

# Five Witness Against Torture Activists Arrested In Washington DC

## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release:

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### Five Witness Against Torture Activists Arrested for Bannering on the Supreme Court Steps as Part of “*Stop Torture*” protest

January 9, 2019 ~Activists Participate in week long fast  
calling on the U.S. to Stop Support for the Murderous War in  
Yemen and Close the Prison Camp at Guantanamo

On January 9, 2019, five human rights activists protesting all  
forms of torture were arrested while bannering on the Supreme  
Court steps. Their banner stated:

*“We Target. We Torture. We Terrify,” followed by the question  
“Who Are We?”*

Joining them were dozens of protesters who formed a tableau to  
denounce US-backed war on Yemen and call for closure of  
Guantanamo.

Alongside the banner, children’s bookbags were scattered atop  
bloodied shrouds. Each backpack bore the name of a Yemeni  
child killed on August 9, 2019 when a Saudi warplane fired a  
Lockheed 500 lb. missile at a school bus. Remembering nine  
prisoners who died in Guantanamo, activists clad in jumpsuits  
and hoods laid down on bloodied shrouds, across from the  
backpacks.

While Supreme Court security guards handcuffed those holding the banner, supporters sang:

*"Know where you stand. No more war. Know where you stand and stand there."*

Explaining why she chose to risk arrest, Ellen Graves, a social worker from Western Massachusetts said she is troubled by grotesque practices that have starved, maimed, dismembered and traumatized Yemeni children. Graves and many of the other activists have gathered for a week of fasting and action that marks January 11, the seventeenth year since Muslim men have been imprisoned in Guantanamo. "The misery of Muslim people continues," said Dr. Maha Hilal, after reading the names of the Yemeni children being commemorated along with the names of nine Muslim men who have died in Guantanamo.

***Photo caption:*** *Witness Against Torture activists demonstrate at Supreme Court*

***Photo credit:*** *Steve Pavey*

# # # #

***Note:*** *The five who were arrested (Joanne Lingle, Manijeh Saba, Ellen Graves, Sherrill Hogen and Charley Bowman) will likely be held overnight and appear in court tomorrow. (Arraignments tend to happen at 1:00 p.m.) All best, Kathy*