Annex A

Chronology of *Requests for Visits* regarding detainees at Guantanamo Bay and other locations

22 January 2002: The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) sent a letter (and a reminder letter on 25 October) requesting a **visit** to the United States of America and the military base at Guantanamo Bay in order to examine *in situ* the legal aspects of the persons concerned. On 17 December 2002, the US Government declined the request, considering that the WGAD lacked the competence to address what it considered law of armed conflict issues and not international human rights matters.

30 January 2004: Special Rapporteurs (SRs) on Torture and Health sent a **joint allegation letter** to USA regarding continued accounts in relation to the physical and mental integrity of persons held in Guantanamo Bay and reiterated the request to **visit** to gather first-hand information, evaluate the situation and make appropriate recommendations in the context of their mandates regarding the detainees.

25 June 2004: the Independent Experts at the 11th session of the Annual Meeting of Special Procedures made a **joint press release** (and sent statement to USA) expressing alarm at the status, conditions of detention and treatment of prisoners and requested that four experts (SRs on the Independence of judges and lawyers (IJL), Torture, Health and WGAD) **visit** at the earliest possible date detainees at Guantanamo (and Iraq and Afghanistan). On 9 November 2004 the Government replied that it was willing to provide a **briefing in Washington**, DC. By **letter** dated 22 November 2004, SRs responded that they welcomed a **briefing in Geneva** in the context of preparation for a visit.

4 April 2005: the SRs on IJL, Torture and WGAD had a **meeting** with USA officials at PM of USA to discuss outstanding request to **visit**. The USA said the request was being considered at highest levels, wanted to know the SR's terms for visit regarding their objective, access to detainees, etc.

21 April 2005: in follow up to the meeting, the four experts sent a **joint letter** to USA with requested details: Terms of Reference (TOR) for mission, relevant resolutions, length of visit (5 days) and requested activities (visit privately with detainees, officials, observe detention related proceedings) and asked for reply by 20 May 2005. The Government responded on 20 May indicating visit request still under serious consideration.

31 May 2005: the 4 experts on IJL, Torture, Health and WGAD sent a **joint letter** asking the USA to provide a response to the **visit** by 15 June as the 1st year anniversary of the joint request approaches.