



National Religious Campaign Against Torture

www.nrcat.org
campaign@nrcat.org
202-547-1920

June 16, 2015

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

We are writing to ask you to support the McCain-Feinstein amendment prohibiting torture when the Senate votes on amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act. While we represent different faiths, we all share a belief that torture is utterly immoral and always wrong. The McCain-Feinstein amendment is our country's best opportunity to put that belief into practice.

The graphic brutality of the CIA's torture program – vomiting, convulsing, detainees hung from ceilings, stripped and chained to floors, confined in small boxes, forced into ice water, beaten, deprived of sleep and subjected to other horrors – is indefensible. The program was morally wrong and must never be repeated.

Often forgotten is that while the most direct harm was done to the detainees themselves, the program also hurt others. Brutal leaders around the world have used our CIA's torture program as justification for their own acts of repression. And the CIA agents who we asked to carry out the torture program have undoubtedly been scarred by it – perhaps in ways they have not even begun to come to terms with.

By passing McCain-Feinstein, we will make a promise to the world – this will never happen again. Never again will CIA agents be asked to brutalize prisoners in secret prisons. Never again will the Department of Justice so willfully misread the law in order to approve evil. Never again will our country stoop to the use of torture.

Please support McCain-Feinstein when it is voted on.

Sincerely,

Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.
President, The Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

Rev. Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rabbi Michael Namath
Program Director
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism



National Religious Campaign Against Torture

www.nrcat.org
campaign@nrcat.org
202-547-1920

Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed
National Director, Office of Interfaith &
Community Alliances
Islamic Society of North America

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Legate
Armenian Church of America

Kavneet Singh
Secretary General
American Sikh Council

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi
President
Buddhist Association of the United States

Rabbi Jill Jacobs
Executive Director
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human
Rights

Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley
General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA

Very Rev. Jim Greenfield, OSFS
President
Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Ervin Stutzman
Executive Director
Mennonite Church USA

Dr. Sharon E. Watkins
General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Geoffrey A. Black
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ

Stanley J. Noffsinger
General Secretary
Church of the Brethren

Archbishop Nicolae Condrea
Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the
Americas

Diane Randall
Executive Secretary
Friends Committee on National Legislation

Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe
General Secretary
General Board of Church and Society
The United Methodist Church

Rev. William F. Schulz
President
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore, Sr.
President/CEO
Global Alliance Interfaith Networks

Sandy Sorensen
Director of Washington Office
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness
Ministries