

# MAIN STREET LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

*City University of New York School of Law*  
2 Court Square, Long Island City, NY 11101

June 26, 2014

## VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Charles Hagel  
*Secretary of Defense*

Ambassador Susan E. Rice  
*National Security Advisor*

Paul M. Lewis  
*Special Envoy for Guantánamo Closure*  
*Department of Defense*

Lisa O. Monaco  
*Assistant to the President for Homeland*  
*Security and Counterterrorism*

Clifford M. Sloan  
*Special Envoy for Guantánamo Closure*  
*Department of State*

Stephen Pomper  
*Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs and*  
*Human Rights*

Dear Madams / Sirs,

The signatories to this letter represent a number of prisoners held at the U.S. Naval Station at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba who have been approved for transfer for years and are now slated for resettlement in the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, a country that is prepared to welcome them immediately. We write to inquire about the status of that resettlement effort and to offer any assistance we can provide to expedite our clients' transfer.

We represent the Guantánamo prisoners identified in our signature blocks, below, in connection with their habeas corpus cases presently pending in U.S. federal court. In late-2013 and early-2014, we were independently informed by U.S. government representatives that our respective clients had been identified as candidates for resettlement in Uruguay.

As a result, many of us requested urgent calls with our clients to explain that they would be interviewed by a delegation from Uruguay. Our clients welcomed that opportunity and subsequently met with the Uruguayan delegation during its visit to Guantánamo. The Uruguayan government then formally issued our clients invitations to resettle, which they gratefully accepted. In February, some of us were informed that, while it was not possible to ascertain precisely when transfer would occur, it was "a matter of weeks, not months."

You can well imagine the hope these invitations engendered for our clients, and indeed for us. They were informed by the Uruguayan government delegation, as well as by the undersigned as their attorneys, that they had been formally invited to resettle in Uruguay. More importantly, after more than twelve years of internment, they would soon be leaving Guantánamo.



CONTAINS PROTECTED INFORMATION

The principal details of the transfer arrangement were explained to us by U.S. government representatives and, with their consent, we communicated those specifics to our clients. They were to be transferred to Uruguay as a group so they would not feel isolated in their new home. They would receive adequate support and assistance, including proper housing, stipends, Spanish language lessons, professional training, and help finding employment.

In short, at the initiative of the United States and thanks to the combined efforts of the U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay, Julissa Reynoso, those of Special Envoy Clifford Sloan and his team at the State Department, and the good will of the government of Uruguay and its people, these long-imprisoned men were given the promise of a new life. And, from our extensive exchanges with them, we know that our clients want nothing more than the chance to settle down and lead peaceful lives in Uruguay.

Yet, as you are aware, the long-awaited transfers to Uruguay have not taken place. In fact, to our knowledge, the Secretary of Defense has not provided Congress with the 30-day transfer notification required by statute.

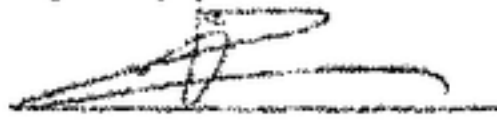
This is despite the fact that our clients have all been approved for transfer by the U.S. government's interagency Guantánamo Review Task Force, which included the Defense Department—indeed, some had been cleared by the U.S. military's Administrative Review Board under the Bush Administration. It is also despite the reality that all of the other pieces have been in place for many months now: Uruguayan President José Mujica and other relevant officials in his government signed off earlier this year on the resettlement of our clients in their country; the White House and the State Department also long ago approved the transfer; and our clients have all consented.

It would be unfortunate in the extreme, to say the least, if the reaction from Congress to the recent exchange of five Guantánamo prisoners for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl has chilled the Defense Department's willingness to proceed with the resettlement of our clients in Uruguay. These men should not be used as scapegoats in the current bout of U.S. partisan politics. There is no real reason for their continued imprisonment at Guantánamo and Uruguay has nobly stepped forward to welcome our clients in a bid to aid President Obama's effort to shutter the prison at Guantánamo. The moment is ripe for this step to be taken towards the realization of that oft-repeated promise.

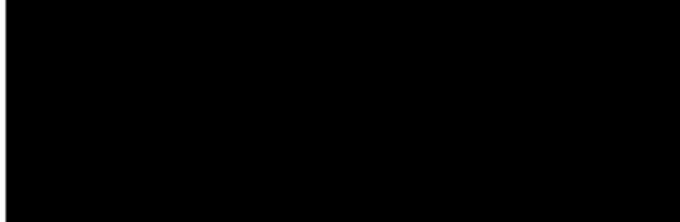
Time is not on our side. Congress is considering further restrictions on the President's ability to transfer prisoners out of Guantánamo. Also, upcoming elections and government turnover in Uruguay this Fall make expedition all the more critical.

In light of our common interest with the U.S. government, we write to offer any assistance we might be able to provide and to ask if there is any reasonable explanation for the prolonged delay to implement the transfer that was agreed upon months ago between the United States and Uruguay. We respectfully urge President Obama to take urgent action and the Secretary of Defense to notify Congress formally so that our clients can finally begin the long process of rebuilding their lives.

Very truly yours,

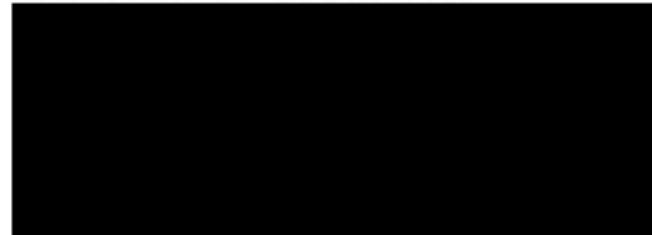


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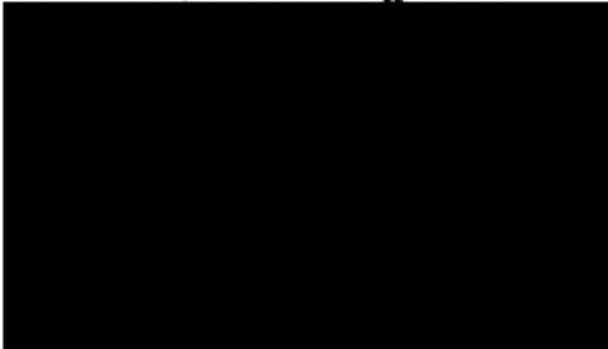
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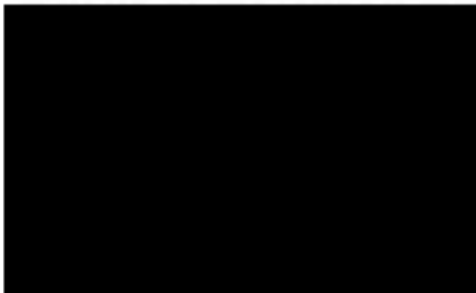
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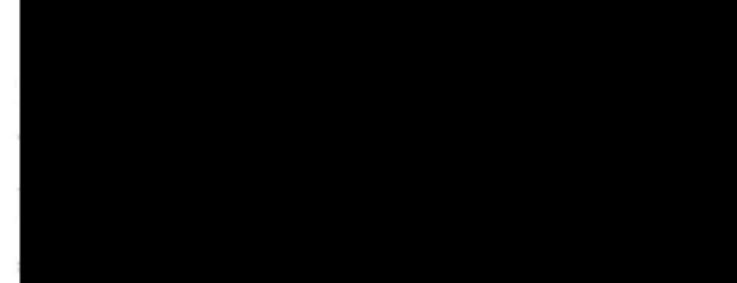
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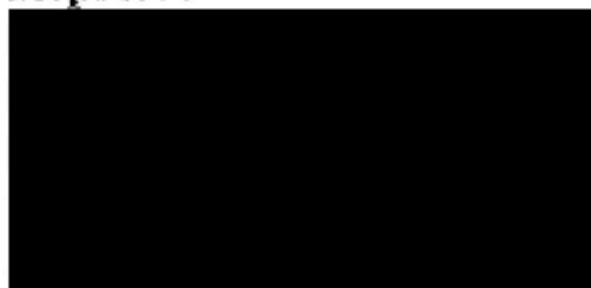
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