

On First Anniversary of Gitmo Prisoner Resettlement: Lawyers Call for US State Department Action

News

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One year after pro bono client Majid Khan was released from the Guantánamo Bay detention center, Jenner & Block and The Center for Constitutional Rights continue to advocate both for Majid and for the prison's closure.

Upon his release after two decades in US custody, including 16 years at Guantánamo, Majid successfully resettled in Belize. He has a home and family there. But the US State Department has failed to respond to repeated requests to help Majid get a bank account.

In a statement on the one-year anniversary of Majid's release, Co-Managing Partner Katya Jestin said: "We're very proud of Majid and how well he has transitioned to life after Guantánamo, but to truly build a strong future with his family he needs and wants to earn a living. Majid was tortured by the CIA, spent 16 years in Guantánamo, cooperated fully with the government, and honored his obligations. Now, it is time for the State Department to help clear the way for Majid to establish a bank account so that he can earn a paycheck like any other law-abiding person."

Meanwhile, 30 men remain at the 9/11-era detention center, including 16 who have been unanimously approved for transfer by all relevant military, intelligence, and law enforcement agencies because they do not present a threat to the United States or its allies. Some have been cleared to leave for more than a decade.

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