

Resolve 14-07/08

Passage: 6/2/08 6-3 (Suslovic, Leeman, Cohen)

EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (MAYOR)
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CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JAMES I. COHEN (5)
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JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CLOSURE
OF THE GUANTANAMO BAY DETENTION FACILITY
AND SUPPORTING GUANTANAMO PRISON CELL
REPLICA TOUR**

WHEREAS, at the direction of President George W. Bush the United States Government has now illegally held detainees for over six years at its prison facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and

WHEREAS, these human beings are subjected to indefinite and secret detentions, rendition, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Bush administration and the federal government has justified this inhuman and un-American practice, as a critical part of its “war on terror” and has not been held accountable for their actions; and

WHEREAS, leaders around the world have condemned the U.S. practices at Guantanamo Bay, including former U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who on July 10, 2007 made the following statement:

“If were up to me I would close Guantanamo not tomorrow but this afternoon...

Essentially, we have shaken the belief that the world had in America’s justice system...

And it’s causing us far more damage than any good that we get from it;” and

WHEREAS, lasting security and real justice for the victims of terrorism cannot be achieved without real justice and respect for human rights; and

WHEREAS, those illegally detained in U.S. custody at Guantanamo and elsewhere must be released immediately under the legal principles that were incorporated in the founding of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Amnesty International USA Denounce Torture Campaign is currently underway and includes a public tour of a replica of a Guantanamo prison cell in support of its campaign goal of shutting down Guantanamo and stopping the abuse of prisoners there and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, this prison cell is an exact replica of a Camp 5 cell and was created by Amnesty International Australia as a replica of the cell occupied at Guantanamo by an Australian citizen; and

WHEREAS, this prison cell will be set up on Monument Square in Portland from June 5th through June 7th to provide an interactive experience for our citizens to give them a brief tangible way to conceptualize one aspect of the horrible situation in Guantanamo; and

WHEREAS, the actions of the Bush administration and the federal government in establishing the Guantanamo Bay facility and in operating it in a manner that violates international law violates the fundamental legal and human rights principles upon which the United States of America was founded;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council calls for the immediate closure of the Guantanamo detention facility and expresses its strong support for the efforts of Amnesty International and other organizations to effect that closure and end the inhuman and illegal treatment of the detainees at that facility and elsewhere; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council strongly expresses its support for the Amnesty International Guantanamo prison cell replica tour and encourages all of our citizens to visit and experience the prison cell while it is in Portland and directly contact the members of Maine's federal delegation and ask them to end this injustice immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be certified by the City Clerk and mailed to each member of Maine's federal delegation.