

ACLU Says Donald Trump's Executive Order to Keep Guantanamo Prison Open Big Mistake



New York, February 1 (RHC)-- The American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU, has blasted U.S. President Donald Trump's order to keep the notorious Guantanamo Bay prison open. The director of the ACLU National Security Project, Hina Shamsi, reacted to the president's executive order issued moments before his State of the Union speech on Tuesday.

"The notion that Guantanamo is worthwhile would be laughable if it wasn't so tragic. In addition to the incalculable human suffering, it costs taxpayers more than \$445 million a year to detain the 41 men now there. Congress should prevent President Trump from continuing unlawful detention and unconstitutional military commissions. And we all must pledge -- not one person more in Guantanamo, not in our names," she said. Shamsi further suggested that former President Barack Obama and his predecessor, George W. Bush, were on the right track in dealing with trying to close the prison.

"Trump is making a big mistake by doubling down on the national security and human rights disaster that

is Guantanamo. For more than a decade, Presidents Bush and Obama tried to transfer people out responsibly, but Trump is reversing course. In trying to give new life to a prison that symbolizes America's descent into torture and unlawful indefinite detention, Trump will not make this country any safer," Shamsi said.

In his State of the Union speech on Tuesday night, Trump boasted that he "just signed, prior to walking in, an order directing (Defense) Secretary (Jim) Mattis ... to re-examine our military detention policy and to keep open the detention facilities in Guantánamo Bay."

As many as 775 detainees were brought to the notorious prison, which was set up after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The White House has acknowledged President Barack Obama's failure to close the Guantanamo prison. Obama had promised to close the Guantanamo prison during the 2008 presidential election campaign, but his efforts were constantly thwarted by Republican lawmakers in Congress.

As the Republican presidential nominee, Donald Trump had promised in 2016 to fill the prison with – in his words – "bad dudes."

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