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## **Democrats Push to Close Guantanamo Jail**

Sydney Morning Herald  
March 14, 2006

The Australian Democrats have launched a petition calling for the US Guantanamo Bay military prison to be closed.

The continuing incarceration of South Australian accused terrorist David Hicks was a disgrace, Democrats foreign affairs spokeswoman Natasha Stott Despoja said.

"David Hicks has languished in the Guantanamo gulag for four years and still has no real prospect of receiving a fair trial," Senator Stott Despoja said.

"Guantanamo Bay is saturated with breaches of international law and the facility must be shut down."

Hicks, formerly of Adelaide, has been locked up at Guantanamo Bay since his capture in Afghanistan in late 2001.

He is charged with conspiracy to commit war crimes, attempted murder and aiding the enemy.

About 490 foreign terrorism suspects, many of them suspected Islamist militants, are being held at the US naval base in Cuba.

Most have been detained for three years or more and only 10 have been charged with a crime.