

# Petition for the Humane Treatment of Prisoners - Stop Torture

To: The honorable members of the United States Congress

We, the undersigned residents of North Carolina, wish to express our unmitigated dissent to the officially sanctioned use of torture by U.S. intelligence agents, military personnel, and contractors.

The practice of torture is criminal and not consistent with the democratic values we claim to uphold as a beacon to the rest of the world. As Patrick Henry declared, "The rack, the thumb screw . . . were left behind in the Old World for good reason. If permitted in this country, we are 'lost and undone.'"

The torture of any human being is flatly prohibited by our domestic laws and by international treaties, even during times of war. We insist these laws be respected and enforced. Discarding the Geneva Conventions only places our own citizens and soldiers at greater risk of being tortured.

The political leaders and governmental officials who have shaped U.S. policies leading to the use of torture during interrogations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay should be held accountable. Thus far, only young soldiers who obeyed their orders at Abu Ghraib have faced criminal charges. Clearly, the practice of torture is widespread and authorized by U.S. officials at the highest levels.

Lastly, the use of torture will not lead to greater national security. It only engenders greater hatred toward all Americans, which endangers our nation and the lives of our citizens.

### We demand that:

1. all forms of mental and physical torture be banned once and for all FROM U.S. POLICY AND PRACTICE-whether carried out directly BY AMERICAN FORCES, by "proxy" through contractors, or by sending prisoners to other countries known to practice torture.
2. INFORMATION ON all cases involving torture by U.S. personnel or contractors be fully declassified AND AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.
3. the U.S.politicians and other governmental officials who promote the use of torture be investigated and brought to trial FOR ALL VIOLATIONS OF LAW AND INTERNATIONAL TREATIES.

Name	Address	City, State, Zip
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		