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Reprive and Agent Provocateur Join Forces in the Case of the Contraband underpants

~ Vivienne Westwood to feature Guantánamo-orange underpants in London Fashion show tonight~

Tuesday 14th February: Legal Action charity *Reprive* and *Agent Provocateur* are today unveiling a new line of Guantánamo-orange underpants emblazoned with the slogan: *Fair Trial My Arse*.

Reprive is a UK charity that uses the law to enforce the human rights of prisoners held in the “war on terror.”

The *Fair Trial My Arse* initiative follows bizarre and unfounded accusations by the US military authorities that the *Reprive* legal team smuggled contraband underpants into a prisoner in Guantánamo Bay.

It is hoped that the limited-edition handcuff-accessorized Agent Provocateur bikini-briefs will highlight the inhumane and illegal treatment of prisoners held without trial in Guantánamo Bay and in countless other secret prisons round the world. Two British residents remain in Guantánamo in desperate need of UK government intervention.

Reprive Director Clive Stafford Smith will present the first pair pants to Gordon Brown this morning – as a special Valentine’s Day gift. He will also deliver a letter to the Prime Minister asking him to intervene in the plight of British residents in Guantánamo Bay.

Vivienne Westwood will feature the specially designed *Fair Trial My Arse* pants in her show at London fashion week tonight.

Speaking about the case of the contraband pants, **Clive Stafford Smith, Legal Director of *Reprive***, said:

“The US military authorities in Guantánamo Bay sent *Reprive* a threatening letter accusing us of smuggling underwear into a prisoner, the British resident Shaker Aamer, who had been “recently discovered to be wearing *Under Armour* briefs and a *Speedo* bathing suit” in his Camp Echo cell.

“Initially, we wondered whether it was April Fools Day. A little internet investigation revealed a special line called *Tactical Under Armour*, popular with

the US military. It became obvious that a compassionate officer had given Shaker the offending unmentionables.

“Yet the military should perhaps show more concern for human rights for Shaker, who was held in isolation for almost two years, and less for his underwear. Out of this absurd controversy arises the latest line from *Agent Provocateur* – bikini briefs in gorgeous Guantánamo Orange, emblazoned with the slogan ‘Fair Trial My Arse’.

“The *Fair Trial My Arse* initiative calls on Gordon Brown to take decisive action to seek the return of the remaining British residents and the closure of Guantánamo Bay and other secret prisons worldwide, where people are being held out of reach of the law or being subjected to show trials and sham justice.”

The *Fair Trial My Arse* pants will appear in *Agent Provocateur* stores across the UK and US from 16th February. Throughout the UK, stores will have a window display with mannequins dressed in the pants surrounded by prison wire and *Fair Trial My Arse* will be written on the windows in bright orange.

Speaking ahead of the launch, **Joe Corré of *Agent Provocateur* said:**

“Holding people without trial or charge for years on end is a complete violation of basic human rights at the deepest level. The grotesque injustice of Guantánamo and other secret prisons under the guise of the so-called “war on terror” cannot be ignored. By launching *Fair Trial My Arse* pants in our stores I hope *Agent Provocateur* can play a part in bringing this important issue to wider public attention.”

Ends

For further information or interviews please contact the Reprive Press office on 0207 131 3609 or 07796 130 854

Notes to Editors:

All proceeds will support Reprive’s work providing frontline investigation and legal representation to prisoners denied fair trials.

To show support for the FAIR TRIAL MY ARSE initiative, people can go to www.reprive.org.uk and follow the links to sign up, make a donation, and learn how to spread the word.

UK legal action charity Reprive uses the law to enforce the human rights of prisoners, from death row to Guantánamo Bay.

Reprive investigates, litigates and educates, working on the frontline providing legal support to prisoners unable to pay for it themselves. Reprive promotes the rule of law around the world, and secures each person’s right to a fair trial.

Guantánamo Facts:

Number of current prisoners: 277

Number of British residents currently held prisoner: 3 (Shaker Aamer, Ahmed Belbacha, Binyam Mohamed)

Number of prisoners cleared for release by the US Military but still in prison: at least 80.

Number of British residents approved for release by the US Military but still in prison: 1 (Ahmed Belbacha)

Number of trials held in Guantánamo Bay: 0

Number of prisoners charged before a military commission, a process which allows use of secret evidence and evidence gained from torture: 12

Number of prisoners in Guantánamo currently facing a possible death sentence: 6

Number of prisoners currently held in isolation: Approximately 240

Number of prisoners who have never seen a lawyer: Approximately 130

Percent of people in Guantánamo not alleged by United States to be Al Qaeda fighters: 92%

Number of prisoners currently being force fed in Guantánamo: 8, all of whom have been on hunger strike for over one year

Number of prisoners who have died in Guantánamo Bay: 5

BRITISH CASE FACTS**Binyam Mohamed
Outsourced torture**

Binyam was born in Ethiopia and lived in Britain for seven years, and was given leave to remain while his asylum case was resolved. Binyam was arrested in Pakistan on a visa violation and turned over to the US authorities. He was rendered to Morocco on a CIA plane. He was held there for 18 months. To ensure his confession, his Moroccan captors tortured him, stripping him naked and cutting him with a scalpel on his chest and penis. Next he was taken to the Dark Prison in Kabul, then to Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan, and finally on to Guantánamo Bay.

**Shaker Aamer
Held in isolation**

Shaker Amer is a long-term British resident who was abducted in Pakistan and sold to US forces for \$5,000. He had already applied for British nationality at the time of his abduction.

Shaker and his British wife Zennira have four British children, the youngest of whom Shaker has never seen. When he arrived in Guantánamo Bay, Shaker became a respected spokesman for the prisoners. During the prison-wide hunger strike in 2005, he became a leader on the prisoners' council and successfully negotiated a settlement with the military before any of the prisoners died. Unfortunately, the authorities reneged on the agreement, and when the hunger strike began again, Shaker was locked up in solitary confinement. The isolation has taken a severe toll on his mental health and placed incredible strain on his family.