

# Torture is UnAmerican!...

*"We made this camp for people who would be here forever. You should never think of going home. You'll be here for all your life...Don't worry. We'll keep you alive so you can suffer more."*

-A US interrogator speaking to a juvenile prisoner named Mohamed in Guantánamo

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 Guantánamo are on a hunger strike, fasting to the death. These men have been held without charge and without due process for 3, 4 or 5 years after being secretly abducted by American military and intelligence agents. We also know that prisoners have been abused and even tortured by American soldiers at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. And in November, Dana Priest of the *Washington Post* uncovered the existence of secret prisons run by the CIA in Europe.

To abduct people, including teenagers is unAmerican. To keep families wondering why their father never came home is unAmerican. To forcefully hold somebody's head underwater is unAmerican. To deprive somebody of warmth, clothing and sleep is unAmerican. Secret prisons, denial of legal representation, sexual humiliation, and the desecration of sacred objects is unAmerican. To hold somebody without charge, **to take hostages, is unAmerican.** To beat, humiliate, torture and extinguish hope is unAmerican. **To know all of this and do nothing is unAmerican.**

Today 25 Americans, including Jackie Allen-Doucot of Hartford, in violation of a travel ban to Cuba, are marching to the American detention center in Guantánamo. They are attempting to perform the simple Christian act of mercy of visiting the imprisoned.

They, we, believe that the collective soul of our nation is in jeopardy. People of integrity must take action now. We call for the immediate abolition of torture by all nations, including and especially the United States. We demand that the prisoners of Guantánamo 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.**

***...So is doing nothing to stop it!!***



BOB DAHM ILLUSTRATION

# No Torture in Our Name!

The anti-torture amendment, sponsored by former prisoner of war John McCain, R-Ariz, was recently passed in the Senate by a vote of 90-9. McCain explicitly states that the amendment is to ensure that no prisoner in U.S. custody will be subject to "cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment." The Senate passed this amendment despite President Bush's veto threat and his lies that the U.S. does not engage in torture. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell, along with 28 retired military leaders, has signed a letter in support of the *McCain amendment*. The U.S. disre-



gard for the Geneva Conventions has been an embarrassment for all U.S. citizens, from the Abu Ghraib fiasco, to the more recent renouncement by European leaders upon learning that the U.S. has set up torture prisons in Eastern Europe, to the disgusting opportunism of Saddam Hussein's defense attorney, who when examining a female victim of Hussein's torture, asked the woman if dogs, nudity or sexual humiliation had been involved.

Currently, the administration is attempting to "negotiate" a compromise on the amendment - *that is to strike an agreement on what torture is acceptable and what is not. No torture is acceptable in our name.* It is our responsibility to insist that our government comply with the universal standards of prisoner treatment as intended by the Geneva Conventions.

## Make your voice heard

- ☛ **Senator Christopher-Dodd**, (202) 224-2823  
448 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
- ☛ **Senator Joseph Lieberman**, (202) 224-4041  
706 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
- ☛ **The Honorable Nancy L. Johnson**, (202) 225-4476  
2409 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-0705

## Former CIA director Stansfield Turner has labeled Dick Cheney a "vice president for torture."

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In an interview with Britain's ITV news Thursday, Turner said the U.S. vice president was damaging America's reputation by overseeing torture policies of possible terrorist suspects, the UK's Press Association reported.

**"I'm embarrassed the United States has a vice president for torture,"** Turner said, according to ITV's Web site. **"He condones torture, what else is he?"** Turner said he did not believe U.S. President George W. Bush's statements that the United States does not use torture.

Turner ran the Central Intelligence Agency from 1977 to 1981 under former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

"We have crossed the line into dangerous territory," PA quoted Turner as saying. "I think it is just reprehensible."