

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA-03), Chairman the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security on the House Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement on potential Guantanamo Detainee Trials in Newport News, Virginia:

"In a nation of laws, those accused of crimes, including war crimes, are entitled to be heard on the accusations. Our courts have ruled that this principle applies to those held at Guantanamo, so it is necessary to conduct trials for the detainees. Decisions about the manner, nature and conduct of the trials, including where they are to be held, are within the discretion of the Executive Branch agencies charged with enforcing the laws that apply in these cases.

"Issues of security for the trials, and for all those associated with and affected by them, including the public in the areas near the trials, is of paramount importance and must be fully addressed. To be assured that all security issues are being addressed regarding the prospects of such trials in the areas that may be affected in or near the Third Congressional District, I have asked the Department of Justice to provide me with information to show that the Department is aware of all the issues, and is making all considerations necessary to fully address them, including the sensitive issues associated with the Northrop Grumman Shipyard."

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