OMNI NEWSLETTER # 8 ON US TORTURE, WAR CRIMES, LAWLESSNESS, June 23, 2013.

Compiled by Dick Bennett, Building a Culture of Peace.

(#1 October 5, 2007; #2 May 9, 2011; #3 June 26, 2011; #4 Oct. 21, 2011; #5 Feb. 25, 2012; #6 June 12, 2012; #7 Feb. 23, 2013).

OMNI NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS PROJECT
JUNE IS UN TORTURE AWARENESS MONTH
JUNE 26 IS UN INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE
JULY 17 IS UN INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE DAY, INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

OMNI EVENTS
UN TORTURE AWARENESS MONTH, June 22, 2013: us TORTURE and MURDER PROTEST AT FEDERAL BLDNG, FAYETTEVILLE.
UN INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE, JUNE 26, Film at OMNI, War on Whistleblowers
UN International Justice Day, July 17, Book Forum

My blog: War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
www.faypublic.tv/watch
My Newsletters:
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/
Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/
See Cheney, Civil Liberties, NDAA newsletters.

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Global Guantanamo Torture Complaints
Morris Davis, Crimes of War Project
Nat Hentoff on Obama

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Aleazis, Cheney’s Secret Torture Memo
Scahill, 7 Points on Cheney
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Ratner, Prosecute Cheney
Grey, CIA Rendition System
Begg, "Enemy Combatant"

Google Search
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL)

For OMNI’s newsletters go to: http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/). Knowledge, including of the worst behavior, strengthens the search for the best.

GOOGLE Search Results Guantanamo 5-8-13
1. Time to End the Despair at Guantánamo | American Civil Liberties ...
   www.aclu.org/blog/national-security.../time-end-despair-guantanamo
   Apr 29, 2013 – The hunger strike in Guantánamo continues to grow, even by the U.S. military’s questionable count. The military states that 100 of the 166 ...

2. Guantánamo Prison Revolt Driven by Inmates' Despair - NYTimes.com
   www.nytimes.com/.../guantanamo-prison-revolt-driven-by-inmates...
   by Charlie Savage - in 979 Google+ circles

3. United Nations Heads Growing List of Organizations Calling for ...
   www.closeguantanamo.org/.../84-United-Nations-Heads-Growing-List-of...
   As the hunger strike at Guantánamo enters its third month, the UN and the New ...editors proceeded to describe the hunger strike as "a collective act of despair," ...
4. **Guantanamo** hunger strike reflects growing despair - *The Nation*

www.nation.com.pk/.../international/.../guantanamo-hunger-strike-reflect...

Mar 24, 2013 – Chantal ValeryA growing number of **Guantanamo** inmates are going on... 1:59 pm; NATIONAL - Nine militants killed, three hideouts destroyed ...

5. **Despair** drives **Guantánamo** detainees to revolt — *War in Context*

warincontext.org/2013/.../despair-drives-guantanamo-detainees-to-revolt...

Despair drives **Guantánamo** detainees to revolt. by News Sources on April 26, 2013. The New York Times reports: In the early afternoon quiet, guards in ...

6. **Obama: Walk Your Talk on Guantánamo** | *Common Dreams*

https://www.commondreams.org/view/2013/05/03-6

5 days ago – Obama: Walk Your Talk on **Guantánamo**. by The **Nation Editors**. Protest to demand the release of Yemenis detained at **Guantánamo** Bay, ...

7. **Guantanamo** Bay detention camp - *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guantanamo_Bay_detention_camp

In 2006 the United **Nations** called unsuccessfully for the **Guantanamo** Bay ......Another New York Times editorial supported Friedman's proposal, arguing that ......said that detainees "have this incredible level of **despair** that they will never get ...

8. **Guantánamo** Prison Revolt Driven by Inmates' **Despair** - Top ...

www.decapost.com › WORLD › AMERICAS

Apr 24, 2013 – With any decision about closing down the prison in **Guantánamo** Bay, Cuba, put on ... Updates from the Republican **National** Committee. WSJ Editorial: "Rarely has a bureaucracy taken such joy in inconveniencing the public.

9. Results for similar searches

1. **Driven By Despair, More Guantánamo Detainees Join Hunger Strike** ...

wunc.org/.../driven-despair-more-guant-namo-detainees-join-hunger...

6 days ago – Top Raleigh Chef Takes The **National** Stage As A James Beard Award Finalist · Matthew McConaughey, Getting Serious ... Managing Editor, "The Story" ...Driven By **Despair**, More **Guantánamo** Detainees Join Hunger Strike ...

More results for editors of the nation despair at guantanamo
Write Letters to Newspapers Advocating for John Kiriakou's Pardon

Dear David,

We just delivered our petition for John Kiriakou's pardon to the White House. Now it's time to get his story in the presses.

Coincidentally, a new report by the nonpartisan Constitution Project validates John's disclosures: The U.S. indeed carried out torture on detainees, sanctioned at the highest levels of government.1 Despite this, John remains the only person connected to the torture program to go to prison.

We know the president won't act unless there is a loud public call to fix this grave injustice. That's why we're organizing letters to local and national newspapers to encourage conversation and build support for John's pardon.

Can you take a minute to send a letter to local and national newspapers in support of torture whistleblower John Kiriakou's pardon?

Can't write? Chip in $10+ to help us run ads recruiting more activists to join our campaign.

A close friend of John's has personally delivered our petition with 15,000+ signatures to White House Chief of Staff Dennis McDonough. While this was a powerful message, we know it's only a first step in securing fair justice for John.

If we can get enough letters into newspapers, we can begin to foster a conversation about John's disclosures and what it says about our nation to imprison him in light of the facts.

John's whistleblowing alerted the public to crimes committed in our names and played a major role in ending those practices. But he and his family have had to pay a price for his efforts, as the government, under both the Bush and Obama administrations, have harassed and intimidated him in the lead up to his prosecution2

As he approaches his third month in prison, we must speak out in his defense and call for him to be pardoned in recognition of his courageous service to our country.

Write a letter to the editor advocating for John Kiriakou's pardon.

Can't write? Chip in $10+ to help us run ads recruiting more activists to join our campaign.

John told us that the knowledge that he has supporters out there fighting for him has helped sustain him during this sentence. Thank you for your continued dedication to this campaign.

Thanks for all you do

Jane Hamsher
Founder & Publisher,
Firedoglake.com

Sources:
1. Making the Indisputable Fact the US Engaged in Torture a Part of Consensus in Washington, Kevin Gosztola,
After Obama Shuns Probe, Bipartisan Panel Finds "Indisputable" Evidence US Tortured Under Bush

Nermeen Shaikh and Amy Goodman, Democracy NOW!: The 11-member Task Force on Detainee Treatment was convened by The Constitution Project after President Obama chose not to support a national commission to investigate the counterterrorism programs.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript (from Truthout)


In Torture and Impunity, Alfred W. McCoy provides a powerful critique of the Obama administration's failure to hold top Bush administration officials accountable for their abuses of power. In a sequel to A Question of Torture (2006), McCoy shows how torture has become institutionalized under the CIA's coercive interrogation doctrine, which promotes physical and psychological torture techniques that have resulted in great cruelty. While speaking out against human rights abuses, the Obama administration has reverted back to the Cold War approach of subcontracting torture to proxy forces, while invoking platitudes about national security and unity in order to avoid prosecuting Bush administration officials who violated both domestic and international law.

According to McCoy, Barack Obama’s craven stance bodes ill for the future of American democracy, as it undermines the rule of law and feeds into the megalomania of the perpetrators and their yearning for mastery over others. Since leaving office, former Vice President Richard Cheney and his right-wing associates have gone on the offensive attacking activists and reformers for weakening
the nation's security; they are likely to commit further abuses if re-empowered. In the Philippines, military torturers who had been granted impunity plotted a series of coups d’etat following the overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos, with a number gaining high political office. Torture, McCoy writes, “gave them an inflated sense of the political efficacy of violence, culminating in a vision of their last coup as a cleansing cataclysm of mass slaughter.”

American support for torture dates to the 1950s, when CIA-funded psychologists ran unethical mind control experiments designed to counter alleged Chinese brainwashing of American prisoners of war in Korea. Odious interrogation methods were promoted in South Vietnam under the Phoenix Operation, which provided a model for later counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Typical was the experience of Australian David Hicks, who nearly went insane after enduring 244 days of sensory deprivation at Guantanamo Bay and was beaten and threatened at gunpoint by U.S. soldiers. Such practices, McCoy points out, have been made acceptable through popular cultural portrayals that lionize torturers and present false ticking time bomb scenarios in which torture can help avert future terrorist attacks. The debasement of American intellectual culture after 9/11 was exemplified in an airing of PBS’s McLaughlin Group, where guests such as the National Review’s Rich Lowry joked about the countries where terrorist suspects were being waterboarded under the rendition program.

McCoy’s book is generally well written and deeply researched, as with all of his other books. At the end, he laments the short-term memory of Americans who absorb the myriad details of ongoing controversies but fail to understand the systematic nature of the abuses carried out by the military establishment. The studied avoidance of a deeply troubling topic, he notes, is comparable to the collective forgetting that shrouds traumatized subjects in postauthoritarian societies. With impunity, the dismal procession from the “tiger cages in Vietnam” to “the salt pits in Afghanistan,” Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo Bay, and the “hole in Somalia” is likely to continue, although the main culprits of such abuse may be tried

Of the books on Dick’s list, I chose one by Jane Mayer. She is on the staff of *The New Yorker*, so I knew it would be well written. Also, because, of the magazines and newspapers I read, *The New Yorker* has the best political commentary. So the book I chose to review is *The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals*.

Jane Mayer began with a series of 13 articles in *The New Yorker* magazine. She then developed them into a full-length book. Although the chapters build on each other, almost any single chapter could stand alone as a complete essay. Critics have described The Dark Side as “a powerful, brilliantly researched and deeply unsettling book.” Published in 2008, it was on several lists of Ten Best Books of the Year.

It is not easy to read about torture. But it is important for citizens to know what their government is doing. If you have the stomach for it, I recommend Jane Mayer’s book. She not only describes the methods used, but what interested me particularly were her descriptions of how a small group of highly placed government officials, this “cabal of ideological extremists,” got by with nullifying the Geneva Conventions, suspending habeas corpus, undermining the 1984 International Convention Against Torture and ignoring the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

There were people who were worried when, after 9/11, President Bush used the term “war.” They were right to be worried for several reasons, one of which is the extraordinary powers usurped by the executive branch in the name of war.

When the pictures of Abu Ghraib were published, we were told these morally repulsive actions were unusual, were merely mistakes made by poorly trained, poorly supervised underlings who would be chastised. Not so. Jane Mayer documents that the staff at Abu Ghraib was carrying out policies and procedures authorized by the President and dictated at the highest level by the Vice President of the United States.
Jane Mayer begins the story before 9/11, telling how the government had information revealing that the attack was imminent. This information was learned through old-fashioned detective work, something as simple as an experienced interrogator giving an informer a meal. The clues were all there, but the case went cold through bureaucratic blunders, common incompetence, misfiled paperwork, misunderstandings and miscommunication. But after 9/11 Vice President Cheney saw the problem differently. He saw the problem as:

- too much international law
- too many civil liberties
- too many rights for defendants
- too many rules against covert activities
- too much openness, but most of all,
- too many constraints on the war powers of the President.

He believed a new system of law was needed for this new kind of enemy. He ordered legal justification for this War on Terror. This would involve torture, in all but name, secret capture, indefinite detention without charges, suspension of habeas corpus and violation of the Geneva Convention. “We’ll have to work on the dark side, if you will” said Cheney.

He obtained the justification he needed in a series of legal memos he ordered from his lawyer, David Addington, and from John Yoo, and others at the Office of Legal Counsel. It was said of Addington: “He doesn’t believe in the Constitution.” In November, just two months after 9/11, the President signed an Order proclaiming a state of “extraordinary emergency.” Any foreigner deemed to be “engaged in” or having “abetted terrorism” or “conspired to commit” terrorism could be sentenced to death. There would be no jury, no presumption of innocence, no right to counsel, no Constitutional rights of the accused. Evidence could be obtained through physical coercion and guilt did not need to be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. It enhanced the powers of the President without review by Congress or the Courts. Military lawyers were seen as illegitimate. Addington said “Don’t bring the TJAG’s into the process. They are unreliable.”

A new legal doctrine was established. Bush gave Vice President Cheney the national security portfolio. Cheney became the most powerful Vice President in American History. He controlled the paper flow and access to Bush. Our captives were not to be categorized as criminals, entitled to American law, nor were they to be considered prisoners of war, with rights spelled out by the Geneva
Convention. A new vocabulary was invented: Prisoners were labeled “illegal enemy combatants,” subject to “extraordinary rendition” (being carried off by hooded agents in unmarked air planes to countries where they could be tortured,) or they could be held indefinitely in secret “black site” prisons in other countries or in Guantanamo. Guantanamo was chosen because it could be claimed to be outside the reach of American law. There prisoners could be questioned without legal interference. They could be subjected to “enhanced interrogation techniques,” conducted under the leadership of CIA head, George Tenet.

Much earlier a program had been developed by the military to train soldiers to resist torture. It was called SERE for Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape. Under a former military psychologist, James Mitchell, the methods the soldiers were being taught to resist were now used against prisoners.

When the practice of suffocation by water, or “water boarding” became known by the public, it caused a lot of controversy. But experts say the real brutality lay in the sheer number and duration of 10 or more different strategies, all used together – what Bush referred to as “an alternative set of procedures.”

These strategies included a program psychologists had used with successfully with dogs, called “Learned Helplessness.” Under this program there was random maltreatment – taking away any predictable schedule from detainees, so that they have no idea what time it is, no sense of when meals are delivered, no idea if it is day or night, no light, sound or odors, sleep deprevation, and isolation, all of which are meant to cause psychic stress that would erode a prisoner’s resistance to being interrogated and foster total dependence upon an interrogator. They were treated like dogs, even by using dog cages and a collars and leash. They were stripped naked.

They knew that shame and humiliation were the biggest weakness of Arabs. Therefore they did everything they could to dehumanize them.

Were there any “good guys,” was there any opposition? Yes, there was strong opposition from the beginning from Journalists at the New York Times, the Washington Post and The New Yorker. Officials in the State Department and the FBI protested. (Cheney said “keep those FBI people out, they’re dangerous.”) Career military officers, including former Chiefs of Staff objected. And there were complaints from members of Congress of both parties, including Senators Richard Durbin and Jay Rockefeller, and even people within the CIA. But Cheney prevailed.

Jane Mayer cites Alberto Mora, the Navy General Counsel, who mounted a futile challenge to the interrogation policy. He feared it might result in war crimes charges. Mora reportedly warned
Donald Rumsfeld’s chief counsel, William Haynes, to “protect your client!” Haynes did, by getting another secret opinion from Yoo, superseding Mora’s. (Mora finally gave up trying to work within the system, and resigned to work for Wal-Mart.)

Jack Goldsmith, head of the Office of Legal Counsel, sought to revoke the Yoo memo, without success. Matthew Wexmore, a Defense Department lawyer, organized a group of high ranking military officers and Defense Department officials, including the Secretaries of Army, Navy and Air Force, who met in secret to plan to shut down the “black sites” and restore the Geneva Convention.

All soon left the government, having been deceived, bullied, thwarted and marginalized by Cheney.

But, bad as it was, did torture work. Were there benefits?

There is great evidence that torture is one of the least effective methods of gathering information, and a likely source of false confessions. Both the FBI and the military say it produces unreliable and often unusable information. Jane Mayer argues that in fact, it resulted in a flood of false and even dangerously misleading intelligence, including some false information that was used to justify going to war against Iraq.

The long term affects? Guantanamo is still with us. This morning’s news is all about forced feedings of Guantanamo detainees on a hunger strike. (The Muslims, celebrating Ramadan, are only force fed after sundown.) Lawyers are now allowed in, but last spring a group of investigators from Seton Hall University Law School reported listening devices and cameras recording the lawyer client conferences.

Maybe someone should have paid attention to former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis who said:

“the greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding.”

Or as Alberto Mora said: “If cruelty is no longer declared unlawful, but instead is applied s a matter of policy, it alters the fundamental relationship of man to government. It destroys the whole notion of individual rights. The Constitution recognizes that man has an inherent right, not bestowed by the state or laws, to personal dignity, including the right to be free of cruelty. It applies to all human beings, not just in America—even those designated as “unlawful enemy combatants.’ If you make this exception, the whole Constitution crumbles. It’s a transformative issue.”
The Trial of Donald Rumsfeld

A Prosecution by Book.  MICHAEL RATNER

THE EVIDENCE THAT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS GUILTY OF WAR CRIMES, PRESENTED IN THE FORM OF A COURT CASE BROUGHT BY ONE OF THE PREMIER CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

He won’t be tried in the United States. He can’t be tried by an international tribunal. So Donald Rumsfeld will have to be prosecuted by book.

—FROM THE CASE AGAINST DONALD RUMSFELD

The Case Against Donald Rumsfeld lays out the evidence that high-level officials of the Bush administration ordered, authorized, implemented, and permitted war crimes, in particular the crimes of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

Using primary source documents ranging from Rumsfeld’s “techniques chart” and Iraqi plaintiffs’ statements to the testimony of whistleblowers and key pieces of reportage, the book sets forth evidence of a torture program that took place throughout the world: in Afghanistan, Iraq, Guantánamo, secret CIA prisons, and other places unknown.

The accused are accorded a defense drawn from their memos and public statements. Readers are allowed to judge whether the Bush administration has engaged in torture and whom among the administration to hold responsible.

Reminiscent of Christopher Hitchens’s bestselling The Trial of Henry Kissinger, The Case Against Donald Rumsfeld constitutes one of the only attempts to hold high-ranking Bush administration officials criminally responsible for their actions.
Michael Ratner is the president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, which, along with other human rights groups, filed a war crimes lawsuit against Donald Rumsfeld, George Tenet, and other U.S. officials in Germany under the country’s universal jurisdiction law. He lives in New York City.


On June 10th, 2002, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced that the US had captured a known terrorist who was exploring a plan to explode a "dirty bomb" on American soil. That alleged terrorist was José Padilla who was finally charged in 2005 with conspiracy to murder. What Ashcroft didn’t talk about was how information against him was obtained – by the relentless torture of one man-- Binyam Mohamed, in the name of the United States. Arrested at Karachi Airport before Padilla’s arrest on April 10, 2002, Mohamed was put on a luxury executive jet and flown to an interrogation center in Morocco. For over 18 months, he was subjected to one torture after another: Beating followed beating and, then, his guards produced razor blades and began to split the skin all over his body, including on his genitals. Since 1997, hundreds of people, many of whom have no ties to terrorist organizations, have been abducted from foreign airports or street corners on suspicions based at times on the flimsiest of evidence courtesy of the United States Central Intelligence Agency. In *Ghost Plane*, Stephen Grey tells the true story of the CIA's torture program known by the euphemism "extraordinary rendition" and the airplanes that make the program run. Begun during the Clinton administration, but taking a decidedly more voracious turn after 9/11, the rendition system has seen the transfer of more than 1000 prisoners into jails stretching from Guantanamo to
PART ONE
DESTINATION TORTURE

THE MEN IN BLACK

FLIGHTLOG

Registration: N379P
Type: Gulfstream V
Operator: Premier Executive Transport, Massachusetts
Date: 17 December 2001
Flight plan:
Johnston County, North Carolina (dep. 7:13 P.M.)—Dulles, Washington, DC
(Dep. 9:15 P.M.)—Cairo, Egypt (arr. 3:19 P.M.)
18 December
Cairo, Egypt (dep. 4:43 P.M.)—Stockholm, Sweden (arr. 8:43 P.M.)
Stockholm, Sweden (dep. 9:48 P.M.)—Cairo, Egypt (arr. 3:30 P.M.)
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, BROMMA AIRPORT, DECEMBER 18, 2001, 8:20 P.M.—It was a dark and chilly night when the two cars pulled up.

REVIEWs
Praise for Ghost Plane

"Powerful and damning...[Grey] is a prodigious digger and more than a single-minded muckraker. His attention to detail can be chilling."

--The Washington Post

"An explosive new book provides a rare glimpse into the full extent of the Agency’s controversial terror renditions."

--Time

ENEMY COMBATANT

A remarkable book.
—DAVID IGNA TIUS, THE WASHINGTON POST

A shocking story that might open the eyes of those who still believe “Gitmo” is the best available option.
—THE SUNDAY TIMES (UK)

Harrowing . . . rife with revealing and unexpected details.
—CHICAGO READER

An exhausting and frightening tale.
—THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

[Begg] writes with the same authenticity [as Primo Levi] and conveys horror without hyperbole.
—THE INDEPENDENT (UK)

NOW IN PAPERBACK THE “SHOCKING FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT” (CHICAGO SUN-TIMES) OF ONE MAN’S YEARS INSIDE THE NOTORIOUS AMERICAN PRISON—AND HIS KAFKAESQUE STRUGGLE TO CLEAR HIS NAME

The first authentic firsthand portrait of a detainee’s life at Guantánamo . . . essential reading. [Moazzam Begg] describes his incarceration with restraint, precision, and sometimes withering humor.
—JONATHAN RABAN, THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS

When Enemy Combatant was first published in the United States in hardcover in 2006 it garnered sensational reviews, and its author was featured in the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, on National Public Radio, and on ABC News. A second generation British Muslim, Begg had been held by the U.S. military for more than three years before being released without charge in January of 2005. His memoir is the first published account by a Guantánamo detainee of life inside the infamous prison.

Writing in the Washington Post Book World, Jane Mayer described Enemy Combatant as "fascinating . . . Begg provides some ideological counterweight to the one–sided spin coming from the U.S. government. He writes passionately and personally, stripping readers of the comforting lie that somehow the detainees aren't really like us, with emotional attachments, intellectual interests and fully developed humanity."

Recommended by the Financial Times and Tikkun magazine and aColorLines Editors' Pick of Post–9/11 Books, Enemy Combatant is “a forcefully told, up-to-the-minute political story . . . necessary reading for people on all sides of the issue” (Publishers Weekly, starred review).

Moazzam Begg was born and raised in Birmingham, England, where he established an Islamic bookstore and aided in relief efforts in Bosnia and Afghanistan. Since his release he has returned to Birmingham and speaks and lectures widely. Victoria Brittain is the former associate foreign editor of The Guardian. She and Gillian Slovo co-assembled the playGuantánamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom. She lives in London.
FEELING THE UNTHINKABLE

Essays on Social Justice

by Donald Gutierrez

Professor Donald Gutierrez's extensive writings on social justice have been collected in this volume, appealing for sensitivity, change and, most importantly, action in confronting government abuses and social inequity at home and abroad. These 48 essays and reviews of books are presented in four sections: "My Country Must Not Torture in My Name," "War and Democracy - War On Democracy," "Business as Usual - Greed, Racism and Genocide," and "Power of the Pen - Iconoclasts to the Rescue." Earnest, informed and articulate, Gutierrez raises a voice of moral conscience too often lacking in today's public discourse.

"Zinn-esque.... Dr. Gutierrez has written a book that is compassionate, comprehensive, and thought provoking.... His claim that democracy is under attack is spot-on and his cry for activism is necessary and timely." --Karen P. Burke more

"What an incredibly powerful book! Professor Gutierrez reminds us why public outrage is more necessary now than ever." --Leslie Hall, Ph.D. more

"This is a must-read collection for social justice activists ....[Gutierrez] calls us to promote solidarity with others, and to change our world while we still have the chance." --William P. Quigley more

Read More Reviews  Table of Contents  Read Excerpt

GENERAL BOOKS ON TOTTORURE  PUT THOSE ON US IN PRECEDING SECTION

You +1’d this publicly. Undo

**Book** Description. Publication Date: May 15, 1998. A fascinating, often-gruesome, account of the use of *torture* throughout history, this work is meticulously ...

2. Amazon.com: A Question of *Torture*: CIA Interrogation, from the Cold www.amazon.com › ... › Americas › United States › 20th CenturyCached - S

You +1’d this publicly. Undo

Current events have precipitated a number of recent books connecting executive-branch policy makers with Abu Ghraib and other *torture* scandals, and McCoy ...


You +1’d this publicly. Undo

—Salman Rushdie. "The *Torture* Report is a definitive and often stirring rebuke to those who are still publishing books and touring the country claiming their ...


You +1’d this publicly. Undo

Rating: 3.5 - 3 reviews

"*Torture* has ceased to exist," Victor Hugo claimed, with some justification, in 1874. Yet more than a century later, *torture* is used routinely in one out of every ...

"Torture has ceased to exist," Victor Hugo claimed, with some justification, in 1874. Yet more than a century later, torture is used routinely in one out of every ...
1. **February 4, 2008 - Torture Abolition Day** | GroundReport

www.groundreport.com/.../February-4...Torture-Abolition-Day/2854...

Feb 4, 2008 – **February 4th - Torture Abolition Day** You Can Stop Harming Other Beings I'm organizing an environmental film festival and one of the films ...

2. **Torture** - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torture

4 Laws against torture .... European states abolished torture from their statutory law in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. .... The entire process was said to last three cuts. ..... and in force since 28 **February 1987**, defines torture more expansively than the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

3. **Abolition** Democracy: Beyond Empire, Prisons, and Torture (Open ...

www.amazon.com › ... › Public Affairs & Policy › Social Policy

Revelations about U.S policies and practices of torture and abuse have tomorrow, Feb. ... Free Two-Day Shipping for College Students with Amazon Student October 4, 2005 | ISBN-10: 1583226958 | ISBN-13: 978- ...

4. **Countries which Signed and/or Ratified the Convention against ...**

tassc.org/.../countries-which-signed-andor-ratified-the-convention-ag...

**Torture Abolition** and Survivor Support Coalition ... 26 June is now recognized as the International Day in Support of Torture Victims, ... These include ensuring offense (Article 4), ... Afghanistan, 4 Feb 1985, 1 Apr 1987 ...
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 14, 2008
7:58 PM

CONTACT: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Eisha Mason, (310) 528-4229, emason@afsc.org
Benjamin Parke, (213) 489-1900 x119, bparke@afsc.org

California Becomes First State to Condemn Use of Torture in 'War on Terror'

SACRAMENTO, CA - August 14 - The California Legislature today adopted a resolution aimed at preventing California health professionals from engaging in coercive interrogations of detainees at Guantánamo and other U.S. military prisons.

Senate Joint Resolution 19 instructs the state’s licensing boards to inform California doctors, psychologists and other health professionals of their obligations under national and international law relating to torture. The boards will warn the licensees that they may one day be subject to prosecution if they participate in interrogations that do not conform to international standards of treatment of prisoners.

The resolution calls attention to the intolerable dilemma that torture presents when those who are supposed to be the healers in our society are involved in the abuse of prisoners, said Eisha Mason, associate regional director for the American Friends Service Committee, one of the organizations that sponsored the resolution.

State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles) introduced the resolution in response to evidence that despite the medical oath to first, do no harm, some physicians, psychologists and other health personnel have been complicit in abusive interrogations of detainees by the military and the Central Intelligence Agency.

As professional licensure and codes of ethics are regulated by states, California has the obligation to notify members of laws concerning torture that may result in their prosecution, said Ridley-Thomas.

SJR 19 aims to protect the integrity of the health professions and individual practitioners by informing them of their legal and ethical obligations, and giving them a legal reference to remove themselves from abusive situations should they have to contravene the orders of a military superior.

A survey of medical students conducted by the Harvard Medical School, published in the October, 2007 issue of the International Journal of Health Services, found that one-third of the respondents did not know...
that under the Geneva Conventions, they should refrain from participating in coercive interrogations.

This is an important advance, not just in the U.S., but internationally as well, said Dr. Steven H. Miles, professor of medicine and bioethics at the University of Minnesota. More doctors abet torture than treat its victims, and it is time for them to be called to the mission of medicine not to practice torture and to be reminded that they will be held accountable to international law.

No government has the authority to legalize torture, Miles added.

The resolution further requests that the Department of Defense and the CIA remove California-licensed health professionals from participating in coercive interrogations.

This has been an effort for almost three years, said Dr. Jose Quiroga, himself a torture survivor and now medical director of Program for Torture Victims, a sponsor of the resolution. The California Legislature is sending a message to the Federal Government that they are wrong, and I hope that other state legislatures will begin to do this.

The passage of SJR 19 makes California the first state in the nation to officially condemn the use of torture since the beginning of the War on Terror. A measure currently under consideration by the New York State Legislature, which would prohibit the state’s health professionals from participating in the torture or improper treatment of detainees, is expected to pass later this year.

California’s adoption of the resolution sends a clear message that we are going to live by the principles that this country is founded on, said Martha Dina Argello, executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles, another of the resolution’s sponsoring organizations. We will not let fear erode our civil liberties and we will hold health professionals accountable to ethical and legal standards.

The California State Senate gave final approval to the resolution in a 21-13 roll call vote. On Tuesday, it passed the Assembly 45-31.

Torture is much more than a political issue, Ridley-Thomas said. It is an ethical, moral and spiritual issue that has not only become a shame, but it is an evil in our midst.

The Los Angeles offices of the American Friends Service Committee, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Program for Torture Victims coordinated the campaign in favor of SJR 19. The resolution had the additional support, through petitions and testimony, of numerous faith, human rights and medical groups including the California Medical Association.

The American Friends Service Committee is an international peace and justice organization founded in 1917 and governed by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Its programs of peace, relief, reconciliation and development are based on nonviolence and belief in the inherent goodness of all persons. In 1947, AFSC accepted the Noble Peace Prize on behalf of all Quakers worldwide. Its Pacific Southwest Regional Office is located in downtown Los Angeles.

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Common Dreams NewsCenter is a non-profit news service
Torture is a Moral Issue
MARCH 9, 2010 by Rebecca Sheff, FCNL

Torture is not just a national security issue. It’s a moral issue.

FCNL has embarked on a campaign with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) to end US-sponsored torture forever. Because we’re not just talking about national security, we’re talking about human lives and human dignity.

Torture dehumanizes both perpetrators and victims. We, as members of a society whose government has tortured, are also caught up in this web. We are called to take a stand.

Now, we’re asking you to take one step to join us.

Ask your meeting or church to endorse a Commission of Inquiry. A Commission of Inquiry would be independent. It would gather the facts and make recommendations about how to ensure that the United States never again engages in torture.

In order to educate your community about the importance of eradicating US-sponsored torture, you could show them the Campaign’s 20-minute video, “Ending US-Sponsored Torture Forever.” I’ve included the trailer here.

Torture is a moral issue, and it is always wrong. Help us to spread the word.

FCNL AND TORTURE
GOOGLE SEARCH 6-19-13

1. FCNL: Torture
   fcnl.org › Issues
   Believing in the presence of the Light in each person, Friends are compelled to uphold the sanctity of the individual ... Freedom from arbitrary or undue ...

2. FCNL: Endorse the Statement: Torture Is A Moral Issue
   fcnl.org/issues/torture/endorse_the_statement_torture_is_a_moral_issue/
A Statement of the National Religious Campaign against Torture. Endorse the Statement Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions ...  

3. **FCNL**: FCNL Joins Religious Anti-Torture Coalition  
fcnl.org/resources/newsletter/.../fcnl_joins_religious_antitorture_coalition/  

It's time to bring the issue of torture home to our meetings, churches and communities. Unless the people of the United States speak out forcefully on this issue, ...  

4. **FCNL**: Banning Torture In 2008  
fcnl.org/resources/newsletter/feb08/banning_torture_in_2008/  

The military appropriations bill the president signed into law in November 2007 includes a ban on the use of torture. A similar provision in the omnibus ...  

5. **Group Against Torture in Sudan**: Appeal from FCNL on Torture ...  
ghosthouses.blogspot.com/2005/12/appeal-from-fcnl-on-torture.html  

Dec 14, 2005 – From the website of FCNL: http://www.fcnl.org/ That the U.S. Congress ever debated whether U.S.-sponsored torture is okay or not is already an ...  

6. **A Call To Action**: Fw: Abolish Torture Now: Join Faith Leaders in ...  
call2action.blogspot.com/2006/06/fw-abolish-torture-now-join-faith.html  

Jun 13, 2006 – Subject: Abolish Torture Now: Join Faith Leaders in Urging Congress to Act - FCNL. "What does it say if torture is condemned in word, but ...  

7. **Guantanamo Bay, Torture, and more - FCNL** - misc.activism ...  
groups.google.com/.../6e337cbb291b17b6%3Fq%3D%2522Kathy%2B2B...  

Jul 11, 2006 – 7.11.2006 www.fcnl.org. If you would like to read this newsletter online visit www.fcnl.org/email/e-newsletter/11july06.htm. *From the Hill ...  

8. **Torture Permission to be Slipped into Law?** - FCNL - Democratic ...  
www.democraticunderground.com › Discuss  

Oct 27, 2005 - 9 posts - 9 authors  

Torture Permission to be Slipped into Law? - FCNL.  

9. **Torture is a Moral Issue** | Of Peace And Politics  
ofpeaceandpolitics.wordpress.com/2010/03/09/torture-is-a-moral-issue/  

Mar 9, 2010 – FCNL has embarked on a campaign with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) to end US-sponsored torture forever.
Torture: Your Messages Are Working, Keep It Up – FCNL

www.thebellforum.com › ... › Activism, Events & Direct Action!

Nov 3, 2005 - 1 post - 1 author

Friends Committee on National Legislation Legislative Action Message Torture: Your Messages Are Working, Keep It Up – FCNL This week ...

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Editorial from Manila Celebrating June 26
Torture Tolerated by US Public
Newsweek, Arab Dictators, and US
Books on US Torture

Contents of #4
Prosecute Bush et al.
Hunsinger, Book, People of Faith Speak
Marjorie Cohn, Book, US Torture Since 1950s
Danner. Book: US History
Report, US Torture in Afghanistan and Iraq Wars
UN Torture Report
Oppose Torture: Leahy
Former Contractor Suing Donald Rumsfeld
Physicians, Report: Medical Evidence for Torture
Film: Taxi to the Dark Side
Film: Five Fingers, CIA Torture
Olbermann on Gen. Petraeus and Torture
Prosecutors Drop Case Against CIA "Advanced Interrogators"
Torture in California Prisons
END TORTURE, WAR CRIMES NEWSLETTER #8

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Dick Bennett
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See INMOtion
jbennet@uark.edu
(479) 442-4600
2582 Jimmie Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703