

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20050

Cc: Secretary Ashton B. Carter, Secretary Loretta E. Lynch, Secretary John F. Kerry,
Director James R. Clapper, Secretary Jeh C. Johnson, General Martin E. Dempsey,
Deputy Assistant Secretary Roberta Jacobson,

June 26, 2015

Dear Mr. President,

Our organizations have worked together in recent months on the difficult issue of the resettlement of cleared Guantanamo Bay detainees. [Reprieve](#) has represented nearly 80 detainees at Guantanamo since 2004, and currently has clients imprisoned there. The [Washington Office on Latin America \(WOLA\)](#) is working closely with partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to facilitate solutions to the Guantanamo resettlement issue. [Conectas Human Rights](#) is a major Brazilian human rights organization that has publicly called for the potential resettlement of Guantanamo detainees in Brazil, and has facilitated public and official discussion in Brazil on the issue.

We are writing to you in anticipation of President Dilma Rousseff's visit to Washington on June 30. Guantanamo Bay is an ongoing humanitarian crisis. The Brazilian people and policymakers [understand this](#). Our collective work in Brazil leads us to conclude that Brazil can be a good place to successfully resettle long-term Guantánamo detainees, and that there would be substantial support for Brazil's taking leadership on this issue in an effort to alleviate the situation. President Rousseff's visit presents the best possible opportunity for you to officially request the Government of Brazil to accept Guantánamo detainees for resettlement. Furthermore, we believe that if President Rousseff were to accept this request, other countries in this hemisphere would follow suit, allowing for significant progress to be made in finding homes for those who are cleared.

As you said in your State of the Union address, "It's time to finish the job," and close Guantanamo. Current political realities make this an uphill battle, and it may become more difficult before the end of your term. The United States must therefore seize every possible opportunity to resettle detainees who have been long cleared for release from Guantanamo, [unanimously, by six U.S. government agencies including the Departments of Defense and State](#). Therefore, we respectfully request that you make a personal appeal to President Rousseff for the assistance of Brazil in closing Guantanamo.



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WOLA
Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas

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