

As leaders of the legal profession in our respective countries, we wish to state our concerns about the continuing detention of non-US “enemy combatants” in Guantánamo Bay.

We welcome the Supreme Court’s ruling on 28 June allowing the detainees to challenge the validity of their detention in US courts. We call on the US authorities to abandon the “review panels” now being held in Guantánamo Bay.

In view of the considerable time that these detainees have been held, without access to lawyers of their choice or their families and reportedly in conditions of physical and psychological duress, the case for them to be able to challenge their detention in a civilian court is stronger than ever.

The war on terrorism will not and cannot be won by denying those suspected of terrorism the fundamental right of a fair opportunity to test the evidence against them.

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