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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - December 8, 2014

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TCP Welcomes Transfer of Six Guantanamo Detainees to Uruguay

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Virginia Sloan, president of The Constitution Project, a bipartisan legal watchdog group, offered the following comment on the announcement that the United States had transferred six detainees from the Guantanamo Bay detention facility to Uruguay:

"We applaud the government of Uruguay - and President Mujica in particular - for the willingness to provide a home for these six men. After several years of limited action, we are pleased that the Obama administration appears to be accelerating its efforts to end the detention of individuals long cleared for transfer from Guantanamo, and we trust this announcement is a harbinger of more transfers to come. Congress needs to join foreign partners like Uruguay in contributing to the solution, rather than the problem, by lifting unnecessary restrictions on transfers."

According to [a report](#) in The Washington Post, Mujica said that Uruguay would treat the prisoners as refugees.

The transfers lower the number of detainees at Guantanamo from 142 to 136, most of whom have been held without charges for more than decade, and nearly half of whom are already cleared by the U.S. government for transfer out of Guantanamo once a host country can be found. A legislative ban on transfers of detainees to the U.S. has complicated the process of identifying possible destinations for resettlement.

In April 2013, The Constitution Project Task Force on Detainee Treatment, an [11-member bipartisan blue-ribbon panel](#), released a 600-page report that included a series of [unanimous conclusions](#) and recommendations for reform, including a proposal for the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

The Task Force analysis was based on a thorough examination of available public records and interviews with more than one hundred people, including former detainees, military and intelligence

officers, interrogators and policymakers. In addition, Task Force staff and members conducted on-the-ground fact-finding in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Lithuania, Poland and the United Kingdom, and also at Guantanamo Bay. The [Task Force report](#) is the most comprehensive examination of the treatment of suspected terrorists currently available to the public.

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Created out of the belief that we must cast aside the labels that divide us in order to keep our democracy strong, The Constitution Project brings together policy experts and legal practitioners from across the political spectrum to foster consensus-based solutions to the most difficult constitutional challenges of our time through scholarship, advocacy, policy reform and public education initiatives. Established in 1997, TCP is based in Washington, D.C.

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