

Witness Against Torture is in the midst of planning for January 11, 2009, and is working with the Center for Constitutional Rights, Pax Christi USA, School of the Americas Watch, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International, United for Peace and Justice, and the War Resisters League on the 100 Days Campaign to Close Guantanamo & End Torture."



<http://www.100dayscampaign.org/>

Why a 100 Days Campaign?

Ever since Franklin D. Roosevelt became President in 1933, setting a new standard for action and imagination in his first 100 days in office, the American people have watched closely the first 100 days of all new presidents. Numerous pundits have pointed out that - not unlike FDR -- Barack Obama will enter the White House as the nation faces many crises.

Obama is promising *change*. He told *60 Minutes*: "I have said repeatedly that I intend to close Guantanamo, and I will follow through on that. I've said repeatedly that America doesn't torture. And I'm going to make sure that we don't torture."

After seven years of detaining hundreds of men without trial, 100 days more is 100 days too long. We go to Washington with high hopes that President Obama will close Guantanamo on his first day in office. But if he does not, Witness Against Torture will stand vigil for 100 days as a reminder of his promise, and a reminder of those seven years of torture and indefinite detention carried out in our names.

President Obama needs us acting and organizing and pushing; we make it possible for him to do the right thing. And yet, we recognize that Guantanamo is not the only crime - just the most visible. The United States maintains control over more distant gulags, holding tens of thousands of prisoners in Abu Ghraib, Bagram, Diego Garcia and other CIA black sites about which we know little. So, the 100 Days vigil will expand to include those warrens of pain and suffering, too.

As individuals and communities join together from across the country, the 100 Days campaign will also be a fertile time to connect, strategize and share. We are living in strange, rapidly changing times and the tendency to detach and despair is strong. In addition to its political import, the 100 Days campaign is an opportunity to build community and experiment in truth together.

To find out how to support this effort, click on the "100 Days Campaign" icon above or paste the address below the icon into your browser.