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Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction -- Prelude -- How and Why the Lawyers Started Representing Detainees -- Rasul/AI Odah: The Right to Representation -- First Impressions -- Rendered: How the Detainees Got to Guantánamo -- Female Attorneys -- Family Members -- Interpreters -- Barriers to Representation -- The No-Hearing Hearings: Combatant Status Review Tribunals -- Military Commissions -- Political Maneuvering -- Boumediene v. Bush: The Death Knell for Prisons beyond the Law -- A Product of Torture Culture -- Reactions -- Hunger Strikes -- Suicides -- 6 Alternative Forms of Advocacy -- 7 Leaving Guantánamo -- Stuck in Limbo -- Out but Not Free -- Happy Endings? -- Guantánamo Comes to America -- Black Sites -- Coda -- Timeline: Guantánamo and the "War on Terror" -- Contributors

Sommario/riassunto

Read free excerpts from the book at <http://www.theguardianlawyers.com> and explore the complete archive of narratives at <http://dlib.nyu.edu/guantanamo>. Following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the United States imprisoned more than seven hundred and fifty men at its naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. These men, ranging from teenage boys to men in their eighties from over forty different countries, were detained for years without charges, trial, and a fair hearing. Without any legal status or protection, they were truly outside the law: imprisoned in secret, denied communication with their families, and subjected to extreme isolation, physical and mental abuse, and, in some instances, torture. These are the detainees' stories, told by their lawyers because the prisoners themselves were silenced. It took habeas counsel more than two years—and a ruling from the United States Supreme Court—to finally gain the right to visit and talk to their clients at Guantánamo. Even then, lawyers were forced to operate under severe restrictions designed to inhibit communication and envelop the prison in secrecy. In time, however, lawyers were able to meet with their clients and bring the truth about Guantánamo to the world. The Guantánamo Lawyers contains over one hundred personal narratives from attorneys who have represented detainees held at "GTMO" as well as at other overseas prisons, from Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan to secret CIA jails or "black sites." Mark Denbeaux and Jonathan Hafetz—themselves lawyers for detainees—collected stories that cover virtually every facet of Guantánamo, and the litigation it sparked. Together, these moving, powerful voices create a historical record of Guantánamo's legal, human, and moral failings, and provide a window into America's catastrophic effort to create a prison beyond the law. An online archive, hosted by New York University Libraries, will be available at the time of publication and will contain the complete texts as well as other accounts contributed by Guantánamo lawyers. The documents will be freely available on the Internet for research, teaching, and non-commercial uses, and will be preserved indefinitely as a historical collection.