

Guantánamo

Ana Maria Gomes (PSE). - (PT) Hundreds of prisoners remain in a legal vacuum and suffer from torture. I am not talking about the notorious prisons of Saddam, the Taliban, Syria or other dictatorships, but about Guantánamo, which is controlled by the United States of America. Let us not forget that the USA is a country that played a central role in the construction of international human rights law and that under the Bush Administration is violating those rights in ignominious fashion, including the minimum standards of the Geneva Convention.

Europe must make its voice heard as regards Guantánamo and Abu Ghraib and wherever the Bush Administration is exporting torture via extraordinary rendition. It must add its voice to the increasingly audible voices in the United States, such as that of the American Civil Liberties Union, condemning the immorality and uselessness of torture in the fight against terrorism and the lack of accountability of those in charge of such abuses.

The EU must demand that Guantánamo be closed down and that US politicians and military personnel at the highest level be brought to justice for crimes committed in the name of the war on terror. Because to remain silent plays into the hands of the terrorists and sacrifices the fundamental values of human dignity and the rule of law, the same values that the terrorist fanatics sought to destroy by means of 9/11 and attacks such as those in Madrid and London.