

Press Release

Parliamentary Assembly Communication Unit

Ref: 391a06

Tel: +33 3 88 41 31 93

Fax :+33 3 90 21 41 34

pace.com@coe.int

internet: www.coe.int/press



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PACE President welcomes US Supreme Court judgment on 'military tribunals'

Strasbourg, 29.06.2006 – René van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), speaking during the Assembly's plenary session in Strasbourg, made the following statement:

"I welcome today's decision of the US Supreme Court that the 'military tribunals' set up by the Bush Administration to try Guantanamo detainees are illegal. I am pleased that the Court has come to exactly the same conclusion as our Assembly, which pointed this out nearly three years ago.

Anyone detained in Guantanamo, or anywhere else, who is alleged to have committed a crime should be tried without delay – but it must be a fair trial, with all the rights and safeguards of international law, long enshrined in the US justice system of which Americans are rightly proud. Anything less is unjust and undermines the fight against terrorism.

Along with the Assembly's report on alleged secret detentions, debated this week in Strasbourg, the Supreme Court's decision adds to the weight of criticism of anti-terror policies that fail to respect basic human rights."

The United States holds observer status with the 46-nation Council of Europe.

[Link to Assembly Resolution 1340 \(2003\)](#)

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 315 members from the national parliaments of the 46 member states.

President: René van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP/CD); Secretary General of the Assembly: Mateo Sorinas.

Political Groups: SOC (Socialist Group); EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); EDG (European Democratic Group); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).