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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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VIA FACSIMILE

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President,

I write today to express my strong opposition to your decision to transfer five of the 9/11 conspirators to New York City in order to be tried in a U.S. criminal court.

Among the five detainees is Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-proclaimed organizer of the horrific 9/11 attacks. With this decision you have retreated back to the era where the U.S. mistakenly treated war criminals as common criminals to be prosecuted under U.S. criminal law, instead of by a military tribunal.

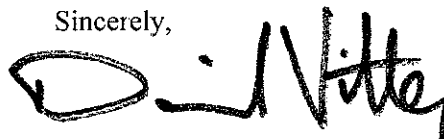
In the 1990s, when Osama Bin Laden and his terrorist counterparts – including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed – were orchestrating attacks around the world, we mistakenly tried those we captured in criminal courts instead of a military tribunal. After almost a decade of this style of justice, the horrific attacks of 9/11 fell upon our country.

The U.S. Congress has passed numerous pieces of legislation regarding the detainees at Guantanamo Bay, specifically the Military Commissions Act which grants authority to the Department of Defense to try terrorists such as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed in a military tribunal. Recently, H.R. 2647 – which you signed into public law – included revisions to the Military Commissions Act, but did not change any statutory authority granted to the Department of Defense to use military tribunals in our efforts to defeat terrorism.

This decision sends a mixed signal to the world. You have publicly stated your support for using military tribunals, yet you plan to bring five of the 9/11 terrorists to New York City to be tried using the U.S. criminal court system. Mixed signals in the War on Terror are the last thing we need in our shared efforts to defeat the terrorists.

For the sake of our national security, and the ongoing War on Terror, I urge you to strongly reconsider your decision to transfer these detainees to New York City to be tried in U.S. Criminal Court.

Sincerely,



David Vitter  
U.S. Senator

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