

To the victims and survivors of torture and indefinite detention in the "War on Terror"

North Carolina is home to the "torture taxis" used by the CIA to transport many people to secret detention and abuse. Our state is also home to many dedicated men and women willing to sacrifice for this country, often on the orders of leaders gripped by fear and vengeance or misled by willfully fabricated intelligence. Thus, we North Carolinians have a special responsibility to insist that our government acknowledge its crimes and offer amends.

Although fugitives from torture and religious persecution created this nation, our government has written a new chapter of shame every bit as repugnant as the genocide of indigenous Americans, slavery, and the wartime internment of Japanese-Americans. We expect transparency and accountability for the torture and "extraordinary rendition" programs launched in 2001 will only be achieved with persistent and lasting struggle.

We cannot begin to imagine the pain and anguish borne by you and your families. As citizens of North Carolina, we express our deep regret for the suffering you have endured or are continuing to suffer either at the hands of our government or proxy states. The U.S. government should acknowledge the crimes committed against you, take responsibility, and offer an apology. We commit ourselves to work toward that day. Until then, we welcome your guidance in providing support that would be meaningful and useful to you and your families.

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