

THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT



Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law

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TCP Backs Obama's Veto of Restrictions on Closing Guantanamo Bay

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Virginia Sloan, president of The Constitution Project, a bipartisan legal watchdog group, offered the following comment on President Obama's veto earlier today of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016:

"The Constitution Project applauds President Obama's decision to reject onerous and unwarranted restrictions on the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay by vetoing the defense authorization bill. We will urge the Congress to sustain the veto, and to work toward legislation that finally allows for the responsible closure of the facility, while also retaining the critical provisions preventing a return to torture in future administrations."

The Guantanamo Bay detention facility currently houses 114 detainees, 54 of whom are cleared for immediate transfer by unanimous consent of the heads of every relevant national security agency.

In April 2013, The Constitution Project Task Force on Detainee Treatment -- a [bipartisan, blue](#)

[ribbon panel](#) -- made a number of recommendations aimed at safeguarding against a return to government-sanctioned torture, including closing the Guantanamo Bay detention facility and tightening U.S. laws against torture. Section 1045 of the conference report accomplishes the latter and must remain in any defense authorizing legislation that President Obama ultimately signs into law.

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[About The Constitution Project](#)

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.