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## **Amnesty Calls on EU to Press for Closure of Guantanamo Bay**

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BRUSSELS - Human rights watchdog Amnesty International on Tuesday called on the European Union to press the US government to close down its detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Amnesty asked the current Austrian Presidency of the 25-nation EU to follow in the steps of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who this week said the camps must be closed.

The German leader is expected to repeat her demands in Washington later this week.

Amnesty said that four years after the first prisoners were transferred to the naval base in Cuba, the US-run detention centre must be shut down.

"Four years are four years too many of a shameful legal black hole which has been tolerated by the EU," Amnesty's Europe director Dick Oosting said in an open letter to the Austrian authorities.

The human rights organisation said it had also obtained new evidence which confirms earlier reports of torture in Guantanamo.

A testimony from one of the camp's first detainees "contains a first-hand account of physical and psychological torture and ill-treatment by US personnel," it said.

"We are hearing of abuses similar to those of Abu Ghraib and yet Guantanamo is not being condemned in the same way," Oosting said.