

U.S. Finalizing Plan to Close Guantanamo Prison

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White House spokesperson Josh Earnest said the plan will be presented to Congress for approval and added they expected Congress to facilitate the transfer of the prisoners without "continued obstruction," adding, "that's why we're continuing to work on a plan that when it's completed, we'll be prepared to present and share with Congress."

The legislative had threatened to approve new restrictions for transfer of the prisoners.

The closure of the prison would mean repatriation of prisoners to U.S. prisons, including 15 high value prisoners, some of whom are suspects in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The White House will have to speed up the process of transferring prisoners who have received the go-ahead to be sent to their homeland or third countries, in order to be able to close the prison before 2017 when U.S. President Barack Obama leaves office.

Earnest also emphasized detainees undergoing trial in the Guantanamo military commissions, created by the government of George W. Bush, could be liable to prosecution in U.S.

Obama has transferred more than half of the 242 detainees who were at the naval base in the Cuban territory when he came to power in 2009.

Closing Guantanamo Bay prison, that was opened in 2002 and held around 700 detainees, was one of Obama's key election promises during his 2008 campaign.

