



September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows
A project of the Tides Center, a 501c3 non-profit public charity
P.O. Box 1818 Peter Stuyvesant Station New York, NY 10009 Ph: (212) 598-0970
www.peacefultomorrows.org
"Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows" - Dr. Martin Luther King

March 8, 2010

The Honorable Eric E. Holder
Attorney General of the United States of America
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows requests a meeting with you regarding recent news reports that the White House may be compromising with Senator Lindsay Graham regarding the civilian trial of Khalid Sheik Mohammed. If there is validity to this report, we need you to know that we consider this to be a very troublesome bargain.

We believe the closure of Guantanamo Bay must not be solely symbolic in nature. We must close it and hold all trials in open, civilian courts where justice is transparent. We continue to support your initial conviction that holding these trials on American soil is the right thing to do. We would like to meet with you to reinforce our convictions and our willingness to support this effort. As 9/11 families, we have suffered greatly as a result of the criminal actions that resulted in the death of our loved ones. We believe our voice is important. We would like to use it to aid the Justice Department in our collective goal of seeing Guantanamo Bay closed and suspected terrorists tried in civilian courts.

We understand there is much political pressure on you as well as on the White House to back down. We ask that you do not betray our trust as we have waited almost nine years to see justice done. We ask that you do not allow fear and prejudice to govern your decision. We ask that you honor the rule of law—and continue to support it as we have supported you.

Thank you for considering this request.

Donna Marsh O'Connor

Adele Welty

KF: DMO & AW