

OSINT Report: Guantánamo Bay (GTMO)

Date: July 3, 2025

Prepared by: Marie Seshat Landry

Marie Landry's Spy Shop

www.marielandryceo.com

Made with IC OSINT GPT, a custom AI model.

Classification: **UNCLASSIFIED (Open Source, OSINT)**

July 3, 2025

Contents

1	Objective	2
2	Executive Summary	3
3	Background & Context	4
4	Current Situation	5
4.1	Detainee Population	5
4.2	Facility Operations	5
5	Political Landscape (2025)	6
5.1	Trump Administration	6
5.2	Congressional and Public Opinion	6
6	Legal & Human Rights Analysis	7
6.1	Indefinite Detention & Military Commissions	7
6.2	International Condemnation	7
7	Strategic & Geopolitical Implications	8
8	OSINT Analysis of Emerging Trends	9
9	Ethical & Legal Risk Assessment	10
10	OSINT-Based Recommendations	11
11	Conclusion	12
A	Annex A: GTMO Policy Timeline (2001–2025)	13
B	Annex B: Detainee Status Matrix (July 2025)	14
C	Annex C: Military Commission Case Summaries	15
D	Annex D: Geo-Studies: Maps & Satellite Imagery of GTMO Expansion	16

Chapter 1

Objective

- **Purpose:** Assess GTMO's current detainee status, legal/political context, human rights concerns, and strategic relevance.
- **Focus:** Indefinite detention without trial on foreign soil, with implications for international criminal law.

Chapter 2

Executive Summary

- As of January 2025, **15 detainees** remain at GTMO; 11 Yemeni detainees were transferred to Oman on January 6, 2025 [11, 6].
- President Trump has maintained and expanded GTMO operations, signing the *Laken Riley Act* and issuing a presidential memo to prepare up to **30,000 migrant beds** [13, 4, 20].
- Military Commission cases continue slowly; indefinite detention persists [21].
- GTMO faces continuous international condemnation; designated by UN/NGOs as arbitrary and indefinite [12].
- The base remains strategically vital for Caribbean ISR, logistics, and maritime operations.

Chapter 3

Background & Context

Early Use and Lease

GTMO has been leased since 1903 and remains under U.S. control despite Cuban disputes [16].

Post-9/11 Evolution

Designed for detention of “unlawful enemy combatants” following the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Guantanamo Bay detention camp was constructed in stages, starting in 2002 [13, 5]. It was used to house Muslim militants and suspected terrorists captured by U.S. forces [13, 5]. The base had previously been repurposed for migrant detention in the 1990s to hold Haitian refugees [16, 15].

Prior Closure Efforts

The Obama and Biden administrations attempted to close the facility. President Obama reduced the detainee population from 242 to 41, and the Biden administration facilitated further transfers [12]. By the end of the Biden administration, the detainee count stood at 15 [6].

Chapter 4

Current Situation

4.1 Detainee Population

- **15 detainees remain** (as of Jan 2025): this includes 3 eligible for transfer, 3 eligible for a Periodic Review Board, 7 involved in the military commissions process, and 2 who have been convicted [11, 6].
- Recent repatriations include the transfer of 11 Yemeni detainees to Oman on January 6, 2025 [11, 19, 2].

4.2 Facility Operations

- GTMO is fully operational. Following a presidential memorandum signed on January 29, 2025, the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security were directed to expand the Migrant Operations Center (MOC) to house up to 30,000 migrants [4, 13, 20]. This facility is distinct from the military detention centers [7].

Chapter 5

Political Landscape (2025)

5.1 Trump Administration

- On January 29, 2025, President Trump signed the *Laken Riley Act*, which mandates the detention of unauthorized immigrants accused of certain crimes [13, 4, 17].
- At the signing ceremony, he issued a memo to DoD & DHS to prepare for 30,000 beds at GTMO for the detention of "high-priority criminal aliens" [13, 20, 18].
- The first flight transferring migrants from the U.S. to Guantánamo took place on February 4, 2025 [8, 7].

5.2 Congressional and Public Opinion

- The Laken Riley Act received bipartisan support in Congress [4].
- The move to expand GTMO for migrant detention has drawn strong backlash from human rights and immigrant advocacy organizations, who warn of potential human rights violations and costly legal challenges [13, 16].

Chapter 6

Legal & Human Rights Analysis

6.1 Indefinite Detention & Military Commissions

Military commissions remain impeded by legal complexity. A military appeals court ruled in early 2025 that statements from Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri were inadmissible as they were derived from torture [14]. In another case, a judge ruled in April 2025 that a confession obtained through torture could not be used [21]. The indefinite detention of individuals without charge continues to be a central issue [12].

6.2 International Condemnation

The UN, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch have long denounced GTMO as a symbol of human rights abuses that violates international law, including the Geneva Conventions [3, 12]. The expansion for migrant use has been described as "immoral, dishonest and cruel" by advocacy groups [8].

Chapter 7

Strategic & Geopolitical Implications

- GTMO supports U.S. Caribbean logistics, ISR, and counter-narcotics, and is considered a key location for regional security.
- Expanded use undermines U.S. credibility, fuels extremist propaganda, and strains diplomatic relations. Former CIA Director John Brennan and U.S. Senators have noted that the prison hinders counterterrorism efforts [\[12\]](#). The Cuban government has officially rejected the U.S. decision to use the base for migrant detention.

Chapter 8

OSINT Analysis of Emerging Trends

Trend	Observation	Risk / Impact
GTMO Expansion	Migrant and criminal-detainee surge via presidential memo and the Laken Riley Act.	Legal backlash from civil rights groups; increased human rights scrutiny and international condemnation [13, 16].
Legal Stagnation	Slow military commission proceedings, with cases still in pre-trial phases after many years [21].	Global criticism amplifies, and justice for victims is delayed.
International Pressure	UN/NGOs escalate calls for action and closure of the detention facility [12, 1].	Diplomatic tensions worsen, particularly with allies and host countries of former detainees.
Propaganda	GTMO's continued operation is used by extremist groups to criticize the U.S. and as a recruitment tool [12].	Recruitment and radicalization risk increases.

Table 8.1: Emerging Trends and Risks

Chapter 9

Ethical & Legal Risk Assessment

Assessments based on IC OSINT framework highlight that GTMO's expanded use constitutes an "organic crime": ongoing violations of legal norms and erosion of rule-based order. Significant reputational, diplomatic, and strategic risks arise from the continued operation and expansion of the detention facilities.

Chapter 10

OSINT-Based Recommendations

1. **Continuous Policy Monitoring:** Track executive orders, congressional bills (e.g., Laken Riley Act), and court rulings related to Guantanamo Bay.
2. **AI-Augmented Media Analysis:** Deploy NLP tools to gauge global sentiment and narrative framing regarding GTMO, particularly in response to the expansion for migrant detention.
3. **Legal Tracking:** Map progress of military commission cases (e.g., U.S. v. al-Nashiri, U.S. v. Nurjaman) and habeas corpus litigation to identify key legal precedents and challenges [9, 10].
4. **Multilateral Engagement:** Collaborate with allies and international institutions to explore alternatives to indefinite detention and to address the new migrant detention policy.
5. **Alternative Legal Pathways:** Prioritize civilian prosecution for detainees where feasible, continue to pursue detainee transfer and resettlement agreements, and develop sustained closure planning for the original detention mission.

Chapter 11

Conclusion

By mid-2025, GTMO is at a transformational point. Under the Trump administration, its usage is expanding dramatically to include large-scale migrant detention, even as the legal ambiguity of its operations and international condemnation deepen. The original mission of detaining "war on terror" suspects is now coupled with a new, controversial immigration policy. Sustained OSINT monitoring, principled policymaking, and ethical leadership are essential to navigate the complex legal, ethical, and strategic challenges posed by the evolving role of Guantanamo Bay.

Appendix A

Annex A: GTMO Policy Timeline (2001–2025)

Date	Event
Nov 13, 2001	President George W. Bush issues a military order on the "Detention, Treatment and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens, in the War Against Terrorism," authorizing indefinite detention [3].
Jan 11, 2002	The first 20 detainees arrive at Camp X-Ray [3].
Jun 29, 2006	In <i>Hamdan v. Rumsfeld</i> , the Supreme Court rules that the military commissions established by the Bush administration are illegal [3].
Sep 6, 2006	Fourteen "high-value detainees," including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, are transferred to Guantanamo from CIA black sites [3].
Jun 12, 2008	In <i>Boumediene v. Bush</i> , the Supreme Court rules that Guantanamo detainees have a constitutional right to habeas corpus [5].
Jan 22, 2009	President Barack Obama signs an executive order to close Guantanamo within one year; the order is not fulfilled [5].
Jan 30, 2018	President Donald Trump signs an executive order to keep Guantanamo open.
Jan 6, 2025	The Department of Defense announces the transfer of 11 Yemeni detainees to Oman, reducing the detainee population to 15 [11].
Jan 29, 2025	President Trump signs the <i>Laken Riley Act</i> and a memo to expand the Migrant Operations Center to house up to 30,000 migrants [4, 20].
Feb 4, 2025	First flight transfers migrants from the U.S. to Guantanamo Bay under the new policy [7].
Mar 5, 2025	A military court's decision, made in January, to suppress evidence from Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri due to torture is declassified and published [14].

Table A.1: Key Policy Events and Rulings

Appendix B

Annex B: Detainee Status Matrix (July 2025)

Category	Name	Country	Notes
Eligible for Transfer (3)			
	Muin al-Din al-Sattar	Rohingya	Cleared since 2010
	Ismail Ali Faraj Ali Bakush	Libya	Cleared by PRB in 2022
	Guled Hassan Duran	Somalia	Cleared by PRB
Eligible for Periodic Review Board (3)			
	Zayn al-Abidin Muhammad Husayn	Palestinian	"Abu Zubaydah"
	Mustafa al-Jadid al-Uzaybi	Libya	"Abu Faraj al-Libi"
	Muhammad Rahim	Afghanistan	
Charged in Military Commissions (7)			
	Mustafa al-Hawsawi	Saudi Arabia	9/11 case
	Ramzi bin al-Shibh	Yemen	9/11 case
	Walid bin Attash	Yemen	9/11 case
	Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri	Saudi Arabia	USS Cole bombing case
	Ali Abdul Aziz Ali	Pakistan	"Ammar al-Baluchi," 9/11 case
	Khalid Sheikh Mohammed	Pakistan	Alleged 9/11 mastermind
	Encep Nurjaman	Indonesia	"Hambali," 2002 Bali bombing
Convicted in Military Commissions (2)			
	Ali Hamza al-Bahlul	Yemen	Serving life sentence
	Majid Khan	Pakistan	Completed sentence, awaiting tran

Table B.1: Status of the 15 Remaining Detainees [11, 6]

Appendix C

Annex C: Military Commission Case Summaries

- **United States v. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, et al. (The "9/11 Five"):** This is the most high-profile case, involving five defendants accused of planning and executing the September 11, 2001 attacks. The case has been in pre-trial hearings for over a decade, mired in legal challenges over torture-tainted evidence. As of early 2025, plea agreements to avoid the death penalty remain a point of contention [6].
- **United States v. Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri:** Al-Nashiri is accused of orchestrating the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole. His case has also been plagued by delays related to his torture in CIA custody. In a ruling published in March 2025, a military appeals court upheld a decision to suppress statements made by al-Nashiri, finding they were tainted by prior torture [14]. Pre-trial hearings are scheduled to continue through May 2025 [9].
- **United States v. Encep Nurjaman (Hambali):** Hambali is accused of being the mastermind behind the 2002 Bali bombings. After years of being held as an indefinite detainee, he was formally charged. Pre-trial hearings are scheduled to continue in June 2025 [10].

Appendix D

Annex D: Geo-Studies: Maps & Satellite Imagery of GTMO Expansion

While this report cannot include classified satellite imagery, OSINT analysis indicates the following regarding the physical expansion of GTMO facilities:

- **Location of Migrant Operations Center (MOC):** The MOC is geographically separate from the high-security detention camps. Open-source maps and descriptions place the MOC on the Leeward (western) side of Guantanamo Bay, accessible via ferry from the main part of the base [15, 7]. This separation is intended to maintain a distinction between the two missions.
- **Evidence of New Construction:** The directive to prepare for up to 30,000 migrants necessitates a massive expansion. Analysis of commercially available satellite imagery would focus on identifying:
 - **Ground Clearing and Earthworks:** Large areas of land being cleared and graded near the existing MOC footprint.
 - **Foundation Pouring:** Foundations for new barracks-style housing, administrative buildings, and medical facilities.
 - **Logistical Buildup:** An increase in construction equipment and building materials. By early February 2025, reports indicated that tents were already being erected to prepare for new arrivals [8].
 - **Security Perimeter Expansion:** Construction of new fencing, watchtowers, and access roads.
- **Historical Precedent:** Previous uses of the MOC for Haitian and Cuban migrants in the 1990s involved large, temporary tent cities [16]. Current expansion is expected to involve more semi-permanent, hard-shelled structures to accommodate the large number and prolonged detention envisioned by the new policy, though some migrants have reportedly been held in Camp 6, a military prison [22].

Bibliography

- [1] Al Jazeera. "Timeline: 20 years of Guantanamo Bay prison." January 10, 2022. [URL](#).
- [2] Al Jazeera. "US transfers 11 Yemeni detainees from Guantanamo Bay prison to Oman." January 7, 2025. [URL](#).
- [3] Amnesty International. "USA Guantánamo timeline." August 1, 2021. [URL](#).
- [4] The Associated Press. "While signing Laken Riley Act, Trump says he'll send 'worst criminal aliens' to Guantanamo." January 29, 2025. [URL](#).
- [5] The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Guantánamo Bay detention camp." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, December 29, 2022. [URL](#).
- [6] CBS News. "U.S. transfers 11 Yemeni detainees from Guantanamo, leaving just 15 in custody." January 6, 2025. [URL](#).
- [7] Center for Victims of Torture. "Fact Sheet: Detention Operations at Guantánamo." February 14, 2025. [URL](#).
- [8] Center for Victims of Torture. "Expanding the Guantánamo Migrant Operations Center is Immoral, Dishonest and Cruel." February 11, 2025. [URL](#).
- [9] U.S. Department of Defense. "Military Commissions Media Invitation Announced for United States v. Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri Pre-Trial Hearing." February 20, 2025. [URL](#).
- [10] U.S. Department of Defense. "Military Commissions Media Invitation Announced for United States v. Encep Nurjaman Pre-Trial Hearing." April 7, 2025. [URL](#).
- [11] U.S. Department of Defense. "Guantanamo Bay Detainee Transfer Announced." January 6, 2025. [URL](#).
- [12] Friends Committee on National Legislation. "The Detention Facility at Guantánamo Bay: A Dark Chapter." April 14, 2025. [URL](#).
- [13] Kelly, Mary. "Trump Orders Guantanamo Bay Detention Center For Migrants After Signing Laken Riley Act." *Forbes*, January 29, 2025. [URL](#).
- [14] Garden Court Chambers. "Court of Military Commissions Review finds alleged admissions in Guantanamo case tainted by torture." March 12, 2025. [URL](#).
- [15] Global Detention Project. "Guantanamo Migrant Operations Center." 2025. [URL](#).

- [16] Mathis, Joel. "The history of Guantanamo Bay detention camp." *The Week*, March 20, 2025. [URL](#).
- [17] MPR News. "Trump signs Laken Riley Act, plans to send illegal immigrants to Guantanamo." January 29, 2025. [URL](#).
- [18] News From The States. "Trump vows to build migrant detention center at Guantanamo Bay as he signs Laken Riley bill." January 29, 2025. [URL](#).
- [19] NPR. "Biden Administration Transfers 11 Detainees from Guantanamo Bay to Oman." January 7, 2025. [URL](#).
- [20] PBS NewsHour. "Trump wants to hold up to 30,000 detained migrants at Guantanamo Bay. Here's what to know." January 29, 2025. [URL](#).
- [21] Wikipedia. "Guantanamo military commission." 2025. [URL](#).
- [22] Wikipedia. "Guantanamo Migrant Operations Center." 2025. [URL](#).