

16th session of Human Rights Council
Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
Oral Statement under Item 6
Universal Periodic Review of the United States

Mr. President,

ODVV reiterates its concern regarding the way that United States acts and behaves in case of Guantanamo and all its torture allegations. Although the US has reiterated its commitment to closing Guantanamo and to preventing all acts of torture by US officials, regrettably the US has resumed the military commissions for detainees at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo, ending a two-year ban. It has also rejected recommendations that the U.S. government ensure that victims of torture have access to compensation as is required by Article 14 of the Convention against Torture.

Mr. President, we strongly believe that it's a matter of high concern that the function of military tribunals is contrary to the international norms and standards specially article 20 of third Geneva Convention and also common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions. Also we emphasize that the US has failed to articulate what actions the administration plans to take to lay the political and legal groundwork for ensuring that Guantanamo is closed.

Mr. President,

In response to recommendation about refraining from any acts of torture by any officials and interrogators, the U.S. has declared law prohibits torture in all prisons and detention facilities under its control, and has specified that existing Federal criminal laws comply with this country's obligations under the Convention against Torture. But our fear is that self interpretation regarding the meaning and scope of the word "torture", as it has been done repeatedly before, specially when the US wants to attack a country or justifies its illegal use of force against people, deteriorates the whole situation. We ask the United States, to put aside its "Exceptionalism" and comply truly and really with its obligations under at least the few International conventions and treaties which has ratified yet.

Thank You