

Press Release

Parliamentary Assembly Communication Unit

Ref: 384a07

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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Guantánamo legal chaos proves that respect for the rule of law is essential to the fight against terrorism, says PACE President

Strasbourg, 05.06.2007 - "After more than five years, the US authorities are still failing to provide any semblance of justice for the alleged terrorists detained at Guantánamo Bay," said PACE President René van der Linden today, following the US military court's ruling that it lacked jurisdiction over the detainees.

"The Military Commissions Act has been shown to be just as unworkable as the system it replaced," continued President van der Linden. "By seeking to exclude legal safeguards provided by the US Constitution and international law, the US government is both flaunting justice and undermining the fight against terrorism."

"I therefore applaud the courageous and principled stand taken by the military judges and defence lawyers, which shows that respect for the rule of law and devotion to the Constitution still exist in the United States."

"This new failure should give the US authorities pause for thought on their so-called "war on terror." Guantánamo must be closed immediately and the detainees either released or brought for trial before a properly constituted court without delay. I also look forward to Mr Marty's second report on secret detentions and extraordinary renditions, which our Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights is due to adopt this Friday."

[Report on lawfulness of detentions by the United States in Guantánamo Bay](#)
[First report by Dick Marty on alleged secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers](#)
[Report on the USA and international law](#)

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 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).