

For many months we have heard and read reports of torture being carried out by representatives of the American government in the name of the American people. Today we know that at least 100 of the hundreds of men illegally held in Guantanamo are on a hunger strike, fasting to the death.

These men have been held without charge and without due process for 3 years after their secret abduction by American military and intelligence agents.

As people of faith inspired by Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement, we are compelled to act. We believe that the collective soul of our nation is in jeopardy. People of integrity must take action now. It is in this spirit that we head to Guantanamo.

We call for the immediate abolition of torture by all nations, including and especially the United States. By traveling to Guantanamo we seek to perform the simple corporal work of mercy of visiting the imprisoned. We demand that the prisoners of Guantanamo be treated with the same measure of mercy and dignity, as we would have our own sons, brothers and fathers treated. We call upon our brothers and sisters in the U. S. government and armed forces to respect the basic human rights and dignity of all human beings. Regardless of the perpetrator, torture is an act of terrorism.

Finally, we recall the words of Jesus Christ, himself a victim of torture, who said *"whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers that you do unto me."*



Brian Kavanagh