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BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN ADAMS, USA (RET.)
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BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN H. JOHNS, USA (RET.)
BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD O'MEARA, USA (RET.)
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GENERAL CHARLES C. KRULAK, USMC (RET.)
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LIEUTENANT GENERAL ARLEN D. JAMESON, USAF (RET.)
LIEUTENANT GENERAL KEITH J. STALDER, USMC (RET.)
MAJOR GENERAL EUGENE FOX, USA (RET.)
REAR ADMIRAL JOHN D. HUTSON, JAGC, USN (RET.)
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MAJOR GENERAL ANTONIO M. TAGUBA, USA (RET.)
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID M. BRAHMS, USMC (RET.)
BRIGADIER GENERAL EVELYN P. FOOTE, USA (RET.)
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID R. IRVINE, USA (RET.)
BRIGADIER GENERAL KEITH H. KERR, CSMR (RET.)
BRIGADIER GENERAL MURRAY G. SAGSVEEN, USA (RET.)
BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN N. XENAKIS, USA (RET.)

January 21, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Five years ago tomorrow, members of our coalition of retired generals and admirals stood behind you in the Oval Office when you signed three executive orders that helped put our nation's counterterrorism efforts on a stronger footing, consistent with our laws and values. You banned torture, closed the CIA "black sites" where torture occurred, and put Guantanamo on the path to closure.

We appreciate your leadership this past year in recommitting to closing Guantanamo. Congress responded, passing an annual defense bill that provides you with substantial additional flexibility to repatriate or resettle the 77 detainees who have been cleared for transfer by our security agencies. We encourage your administration to transfer all cleared detainees as soon as possible and complete administrative reviews of the remaining eligible detainees by year's end to determine who else might be eligible for transfer. Guantanamo does not serve America's interests. As long as it remains open, Guantanamo will undermine America's security and status as a nation where human rights and the rule of law matter.

While you have made progress on Guantanamo this past year, we are concerned about the enduring and false debate over torture by the CIA. Former CIA officials who authorized torture continue to defend it in books and film, and public opinion is with them, based on mythology, not fact. The American people deserve access to the voluminous, 6000-plus page study that details the post-9/11 CIA rendition, detention, and interrogation program, adopted by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. We call on you to direct your administration, including the CIA, to fully cooperate with the committee to declassify with minimal redaction and publicly release the study. We believe that upon reviewing the facts the American people will agree that torture was not worth it, and that we as a nation should never return to the dark side.

We thank you for your steadfast commitment to these issues at the heart of our national security and values, and stand ready to assist in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

General Joseph P. Hoar, USMC (Ret.)
General Charles C. Krulak, USMC (Ret.)
General David M. Maddox, USA (Ret.)
General Merrill A. McPeak, USAF (Ret.)
General William G. T. Tuttle, Jr., USA (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard, Jr., USA (Ret.)
Vice Admiral Lee F. Gunn, USN (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Arlen D. Jameson, USAF (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Charles Otstott, USA (Ret.)
Lieutenant General Keith J. Stalder, USMC (Ret.)
Major General Paul D. Eaton, USA (Ret.)
Major General Eugene Fox, USA (Ret.)
Rear Admiral Donald Guter, JAGC, USN (Ret.)
Rear Admiral John D. Hutson, JAGC, USN (Ret.)
Major General Michael R. Lehnert, USMC (Ret.)
Major General Melvyn S. Montano, USAF (Ret.)
Major General William L. Nash, USA (Ret.)
Major General Thomas J. Romig, USA (Ret.)
Major General Walter L. Stewart, Jr., USA (Ret.)
Major General Antonio M. Taguba, USA (Ret.)
Brigadier General John Adams, USA (Ret.)
Brigadier General David M. Brahms, USMC (Ret.)
Brigadier General Stephen A. Cheney, USMC (Ret.)
Brigadier General Evelyn P. Foote, USA (Ret.)
Brigadier General Dennis P. Geoghan, USA (Ret.)
Brigadier General David R. Irvine, USA (Ret.)
Brigadier General John H. Johns, USA (Ret.)
Brigadier General Keith H. Kerr, CSMR (Ret.)
Brigadier General Richard O'Meara, USA (Ret.)
Brigadier General Murray G. Sagsveen, USA (Ret.)
Brigadier General Anthony Verrengia, USAF (Ret.)
Brigadier General Stephen N. Xenakis, USA (Ret.)