

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

We the undersigned share with you the commitment, made plain in your inauguration speech that, *"We reject as false the choice between our safety and our ideals."* We believe your decision to close Guantanamo Bay and the repudiation of torture by your Administration are strong signals of welcome changes you are making. We will be calling on the United Kingdom and other European governments to assist you wherever possible in this goal.

We are writing regarding the related case of former British resident, Binyam Mohamed, currently held in Guantanamo Bay, and allegations of his torture. Last week, two senior British judges ruled that a summary of US intelligence documents, held by the UK government, could not be made public. The judges believed that although open justice demanded the release of the documents, the Foreign Secretary had told them in good faith that the US had threatened to withdraw vital intelligence sharing if this were done, and were therefore unable to publish the summary.

The judges wrote that *"there was nothing in the redacted paragraphs that would identify any agent or any facility or any secret means of intelligence gathering. Nor could anything in the redacted paragraphs possibly be described as "highly sensitive classified US intelligence".*" Yet it is widely suspected and indeed implied by the judges that publication of the summary would likely expose the use of torture or complicity in the use of torture by Pakistani, US and UK intelligence officials.

In their judgment they wrote, *"The suppression of reports of wrongdoing by officials (in circumstances which cannot in any way affect national security) would be inimical to the rule of law and the proper functioning of a democracy. Championing the rule of law, not suppressing it, is the cornerstone of a democracy."*

They concluded by saying,

"If the information in the redacted paragraphs which we consider so important to the rule of law, free speech and democratic accountability is to be put into the public domain, it must now be for the United States Government to consider changing its position or itself putting that information into the public domain."

We therefore urge you to publish the information contained in these seven paragraphs.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Davey MP
Shadow Foreign Secretary, Liberal Democrats

Andrew Tyrie MP
Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition

Chris Mullin MP
Vice-Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition

Clare Algar
Executive Director, Reprieve

Kate Allen
Director, Amnesty International UK