

From The Center for Constitutional Rights



Muhammad Davliatov became the latest CCR client to be released from Guantanamo last week and resettled in Serbia. Like so many others, he had been held without ever being charged for 14 years, and was cleared for release by the Obama administration in 2009. His original habeas corpus petition challenging his detention was stayed over his objection after the Obama administration argued that it was no longer necessary because they planned to release him expeditiously. Yet he continued to languish in prison for another six years. Last November, CCR joined Muhammadi's longstanding legal team in filing a new habeas petition. It was not until we filed this new case that the government began to make meaningful efforts to transfer him, likely to avoid an adverse court ruling, rather than out of any sense of justice or compassion. We filed a similar challenge in Djamel Ameziane's case, which in 2013 similarly resulted in the government releasing him in order to avoid a court ruling. Muhammad's lead counsel since 2007 have been Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP and Reed Smith LLP.