



The Houses of Parliament
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear President Bush,

We were involved in the non-partisan group of more than 400 parliamentarians from the United Kingdom and Europe who have submitted an *amicus* brief in the case *Hamdan v Rumsfeld*, which concerns the legality of the Guantanamo military commissions and which is due for decision by the Supreme Court of the United States in the coming weeks. Our submissions recalled the strong common heritage of respect for the rule of law and for fundamental human rights shared by the United States and the nations of Europe. We urged the Court to reaffirm the United States' commitment to the rule of law in the conduct of wars and other military engagements, as international law clearly requires.

We write to you now, in the wake of the suicide of three Guantanamo prisoners, to lend again our support to the growing chorus of eminent voices from throughout the United States, around the world, and across the political spectrum condemning the continued indefinite detention without independent and regular trial of hundreds of individuals at Guantanamo. The recent suicides dramatically illustrate why indefinite unlawful detention is in breach of international human rights and, of itself, deemed cruel and inhumane. The cases of alleged abuse demonstrate the real danger of an erosion of basic principles of humanity when individuals in military custody are cast outside the legal order.

We welcomed your recent comments seemingly indicating a desire to close the detention facility at Guantanamo and provide for trial of individuals suspected of offences in regularly constituted courts in the United States. All that we have ever sought in the *Hamdan* proceedings is a fair trial for detainees. We hope that the Supreme Court will direct such an outcome, but, in any event, we would implore the Administration to bring the treatment of those in US military custody into compliance with international humanitarian and human rights norms.

Respectfully yours,

The Lord Goodhart, QC
Rt Hon the Lord Lloyd of Berwick, DL
Rt Hon the Lord Windlesham, CVO
Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Portsmouth, Kenneth William Stevenson
Peter Bottomley Esq, MP
Mark Oaten Esq, MP