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Jenkins, Local Leaders, Plan Gitmo Trip

(KAIR)--Local leaders are preparing for a first hand look at the Guantanamo Bay detention center.

Among those planning the tour Friday are City of Leavenworth Mayor Larry Dedeke, Leavenworth County Commissioner Mark Preisinger, and Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson.

The three will join United States Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins for the visit, which will also include three Kansas leaders, Senator Steve Fitzgerald, and Representatives Tony Barton and Willie Dove.

The trip, which is the second for Jenkins, comes as the leaders continue to oppose the possible relocation of Gitmo detainees to Fort Leavenworth.

In a press release announcing the visit, Jenkins says she has been “working to stop President Obama’s proposed plan to close the detention center...and possibly transfer dangerous terrorists to the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth.”

Jenkins says the first-hand look is intended to provide the local and state officials “with the resources they need to better understand why Gitmo is the best and only place for these dangerous terrorists.”

President Obama made closing the facility a goal of his Presidency.

Proponents of the closure, including the ACLU, cite the fact that many of the detainees remain without charge or trial.

Opponents say moving them to the mainland will increase the threat of terrorist attacks on the United States.

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