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Resettlement and reintegration of Guantanamo detainees in third countries

On his second day in office US President Barack Obama signed an executive order committing to close the US military detention facility at Guantanamo Bay by January 2010. Ever since, the United States has made deals with over 22 states to accept released Guantanamo Bay detainees. Where the majority of these ex-detainees returned to their home countries, such as Afghanistan or Saudi Arabia, where they could relatively easily reintegrate in their own society, others were resettled in third countries where they know no one and do not understand the language or culture.

In this presentation we will provide an overview of the living conditions of resettled Guantanamo Bay. Based on an analysis of available public information, expert interviews and where possible interviews with ex-detainees themselves or their legal representatives, we will in this presentation reflect on the question what legal status they have, if and how they are monitored, to what extent they are confronted with restrictions (e.g. right to work, family reunification) and whether or not they have (had) access to reintegration schemes.

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