication *Inspire* issue 5:³⁴
 - Interview with Shaykh Abu Hurairah (AQAP military commander): “I have one sister who is married and four brothers, one of whom is **detained at Guantanamo** since the beginning of the invasion of Afghanistan, and another killed most likely by a man who is a contractor of the political security forces in Sana’a.”

April 15, 2011

- ✓ Ayman al-Zawahiri statement, “Message to People in Egypt, Part 5”: “America that is [now] weeping over the victims of torture in Egypt is [the same America] that resorts to torture in the prisons of **Guantanamo**, Bagram and Abu Ghurayb and in its secret prisons in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Poland and on board of its ships and airplanes...”³⁵

April 9, 2011

- ✓ Ibrahim al Rubaish (AQAP official) statement: “There are in the American army people from among our countrymen, praying in the same direction and fasting along with us, and yet they participate in the war against the Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan out of fear for their livelihood. There are among them those who supervised the instances of **defamation to the Koran in the prisons of Cuba [Guantanamo Bay]**, and they justified this by saying that they had received orders from the general to do so, and yet, at the same time, they had performed praying and fasting. But the difference between the US soldier and the soldier of its agents is that one of them receives orders from the Crusaders directly, while the other has an agent, someone from among our countrymen, functioning as a middleman between him and the Crusaders.”³⁶

Fall 2010

- ✓ From AQAP publication *Inspire* issue 2:³⁷
 - Uthman al-Ghamidi (AQAP operative and former Guantanamo detainee): “I chose to be straightforward with the investigators and I told them that I was in Afghanistan for the purpose of jihad and that I trained at al-Faruq camp. This led to my speedy transport to Guantanamo Bay prison. My stay on the base was for a total of two weeks ... The journey was for more than 24 hours. **We were greeted at Guantanamo with swearing and beating** as we were dragged to our cells. That is when the dirty American program began against us. They insulted our religion and we were subjected to physical and psychological forms of torture through sleep deprivation and exposure to hot and cold weather in special rooms. We were also used as guinea pigs for their experiments.... They would expose us to hunger and they would try to seduce some of us through women. Nevertheless, with all this torture and temptation, Allah was protecting us. We would defend the Qur’an and take from them what we wanted by force. The Muslim is honorable if he takes jihad as his path.”
 - Interview with Shaykh Abu Sufyan (Vice Amir of AQAP, former Guantanamo detainee): “The treatment of the Americans was the treatment of an enemy to an enemy and this is natural but what I did not expect is to find the Americans to be a people without any principles, whether we are talking about moral principles or general human values. ... One of the things that bothered us in prison was their attempts to

³³ <http://worldanalysis.net/modules/news/article.php?storyid=1857>

³⁴ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/inspire-magazine-5.pdf>

³⁵ <https://www.ctc.usma.edu/posts/ayman-al-zawahiri%E2%80%99s-reaction-to-revolution-in-the-middle-east>

³⁶ <https://thejihadproject.wordpress.com/category/al-qaeda-in-arabia-peninsula/al-rubaysh/>

³⁷ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2010/10/inspire-magazine-2.pdf>

seduce us through their women but all praise is due to Allah, we were protected from this human trash.”

- Samir Khan (American turned AQAP member, *Inspire* editor): “I would always laugh whenever the start of Ramadan would occur in America and the President would take a few minutes to articulate on how marvelous Islam is; almost as if he himself was to become Muslim. I would laugh because they would show this face in their country, and a different face in Iraq, Afghanistan, and **Guantanamo Bay**. After knowing what America has accomplished in the Islamic world, what Muslim wouldn’t want to be a traitor? ... The list is endless when it comes to the crimes they have perpetrated upon the Islamic world.”

September 15, 2010

- ☑ Ayman al-Zawahiri statement, “Victorious Ummah, Broken Crusade”: “Glory be to Allah: aren't the NATO forces which are coming and going as they please in Pakistan and being helped and supplied by the government of Pakistan and its army and security organs, aren't these forces from the states in which the Prophet - sallallahu alayhi wa sallam – was insulted publicly on the pages of newspapers and in other media? And aren't they the forces which **humiliated the noble Qur'an in Guantanamo**, Iraq and elsewhere?”³⁸

July 2010

- ☑ Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula video, “And He Shall Take Martyrs from You”: “Tora Bora has not been the only distinct mark in the bright biography of Abu-Yaqeen, but another mark has been clearer. It **was the Guantanamo detention camp**, the school of Yusuf (peace by upon him) [**Footage of Guantanamo**] after he had been arrested by the puppet Pakistani forces, who handed him over to America, and then the **Americans forced him out to Guantanamo**. Never allow oppressors to suppress you. Abu-Yaqeen has been afflicted with many loads which mountains could not bear, the same way others were. It was many a time was he exposed to torture and pain. He could have avoided all this, except for his strong loyalty to his faithful brethren. Sheikh Ibrahim al-Rubaish who was his mate in Guantanamo said, ‘I cannot forget what happened when the brethren in the neighboring prison cell were punished. Abu-Yaqeen and some brethren protested at this. He was punished by six officers who chained him and carried him on their backs to shave his hair and beard. Another time when Abu-Yaqeen was in the collective camp while other brethren were in great harm in the solitary camps; He then went on strike with some brethren and caused some trouble to back up with them. Then the Americans took them to the punishment cells to taste what their brethren were tasting.’ ... These operations, explosions, and victories which the mujahideen have been performing used to reach the ears of the Guantanamo captives despite the far distance and the ultimate reservation about them. However, lowering the American flag told them about some revenge against the Americans was taking place beyond the oceans. These operations have been the reason behind setting many of the captives free, when the Americans became sure that the fuel of those blessed operations was the Guantanamo captives”³⁹

January 29, 2010

- ☑ Osama bin Laden statement, “The Way to Save the Earth”: “[T]hey killed, wounded, orphaned, widowed and displaced more than 10 million Iraqis, and they are still murdering and pillaging. That’s not to mention the crimes at Abu Ghraib and **Guantanamo**, those ugly crimes which shook the conscience of humanity.”⁴⁰ [Also quoted in *Inspire Magazine* issue 1, Summer 2010]⁴¹

³⁸<http://triceratops.brynmawr.edu:8080/dspace/bitstream/handle/10066/7272/ZAW20100915.pdf?sequence=1>

³⁹ <https://archive.org/details/And-he-take-from-you-martyrs>

⁴⁰ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2010/08/usamah-bin-laden-the-way-to-save-the-earth.pdf>

⁴¹ <https://azelin.files.wordpress.com/2010/06/aqap-inspire-magazine-volume-1-uncorrupted.pdf>

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- ☑ Interview with Dr. Ahmad Farooq (Senior al Qaeda media official): “America had hidden its charlatanic face with an innocent mask... Allah set straight the truth. **Whatever happened in Guantanamo**...the horrors of Abu Ghraib; this was how Allah revealed the hideous, Crusader and secular face of America in front of the world. This is none but a blessing of the Jihad...the blessing of the Tuesday attacks.”⁴²

These examples demonstrate how al Qaeda and ISIS have been able to take advantage of the Guantanamo Bay detention center and its history detaining suspected terrorists by claiming that U.S. abuses and indefinite detention there are violent acts that demand retaliation. While their propaganda is obviously a distortion of reality, the U.S. should not be facilitating such distortions by continuing to maintain such a powerful symbol for their purposes, particularly when so many national security leaders, including President Obama himself, have said the prison is no longer needed and should be closed.⁴³

⁴² http://counterterrorismblog.org/2009/11/nefa_foundation_interview_with_3.php

⁴³ <http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/quote-sheet-national-security-leaders-support-closing-guantanamo>