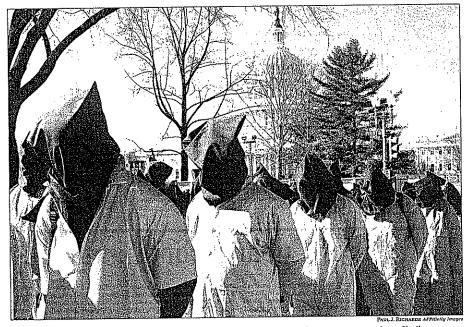
Los Angeles Times

riday, January 12, 2007



MARKING TIME: Protesters stand in front of the Supreme Court to protest the Guantanamo prison. Similar demonstrations took place at U.S. embassies in Greece, Denmark, Britain, Hungary, Germany, Turkey and Italy. Newly elected U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also said he believed the camp prison should be closed.

iuantanamo stirs protests

In Cuba, Europe and the U.S., activists decry detentions at the camp, where terror suspects first arrived 5 years ago.

By Carol J. Williams Times Staff Writer

MIAMI — Protesters from Ku-walt to the Cuban countryside to the Miami military headquarters that commands Guantanamo Bay denounced Thursday the Pentagon's indefinite detention of terrorism suspects at the off shore prison, which opened five

years ago.

Hooded protesters in orange jumpsuits demonstrated outside Jumpsuits demonstrated outside U.S. embassies throughout Eu-rope, and rights activists marked the date with demands for the release or trial of the remaining 395 men at the prison in

395 men at the prison in southern Cuba.

Activist Cindy Sheehan ied a dozen protesters on a march from the city of Guantanamo to the locked back gates of the naval base, where they chanted for an end to the detention of so-called enemy combatants. called enemy combatants.

"Clitmo prison is a source of shame; no more torture in our name!" shouted Sheehan and the others allowed into Cuba for

a rarely permitted visit to the re-mote base.

Among those who made their way to the little-used northeast

way to the little-used northeast gate was Taher Deghayes, who held a photograph of his detaines-brother, Omar Deghayes. Deghayes' mother, Zohra Zewawi, accompanied Sheehan's group to Cuba and told news agencies that her son had been tortured and blinded in one eye since being imprisoned in September 2002. Also with the protesters was

Also with the protesters was



HAD ENOUGH: A New York City protester at a Guantanamo demonstration shows her opposition to President Bush's call for sending more troops to Iraq.

25-year-old British citizen Asif Iqbal, whose three years in U.S. custody and subsequent release without charges was the subject of the 2006 documentary film "The Road to Guantanamo."

Base authorities said they had no contact with protesters. "Today is a typical workday here at GTMO, We have no purview or interaction with protesters. Wherever they are protesting in Cuba, it's not near us," said Army Coi. Lora Tucker, spokes-woman for the Joint Task Force operating the prisons. In Washington, more than 100

in washington, inter-than no protesters were arrested after they entered a federal court-house wearing T-shirts with slo-gans such as "Stop Torture" and "Shut Down Guantanamo." Their permit authorized an out-

door protest.

Dozens of demonstrators dressed like Guantanamo prisoners also turned out at U.S. embassies in Greece, Denmark, Britain, Hungary, Germany, Turkey and Italy. The American Civil Liberties

Union, Amnesty International and the Center for Constitutional Rights all appealed for restoration of the prisoners' right to habeas corpus — the ability to challenge their detention in U.S. courts that was stripped from them by the Military Commissions Act passed by Congress in September.

September.
"The idea that you can indefinitely detain people, give them no access to their families or ini-tially lawyers, never charge them and torture them in an offshore and torture them in an offshore penal colony, should be absolute anathema to any civilized country in the world," said Michael Ratner of the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights.

Amnesty International USA Executive Director Larry Cox condemned Guantanamo as "a combol account the world for this

symbol around the world for husymbol around the wort for no-man rights abuse and for wrong-headed policies enacted in the name of the war on terror." Pentagon officials have said only 60 to 80 Guantanamo pris-

oners are likely to be tried in the military tribunals being set up at

Khalid ai-Odah, whose 29-year-old son Fawzi has been a

year-old son Fawzi has been a prisoner at Guantanamo since Feb. 18, 2062, said: "The American administration should just put our boys in an Independent court, try them if they have any charges, otherwise set them free. This is the simple demand from me as a father."

A retired Kuwaiti air force pilot, the elder al-Odah said in a telephone interview from his homeland that his son had been doing relief work in Pakistan near the Afghanistan border when Pakistani bounty hunters captured him and handed him over to U.S. troops in Kandahaz for reward money offered for suspected Tailiban or Al Qaeda figures.

David Cynamon, a Washing-David Cynamon, a Washing-ton attorney representing al-Odah and three other Kuwaiti prisoners at Guantanamo, be-lieves mounting international condemnation has U.S. author-tics scrambling to reduce the detainee population.

About 100 Guantanamo pris-oners were sont home last year

oners were sent home last year, and at least 80 still in custody have been cleared by annual re-views for release or transfer.

views for release or transfer.

In the five years since the first
20 men were escorted off a mili-tary cargo plane, Guantanamo
has become a source of foreign
policy discord for Washington.

Movel of the UNIX Computer.

Newly elected ITN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday added his voice to appeals for an end to what critics consider flagrant human rights

sider flagrant numan rigina-abuses.
"I understand that today is the fifth anniversary of Guanta-namo's prison," Ban said at a news conference in New York. "Like my predecessor, I believe that prison at Guantanamo should be closed."

carol.williams@datimes.com