

Fast for Justice

Close Guantanamo

End Torture

Washington, D.C.

www.witnessstorture.org



On January 11, 2010 – the eight year mark of the opening of detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba – people will come from across the country to Washington D.C. to begin a twelve-day, liquid-only **Fast for Justice** demanding that Guantanamo close and torture end. There are over 130 people around the country who will be fasting between January 11 and 22.

Fasting is an important part of many religious and spiritual traditions. It has been used, notably by Mahatma Gandhi, as an expression of political principle, with the power to move hearts and minds and change policies. And it has a particular connection to Guantanamo, where dozens of inmates have engaged in hunger strikes to protest their abuse. Honoring all these traditions and meanings, the **Fast for Justice** is:

- ❑ an act of moral witness – against the crime and sin of torture, indefinite detention, rendition, and the denial of legal and human rights;
- ❑ a political demand – that Guantanamo close, torture be definitively banned, and that all U.S. detainees receive true justice and equality before the law;
- ❑ an act of solidarity – with the suffering of the men, boys, and women, whether in Guantanamo or other U.S. detention facilities around the world;
- ❑ an act of atonement – for our nation's violation of domestic and international law, human rights, and its own principals,
- ❑ an expression of hope – that President Obama will honor his words by closing Guantanamo and banning torture;
- ❑ an act of renewal – that calls America back to its senses and to its core values, that seeks to make those values stronger, inviolable, and which helps to reconnect America to the peoples of the world.

Participants in the **Fast for Justice** will be participating in vigils, lobbying, and public events in and around Washington, D.C. over the course of the fast.

Chuck Harris from Blacksburg, VA

Chuck works with the **Open Door Community** in Atlanta, Georgia. "This will be the fourth time I've taken part in this January protest and vigil. I've never done fasting before. I think the longest I've gone without food was 30 hours after an action two years ago at the Supreme Court. A year ago I was hopeful there would be changes with a new administration. Unfortunately, that has not happened and I feel the need to be more active in opposition to the injustice at Guantánamo, Bagram, and in U.S. prisons."