

Reflections On GUANTANAMO

The camp will be closed:
but what now?

A public meeting

Omar Deghayes

Ex-Guantanamo detainee and now a
campaigner for peace and human rights

Jackie Chase

Campaigner and spokesperson for the
Save Omar Campaign

14 February 2009, 3pm
Our Lady of Ransom Church Hall
2-4 Grange Road, Eastbourne

Our Lady of Ransom Justice and Peace Group
Eastbourne for Peace and Liberty





OMAR DEGHAYES

Omar, a refugee from Libya and a British resident living with his family in Saltdean, was one of the last British residents imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay.

Omar was in Pakistan when the Afghanistan war broke out. He was arrested by bounty-hunters and ended up for years in Guantanamo where he suffered severe human rights abuses. Once, guards attacked Omar with pepper spray, rubbing the chemical in his eyes, so that he is now completely blinded in one eye.

Omar was never tried or charged with any crime. The only "evidence" for his arrest was a video but experts have confirmed that the person shown isn't Omar.

Following years of intense campaigning Britain, Omar was finally released from Guantanamo in December 2007. There were hearings for extradition to Spain but these failed through lack of evidence.

JACKIE CHASE

Jackie is a spokesperson for the Brighton-based *Save Omar Campaign*, which campaigned for Omar's release and return to his family. The group provided political hope and practical support for the Deghayes family, who courageously spoke out about Omar's story and their family history. They drew upon support from Brighton's anti-war and human rights movements as well as the Muslim community and the city's newspaper, *The Argus*, which ran its own principled campaign.

This enlightening and informative talk takes place seven years after the first transfers to Guantanamo Bay. The new American President has taken the decision to close Guantanamo and end the practice of torture by the US. Much still needs to be done, and Omar and Jackie believe that there are lessons to be learned.

The audience will also have the opportunity to see a dvd telling the story of Ali al-Marri. He has been imprisoned in the Charleston Navy Brig and never been charged with a crime.

