

Talking Points for use by US Ambassador Moley with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights de Mello on Detainee Releases

- You may recall that the Department of Defense (DoD) approved the release last fall of a number of enemy combatants held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. Enemy combatants may be released if, among other things, they are assessed not to pose a security concern for the United States or its allies if released in their countries of nationality.
- The DoD anticipates that there will be additional releases of detainees in the future. Secretary Rumsfeld has stated his intention not to hold anyone who does not require detention. To that end, DoD has procedures in place to assess, systematically and periodically, the Guantanamo detainee population and determine, among other things, if continued detention is necessary for each individual.
- It is important to stress that this assessment process is deliberate, thorough, and time consuming. Fundamentally, we must ensure that the release of an enemy combatant does not create a security risk for the United States and its allies.
- Prior to any release, DoD generally notifies the receiving state and the ICRC in order to enable them to make necessary arrangements prior to the detainees' departure from Guantanamo.
- Beyond that, the USG cannot discuss specific transfers or releases before they take place so as to maintain the safety and privacy of those who have been detained and the security of its operations.