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Human Rights Research - Guantanamo Group - Ruling on the Fates of Detainees

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Recommended Citation

Pugh, Alyssa, "Human Rights Research - Guantanamo Group - Ruling on the Fates of Detainees" (2020). *Research Days Posters Spring 2020*. 71.

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PRESENTER:

Alyssa Pugh

Since 2002, the US has transferred over 800 men and boys to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba with little to no thought about how the detainees would be further evaluated for potential release. After the establishment of the Periodic Review Board was established, it was deemed controversial that this quasi-legal group of people were the ones ruling on the fates of detainees.

The Periodic Review Board

- Created in 2011 after the Combatant Status Tribunals in 2007
- Created by Barack Obama
- Made up of the following offices
 - Dept. of Defense
 - Homeland Security
 - Dept. of Justice
 - Dept. of State
 - Joint Staff
 - Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Although the detainees have the constitutional privilege of habeas corpus, while standing before the tribunal, they are not supposed to be honest. They must agree to everything that is said in the court room.



State University of New York

Ruling on the Fates of Detainees: Legal or NOT?

Mohamedou Slahi
A Guantanamo Bay Detainee



Each one of these offices voted on the fate of Guantanamo detainee, Mohamedou Slahi



Figure: This is a sketch by Janet Hamlin. She has sketched the tribunals since 2006 since there are no cameras or videos allowed. She must submit her work to the Pentagon for approval. Anyone can attend the tribunals.

(<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/9/16/an-artist-at-guantanamobay.html>)

REFERENCES

Mohamedou Slahi,
Wikipedia images

Guantanamo Diary Book by Slahi

- Originally written as letters for his lawyer (manuscript)
- Published and worked on by journalist Larry Seems
- If the lawyers keep the letters, then the book could not be published
- The first publishing of his book included redactions
- In Slahi's words, "It was 14 years later and I was allowed to say only some of what I wanted to say"

Convention Against Torture

- Legal definition of torture
 - For example, article 1 explains what "torture is understood to be"

Habeas Corpus

- Forbids holding someone without charge
- Believed that Guantanamo Bay is in violation of this provision

In Slahi's words, your only shot to get any kind of approval for release is to agree to everything that is said, whether or not it is true.

In the words of a former detainee, Slahi explains that **it is NOT a place to seek justice or establish facts to make your case.**