

# Educate your congregation

### Study Materials & Further Resources

- ✓ National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT): "*Way of Torture, Way of the Cross: A Bible Study for Lent and Other Occasions*" ([http://www.nrcat.org/storage/nrcat/documents/biblestudy\\_leaders\\_guide.pdf](http://www.nrcat.org/storage/nrcat/documents/biblestudy_leaders_guide.pdf))
- ✓ Presbyterian No2Torture Group: "*Out of Horror, Hope: A Biblically Based Study of Torture's Ravages and Potential Responses in the Reformed Tradition*" ([www.no2torture.org/](http://www.no2torture.org/))
- ✓ QUIT: *Quaker Initiative to End Torture* (<http://www.quit-torture-now.org/>)
- ✓ Rabbis for Human Rights: Stop Torture. *Resources on torture based on Jewish law and values* ([http://www.rhr-na.org/stop\\_torture](http://www.rhr-na.org/stop_torture))
- ✓ Islamic Society of North America: "*Torture Is Not An American Value*" (<http://www.isna.net/articles/Press-Releases/TORTURE-IS-NOT-AN-AMERICAN-VALUE.aspx>)
- ✓ Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: *STOP, Stop Torture Permanently Campaign* (<http://www.uusc.org/programs/STOP/index.html>)

### Recent magazine articles of interest

- ✓ Mother Jones, *When the Unthinkable becomes Acceptable*, March 2008 (<http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2008/03/torture-index.html>)
- ✓ Vanity Fair, *The Green Light*, May 2008 (<http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2008/05/guantanamo200805>)
- ✓ Washington Monthly, *No More. No Torture. No Exceptions*, Jan/Feb/March (2008) (<http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2008/0801.torture.html>)
- ✓ ABC News, *Bush Aware of Advisers' Interrogation Talks* (April 2008) <http://abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/LawPolitics/Story?id=4635175&page=4>

### Audio & Video

- ✓ "*Taxi to the Dark Side*" film directed by Alex Gibney (DVD).
- ✓ "*No2Torture's 2007 LA Gathering*", includes keynote address by Richard Mouw, Pres. of Fuller Seminary (DVD)
- ✓ "*Ghosts of Abu Ghraib*" film directed by Rory Kennedy (DVD)
- ✓ "*The Question of Torture*" series, National Public Radio, June 2006 (Audio) (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5517003>)
- ✓ "*The Torture Question*" by Frontline, PBS (2005) (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/torture>)

### Other

- ✓ "*Should the U.S. Army Field Manual be the Standard for the CIA's Interrogations?*" Responses to some commonly raised concerns.
- ✓ "*Torture Is the Ticking Time-Bomb: Why The Necessity Defense Fails*" by George Hunsinger.

Information about the Audio & Video and Other Resources are available at the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) website [www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org) (click on *People of Faith Act*, then *Educate Your Congregation*), or call 202-547-1920.

### Recommended List of Books

- ✓ A Question of Torture: CIA Interrogation, from the Cold War to the War on Terror (2006) by Alfred McCoy  
*A startling exposé of the CIA's development and spread of psychological torture, from the Cold War to Abu Ghraib and beyond*
- ✓ Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib (2004) by Seymour M. Hersh  
*Hersh details how serious decisions were made in secret by a small handful of people, often based on selective information.*
- ✓ Torture and Truth: America, Abu Ghraib, and the War on Terror (2004) by Mark Danner  
*Includes the torture photographs in color and the full texts of the secret administration memos on torture and the investigative reports on the abuses at Abu Ghraib.*
- ✓ The Torture Debate in America (2006) by Karen J. Greenberg  
*Widely acclaimed as a publishing milestone, The Torture Papers (Cambridge, 2005) constitutes the definitive book of public record detailing the Bush Administration's policies on torture and political prisoners*
- ✓ Truth, Torture, and the American Way: The History and Consequences of U.S. Involvement in Torture (2005) by Jennifer K. Harbury  
*This urgently needed book offers both well-documented evidence of the CIA's continuous involvement in torture tactics since the 1970s and moving personal testimony from many of the victims.*
- ✓ Torture: A Collection (2006) by Sanford Levinson  
*Torture: A Collection brings together leading lawyers, political theorists, social scientists, and public intellectuals to debate the advisability of maintaining the absolute ban and to reflect on what it says about our societies if we do--or do not--adhere to it in all circumstances.*
- ✓ Ghost Plane: The True Story of the CIA Rendition and Torture Program (2007) by Stephen Grey  
*Grey tells the true story of the CIA's torture program ... Grey had access to the thousands of CIA flight records and has interviewed dozens of sources from the most senior levels of the National Security Council to the CIA.*
- ✓ Torture and Democracy (2007) by Darius Rejali  
*This is the most comprehensive, and most comprehensively chilling, study of modern torture yet written.*
- ✓ Poems from Guantanamo: The Detainees Speak (2007) by Ariel Dorfman, Marc Falkoff, and Flagg Miller (eds.)  
*This collection gives voice to the men held at Guantánamo. Available only because of the tireless efforts of pro bono attorneys who submitted each line to Pentagon scrutiny.*
- ✓ Enemy Combatant: My Imprisonment at Guantanamo, Bagram, and Kandahar (2007) by Moazzam Begg and Victoria Brittain  
*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.*
- ✓ The Eight O'Clock Ferry to the Windward Side: Fighting the Lawless World of Guantanamo Bay (2007) by Clive Stafford Smith  
*Clive Stafford Smith is one of the few people in the world who has had independent access to the prisoners at Guantanamo. Eight O'Clock Ferry to the Windward Side is his remarkable account of his descent into... a legal black hole in which the bleakness of the surroundings are punctuated by moments of humor and absurdity.*
- ✓ The Guantanamo Files: The Stories of the 759 Detainees in America's Illegal Prison (2007) by Andy Worthington  
*Who will speak for the 773 men who have been held in Guantanamo? This passionate and brilliantly detailed book brings their stories to the world for the first time.*

### What can my group do?

- ✓ Sign up for "Four Good Things to Do" action alerts from National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT); sign up for local action updates with Metro New York Religious Campaign Against Torture (MNYRCAT).
- ✓ *Befriend* a Guantánamo prisoner by holding them in the light with your ongoing prayers, and writing letters of support on behalf of them or directly to them (write to: saynotorture@yahoo.com).
- ✓ *Endorse* the National Religious Campaign Against Torture's statement (Torture is a Moral Issue) as individuals or as a group (included in this package).
- ✓ *Create* an information table for your congregation; gather signature for Torture is a Moral Issue petition.
- ✓ *Organize* an educational event or discussion for your congregation.
- ✓ *Display* a banner (more information included in this package), or a Witness Against Torture poster (see [www.witnesstorture.org](http://www.witnesstorture.org)).
- ✓ *Host* a screening of the *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib* available from NRCAT along with NRCAT material; or show the commercially produced film on *The Road to Guantanamo* (DVD, 95 minutes) or *Outlawed: Extraordinary Rendition, Torture and Disappearances in the "War on Terror"* (27 minutes) using Amnesty's Study Guide (Contact Amnesty International USA for Videos & Guide; go to <http://www.amnestyusa.org/>).
- ✓ *Pray* using prayer cards of your own creation, or for Christian congregations you could use: *Jesus, Our Tortured Brother*. Pax Christi USA: [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org) (Pax Christi Store – Prayer Cards – Page 2)
- ✓ *Volunteer* to be part of MNYRCAT efforts to end torture.

### Helpful Organizations *(contacts for speakers in the Metro NY area)*

#### Legal and Human Rights Group

American Civil Liberties Union, *Torture*  
(212) 607-3300  
<http://www.aclu.org/>

Amnesty International, *Torture*  
(212) 807-8400  
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/>  
Contact Matt Kennis.

Center for Constitutional Rights, *Illegal Detentions and Guantánamo*  
(212) 614-6464  
<http://ccrjustice.org/>

Human Rights First, *End Torture Now*  
(212) 845 5200  
<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/>

Seton Hall, *Center for Policy & Research, Guantánamo Research*  
(888) 415-7271  
[http://law.shu.edu/center\\_policyresearch/Guantanamo\\_Reports.htm](http://law.shu.edu/center_policyresearch/Guantanamo_Reports.htm)

#### Organization for Survivors of Torture

Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture  
(<http://www.survivorsoftorture.org/>)  
212-683-7446

## **Denominational Statements in Opposition to Torture**

**National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA and Church World Service Meeting in Baltimore, MD,**  
*A Statement on the Disavowal of Torture* (November 8-11, 2005)  
(<http://www.ncccusa.org/news/060927outlawed.html>)

### **Reformed Judaism**

*Statement in Opposition to Torture -General Assembly 2005*  
([http://urj.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=8994&pge\\_prg\\_id=34230&pge\\_id=1625](http://urj.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=8994&pge_prg_id=34230&pge_id=1625))

### **Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association**

*Resolution on the Use of Torture and Abuse of Detainees by the United States – RRA Convention March 2005*  
(<http://www.therra.org/members/conv2005/Res-Torture-2005.pdf>)

### **Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Rabbis**

*Resolution on Freedom, Democracy and the Humane Treatment of Prisoners*  
(<http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/docs/2005resolutions.pdf>)

### **Rabbis for Human Rights – Stop Torture**

([http://www.rhr-na.org/stop\\_torture](http://www.rhr-na.org/stop_torture))

### **Episcopal Church of the United States – Executive Council**

*Resolution Condemning the Use of Torture - 2007*  
([http://www.episcopalchurch.org/1866\\_85628\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/1866_85628_ENG_HTM.htm))

### **Presbyterian Church USA**

*Resolution Against Torture - Human Rights in a Time of Terrorism* (217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – 2006)  
(<http://www.pcusa.org/oga/publications/resolution-against-torture.pdf>)

### **United Methodist Church USA – General Board of Church and Society**

*Social Principles Oppose Torture*  
(<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nl/content3.asp?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=3631781&ct=3955871>)

### **Disciples of Christ**

*Resolution Opposing Torture – General Assembly 2007*  
(<http://www.disciples.org/ga/resolutions/0721/>)

### **Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations**

*2007 General Assembly Resolution to Stop U.S. Sponsored Torture*  
(<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/31605.shtml>)

### **Roman Catholic Church – Universal Catechism States**

"Torture which uses physical or moral violence to extract confessions, punish the guilty, frighten opponents, or satisfy hatred is contrary to respect for the person and for human dignity" (2297).

### **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

*In Support of Legislation Requiring All U.S. Government Agencies to Abide by the U.S. Army Field Manual in the Interrogation of Prisoners – Rejecting Torture and Cruel Treatment*  
([http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/wenski\\_jan30-2008\\_ltr\\_on\\_torture\\_final.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/wenski_jan30-2008_ltr_on_torture_final.pdf))

### **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

*For Peace in God's World – Fourth Churchwide General Assembly 1995*  
(<http://www.elca.org/socialstatements/peace/>)

### **National Association of Evangelicals**

*An Evangelical Declaration Against Torture: Protecting Human Rights in an Age of Terror – March 2007*  
Link at <http://www.evangelicalsforhumanrights.org/>

### **Statements from Quaker Meetings, Churches and Organizations**

([http://www.fcni.org/issues/issue.php?issue\\_id=70](http://www.fcni.org/issues/issue.php?issue_id=70))



# FACTS AND FIGURES

## ILLEGAL US DETENTIONS

ONLY ONE GUANTÁNAMO  
DETAINEE HAS BEEN  
CONVICTED BY MILITARY  
COMMISSION...

- **11 January 2008** marks **6 years** since the first detainees were transferred to Guantánamo.
- Nearly **800** detainees have been held in Guantánamo.
- Approximately **300** detainees of around **30** nationalities were still held without charge or trial in November 2007. Nearly **100** of them were Yemenis.
- Approximately **a quarter** of those still held have been determined as eligible for release or transfer by US authorities.
- Only **one** Guantánamo detainee has been convicted by military commission – David Hicks in March 2007. He pleaded guilty to “providing material support for terrorism” under a pre-trial agreement that ensured his release from US custody after five years and return to his native Australia to serve a nine-month prison term.
- As of November 2007, **3** detainees had been charged for trial by military commission.
- By November 2007, approximately **470** detainees had been released from Guantánamo to other countries since 2002, including Albania, Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom and Yemen.
- Nearly **80 per cent** of those detained are believed to be held in isolation in Camp 5, Camp 6 or Camp Echo.
- Camp 6 was built to house **178** detainees. It is the harshest facility. Detainees are confined for a minimum of **22 hours a day** in individual steel cells with no windows to the outside.

## AT LEAST 4 MEN ARE REPORTED TO HAVE DIED IN GUANTÁNAMO AS A RESULT OF SUICIDE.

- At least **4** of those still held were under **18 years old** when taken into custody.
- At least **4** men are reported to have died in Guantánamo as a result of suicide. **Dozens** more suicide attempts have been reported.
- Detainees have been taken into custody in more than **10** countries before being transferred to Guantánamo without any judicial process.
- An analysis of around **500** of the detainees concluded that only **5 per cent** had been captured by US forces; **86 per cent** had been arrested by Pakistani or Afghanistan-based Northern Alliance forces and turned over to US custody, often for a reward of thousands of US dollars.
- **14** detainees were transferred to Guantánamo in September 2006 after they had been held incommunicado in secret CIA custody for up to **4 and a half years**; **4** other men have been transferred to Guantánamo since.
- An **unknown number** of people have been held in secret CIA custody. At least **three dozen** people believed to have been held in secret remain unaccounted for, their fate and whereabouts unknown.
- **Hundreds** of people remain detained without charge, trial or judicial review of their detentions at the US air base in Bagram, Afghanistan.

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Amnesty International  
International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House  
1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom

[www.amnesty.org/counter-terror-with-justice](http://www.amnesty.org/counter-terror-with-justice)

COUNTER TERROR  
WITH JUSTICE

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



**Amnesty International** is a global movement of 2.2 million people in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion – funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

## National Participating and Endorsing Groups

### DENOMINATION AND FAITH GROUPS – *Participating*

American Baptist Churches, USA  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church  
Islamic Society of North America  
The Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Church of Christ  
The United Methodist General Board of Church and Society  
Witness/Washington Office, Church of the Brethren  
World Sikh Council – America Region

### DENOMINATIONS AND FAITH GROUPS – *Endorsing*

The Episcopal Church  
Metropolitan Community Churches Global Justice Team  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

### RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS – *Participating*

Adventist Peace Fellowship  
Disciples Justice Action Network (Disciples of Christ)  
Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean (EPICA)  
Evangelicals for Human Rights  
Fellowship of Reconciliation  
Franciscan Friars – Holy Name Province  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation  
National Council of Churches  
Network of Spiritual Progressives  
No2Torture  
Pax Christi USA  
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship  
Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT)

Rabbis for Human Rights, North America  
The Shalom Center  
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

### RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS – *Endorsing*

8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice  
Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America  
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good  
Clerics of St. Viator  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Evangelicals for Social Action  
Franciscan Sisters of Peace  
Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (ICUJP)  
The Jewish Peace Fellowship  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Marianist Social Justice Collaborative  
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers  
Maryknoll Lay Missioners  
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace  
Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province Leadership Team  
Sojourners  
US Catholic Mission Association  
US Province, School Sisters of St. Francis  
U.S. Jesuit Conference  
Women in Islam, Inc.

### ADJUNCT MEMBERS

Amnesty International USA  
Bill of Rights Defense Committee  
The Center for Justice & Accountability  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Human Rights First  
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International