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## **Gulf News: Prisoners Dying to be Released.**

Editorial  
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It is apparent the US has no answer on what to do with its Guantanamo inmates

Has the US administration forgotten the prisoners it holds in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba? Or is it that the administration would like the world to forget these people? The captives have been held in isolation from the rest of the world for three and four years now, and still seem no nearer being released. Has the Pentagon, and by extension the White House not decided what to do with the prisoners? It would seem so, for the so-called unlawful combatants a term unrecognised by international law as described by the US Defence Secretary, remain in a state of limbo. Those few that have been released, to friendly countries, were similarly released on their own recognisance once they arrived at their native place. Thus amply demonstrating the false pretences under which the US keeps the alleged criminals in detention.

The numbers who have voluntarily decided to starve themselves to death amply demonstrate the desperation to which the prisoners have reached. It is obvious that such is their plight that they see the only way out as being death, even if brought about by their own actions. It is estimated that well over 500 prisoners are still incarcerated in Guantanamo Bay, but the exact number indeed the names and nationalities even of captives has never been disclosed by the US. Even the International Red Cross, which has been trying to cull the numbers from various sources, cannot be sure of the definitive number but can only make guesses. Human rights bodies like Amnesty International and the Centre for Constitutional Rights are now reporting that approximately half the prisoners have, at one time or another, been on hunger strike, and about one third have been subjected to forced feeding.

If the US cannot conceive of a way out of this problem, here is a suggestion. Release them.