

U.S. President Again Vows to Close Guantanamo Prison



Washington, December 22 (RHC-Xinhua) -- U.S. President Barack Obama vowed Sunday that he will do everything possible to close the U.S. military detention facility located in Guantanamo, on illegally occupied Cuban territory.

In an interview taped Friday and aired on Sunday on CNN, Obama said: "It is something that continues to inspire jihadists and extremists around the world, the fact that these folks are being held," said Obama, adding that it "is contrary to our values."

Obama's statement came after his administration announced Saturday that four Afghans held at the Guantanamo prison had been sent home, in its latest efforts to close the infamous military prison. The four were unanimously approved for transfer after a review of their cases, the Pentagon said in a statement.

The review, part of an executive order signed by Obama in January 2009, examined a number of factors, including the security issue.

The repatriation of the four Afghans brings to 132 the detention population at the Guantanamo prison, which was established by Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush, after the September 11, 2001 terror attacks to house terror suspects detained overseas.

Obama promised to close the widely condemned prison when he took office six years ago.

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