

OBSERVER SELECTION CRITERIA FOR VIEWING OF MILITARY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

The below criteria will be used in evaluating Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) requests to enter into the Approved Observer Pool to send an observer to view military commission proceedings at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO) or to the public CCTV site at Fort Meade, Maryland. Individuals who wish to be considered for attendance to multiple or a single proceeding may also request entry into the Approved Observer Pool, but must be sponsored by their organization.¹

In selecting an organization or individual for observer status and inclusion into the NGO Selection Pool, the following criteria will be considered:

- **Reach** of the applicant organization or individual (e.g., audience size, readership, subscriptions, circulation, viewers, listeners, website hits, writings, broadcasts, professional standing, diversity of audiences, etc.).
- **Nexus** of the applicant's organizational mission to military commissions, wartime detention or prosecution, international law, and/or human rights. If the applicant is an individual, the nexus of the individual's writings, commentaries, and/or broadcast on the same topics may be considered.
- **Extent** to which the applicant organization and/or individual has provided **longstanding and frequent coverage** of issues relating to military commissions, wartime detention or prosecution, international law, and/or human rights.

Applicants are asked to provide a letter to the Convening Authority requesting inclusion into the Approved Observer Pool and provide appropriate documentation and examples of how the organization or the individual meets the above criteria.

The letter and associated materials should be submitted to the NGO Selection Team at the following email address: osd.pentagon.OMC.mbx.convening-authority-ngo@mail.mil

Once received, the submitted package will be reviewed and provided to the Convening Authority for approval or disapproval. The organization and/or individual will be informed promptly once a final decision for inclusion into the Approved Observer Pool by the Convening Authority has been made. This decision is final and not subject to reconsideration.

Once an organization or individual has been approved for inclusion into the Approved Observer Pool, selection to view a proceeding at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, will be governed by the selection process outlined in the March 7, 2024, Chief of Staff NGO Selection Policy memorandum which can be found on the Military Commission website under the Observer Travel Section.

If not selected to travel to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, based upon the NGO Selection Policy memorandum, NGOs are still welcome to send their Observer to the Fort Meade, Maryland, CCTV public viewing site.

¹ News media representatives seeking to cover the proceedings should contact the Department of Defense Office of Public Affairs.