



## **HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN**

### ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **House Armed Services Committee Members Respond to Democratic Leaders' Comments on Guantanamo**

Washington, D.C. --- Republican members of House Armed Services Committee today released the following statements in response to calls by Democratic leaders to form a select committee to investigate alleged abuses against prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

***Statement of Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC):***

“Over 1.6 million people perished in the brutal Soviet gulags. Pol Pot’s genocide was responsible for at least a million deaths. Hitler starved, gassed and executed millions more in the name of ethnic cleansing. It is an absolute disgrace for a U.S. Senator to associate those maniacal killers with the brave men and women of our armed forces. Senator Durbin’s comments last week were an inexcusable insult to our men and women in uniform who are doing an outstanding job everyday of defending our nation in the War on Terror at Guantanamo and across the world. I certainly hope recent statements by other Democratic leaders do not indicate an agreement with Senator Durbin’s sentiments.”

***Statement of Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC):***

"The creation of this committee is yet another example of Democrat leaders trusting the words of terrorists over the proven action of U.S. troops. The American taxpayer is already footing a million dollar bill to provide for detainees, who are currently more comfortable than most of our men and women in uniform. When will Democrats start focusing their efforts on strongly supporting our troops rather than justifying the claims of terrorists?"

***Statement of Rep. John Kline (R-MN):***

“I am shocked by the outrageous rhetoric from my Democratic colleagues over the past week. These statements clearly dishonor our brave servicemen and women and are beneath an elected representative of the American people.

“The allegations of well-trained enemy combatants should not be given more credibility than the word of our men and women in uniform. The men and women who serve – and have previously served – at Guantanamo Bay and throughout the world deserve more than partisan posturing for political gain. These men and women deserve our gratitude and our respect.”

***Statement of Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI):***

“That kind of rhetoric incites our enemies and hinders our efforts in the War on Terror. I challenge every Democratic leader to denounce these ridiculous comments. Show our enemies that we are united in our actions against terror.”

***Statement of Bill Shuster (R-PA):***

“The Global War against Terrorism is real and must be taken seriously and the Democrats are undermining America’s real accomplishments. They have offered short-term, political quips when we need to be thinking long-term and debating real issues as our troops combat terrorists, train Iraqi security forces and protect Americans from harm. The claims by the Democrats are outrageous.”

***Statement of Rep. Geoff Davis (R-KY):***

“Over and over again, we have to listen to Democrats denigrate our men and women in uniform, first comparing them to Nazis and now telling them that they are risking their lives over a 'grotesque mistake'.”

“Comments like this embolden our enemy. Within hours of Senator Durbin and Minority Leader Pelosi making these comments, our enemies were able to declare a victory that two powerful officials do not support our military and its mission.

“So let our enemies hear this statement: I am proud of our men and women in uniform. I will provide them whatever support they need to win this war on terror. We will not desert them as they face evil and help freedom-loving people in Iraq rebuild their lives and their country so that a terrorist regime may never again hold power there.”

***Statement of Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA):***

“To assert that the United States abuses its prisoners gives the true despots and tyrants of the world an excuse to continue to deny their citizens the freedoms – of press, assembly, voting and religion – that we enjoy in the United States. With their absurd comments, Nancy Pelosi and Dick Durbin denigrate the troops who captured, guard and interrogate the terrorists held at Guantanamo. Valuable information, properly gathered, continues to come from the facility. We have thwarted attacks, apprehended other terrorists and saved American lives because of the work of those at Guantanamo Bay.”

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