



September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows
www.peacefultomorrows.org

“Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows” - Dr. Martin Luther King

Contact: Shonna Carter or David Lerner, Riptide Communications 212-2605000

Family Members of 9/11 Victims Express Profound Disappointment in Response to Announcement that Khalid Sheik Mohammed Will Be Tried on Guantanamo

NEW YORK, April 4, 2011—Responding to news reports that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, will be tried in a military commission at Guantanamo Bay, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows released the following statement

We are profoundly disappointed that Attorney General Holder has chosen the untested venue of military commissions on Guantanamo to try Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 attacks. As families of those who were murdered on that day, we have waited nearly ten years to see those who committed these savage criminal acts to be brought to justice. Military commissions have been embroiled in a series of legal challenges and we fully expect that this inadequate alternative to our well-tested federal court system will continue to delay our pursuit of justice.

We consider this to be a step backward in our hopes that justice will be served and a confirmation of our worst fears - that the shame of Guantanamo will continue. We believe in the values our nation stands for and we are proud of our system of Justice. It is our commitment to justice and the rule of law that keeps us free. By changing the rules for some, our country has succumbed to fear and prejudice and our Democracy has been demeaned in the process.

Members of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, a national organization of more than 200 relatives of victims of the 9/11 attacks, have been outspoken supporters of holding civilian trials for Guantanamo detainees, including alleged 9/11 master mind Khalid Sheik Mohammed. Last year the group made a public appeal to President Obama in a video letter calling for civilian trials. Please see the video here: <http://vimeo.com/10559231>