

JAMIE HEPBURN MSP

Serving Central Scotland

Scottish Parliamentary Newsletter from Jamie Hepburn MSP.
Issue 6 – February 2008

Guantanamo Bay Protest

The 11th of January saw the 6th anniversary of the opening of the infamous US detention camp in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Jamie attended a protest in Edinburgh organised by the human rights organisation Amnesty International to mark the anniversary. He also lodged a motion (S3M-1129) congratulating Amnesty. It read:

“That the Parliament notes that 11 January 2008 marked the sixth anniversary of the opening of the detention camp at the Guantanamo Bay site in Cuba by the United States authorities; notes that Amnesty International organised a peaceful protest outside the US consulate in Edinburgh on that date to mark this anniversary; notes that Amnesty International organised a collection of signatures of 1,200 parliamentarians across the world who believe that this camp should be closed and that the 53 members of the Scottish Parliament among that number represent the highest proportion of any Parliament in the world; believes that the camp at Guantanamo Bay represents a fundamental breach of the human rights and civil liberties of the hundreds of detainees held there without charge or attempt to bring them to trial; further believes that this breach of human rights and civil liberties gives lie to the pretence that the so-called “war on terror” is about protecting human rights and civil liberties and means that the US Government is in violation of established international law; congratulates Amnesty International for its efforts at raising awareness about these issues, and calls on the US Government to shut down the detention camp at the Guantanamo Bay site with immediate effect.”

Below: Jamie at the protest in Edinburgh. Protesters each wore orange boiler suits like those given to Guantanamo Bay detainees, and knelt in mock submission outside the US Consulate in Edinburgh.



Jamie Hepburn MSP

0131 348 6573

01698 249 000

Scottish Government Budget Passed

The Scottish Parliament has approved the Scottish Government's first budget.

Jamie was among the 64 MSPs who voted for the Budget Bill, which sets the Scottish Government's spending plans for the next three years. 60 MSPs abstained in the vote and one voted against the Budget.

Included in the Budget is £70m funding to allow local Councils to freeze Council Tax, pilot free school meals in certain areas and abolish prescription charges by 2011.

Other measures include recruitment of 1,000 new police officers across Scotland and an end to local rates for small businesses.

The Budget also includes funding for rail improvement works, including electrification of the Glasgow-Edinburgh line which stops at Croy and Falkirk.

Contact Jamie on the numbers above or
email
jamie.hepburn.msp@scottish.parliament.uk