

CAMPAIGN TO BAN TORTURE

**The Center for Victims of Torture, Evangelicals for Human Rights, and the
National Religious Campaign Against Torture**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Call for Presidential Ban on Torture From Former Cabinet Members, Retired Generals, Evangelical and Other Religious Leaders

***Bipartisan Group Includes Six Former Secretaries of State or
Defense, Four Former Members of the Joint Chiefs, Top
Officials from Every Administration Since Vietnam;
Evangelical, Baptist, Catholic, and Other Religious Leaders***

A call on the President for an executive order banning torture was released on Wednesday by a broad bipartisan coalition including former national security and defense officials from the Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, and both Bush Administrations and leaders from evangelical, Baptist, Catholic, and other faiths. They said that such a ban would improve national security and recommit America to its values.

Their call coincides with ongoing debate over the treatment of prisoners and comes on the heels of a Supreme Court decision upholding the right of *habeas corpus* for prisoners at Guantánamo.

The statement calls for the President to adopt an executive order affirming principles including the rule of law, an end to rendition, Congressional and judicial oversight of detention and interrogation, uniform national standards for all prisoner treatment, and an end to any practice the US would not like to see used on Americans, such as water boarding, through adherence to the “golden rule.”

“We can not allow fear to separate us from our values, our principles, and our humanity. Our actions are harming our relationships with our friends, giving license to an already heartless enemy, and they directly contradict the training we give to our own service women and men who are fighting so selflessly and valiantly for us. We will not win by becoming our enemy,” said Rear Admiral Donald J. Guter (USN-Ret.), former Judge Advocate General of the Navy, who signed the statement.

“We have all committed our lives to be faithful followers of Christ; he comes first, and we must do what he wants us to do. We have all come to believe that a follower of the Jesus Christ who came as an expression of God’s great love for humanity cannot endorse or accept the torture or cruel treatment of any human being. Torture, like terrorism itself, is a grotesque violation of everything Jesus represents and that we have committed to be about in the world. This statement marks a decisive moral rejection of torture from what might be called the moral center of American culture. We must recover our moral bearings as a nation and reject policies that have both degraded us morally and harmed our national interest,” said Rev. Dr. David P. Gushee,

Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer University and President of Evangelicals for Human Rights.

National security and defense signatories include Former **Secretaries of State George Shultz, Madeleine Albright, and Warren Christopher** and Former **Secretaries of Defense Harold Brown, William Perry and William Cohen**, Former **Deputy Secretaries of State Richard Armitage and John C. Whitehead**; Former **Under Secretaries of State Marc Grossman, Thomas R. Pickering, Frank Wisner, and Joseph Nye**; Former **Assistant Secretaries of State Lorne Craner and Harold Koh**; Former **Deputy Secretaries of Defense William H. Taft IV, Rudy deLeon, and John Hamre**; Former **Under Secretary of Defense William J. Lynn**; Former **Assistant Secretary of Defense Dr. Ashton B. Carter**; Former **National Security Advisors Zbigniew Brzezinski, Anthony Lake, and Samuel R. Berger**; **Harry McPherson**, former Counsel to President Johnson; Former **Senators Charles S. Robb** (Chair of the Iraq Intelligence Commission), **J. Bennett Johnston** (Judge Advocate General Corps), **John Glenn** (also Colonel, USMC-Ret.), **Sam Nunn**, and **Gary Hart**; Former **Governor Thomas Kean** (9/11 Commission Chair); Former FBI security and counterterrorism expert **Jack Cloonan**; and retired CIA operations officer **Burton Gerber**.

Former military signatories include **Retired Generals Joseph P. Hoar** (USMC-Ret.), **James L. Jones** (USMC-Ret.), **Paul J. Kern** (USA-Ret.), **Merrill A. McPeak** (USAF-Ret., Former Chief of Staff, US Air Force), **Volney F. Warner** (USA-Ret.); Lt. Generals **Robert G. Gard, Jr.** (USA-Ret.), **Harry E. Soyster** (USA-Ret., Army Intelligence); **Retired Admirals Archie Clemins** (USN-Ret.) and **Greg G. Johnson** (USN-Ret.); and former US Navy General Counsel **Alberto J. Mora**.

Evangelical signatories include **Rev. Samuel Rodriguez**, (National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference), **Rev. Dr. Richard Mouw**, (Fuller Theological Seminary), **Mr. David Neff**, (Christianity Today Media Group), **Rev. Dr. Joel C. Hunter**, (Northland – A Church Distributed), **Mr. Gary Haugen** (International Justice Mission), **Dr. Robert Michael Franklin** (Morehouse College), **Rev. Richard Cizik** (National Association of Evangelicals), **Rev. Tony Campolo** (Eastern University), **Dr. Robert Andringa** (Council for Christian Colleges & Universities), **Rev. Dr. Paul Alexander** (Haggard Graduate School of Theology, Azusa Pacific University), and **Dr. Stanley Burgess** (Regent University School of Divinity).

Other religious signatories include **Bishop Thomas G. Wenski** (Committee on International Justice and Peace, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), **Rabbi Steve Gutow** (Jewish Council of Public Affairs), **Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick** (Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.), **Rev. Dr. William Shaw** (National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.), **Rabbi Eric Yoffe** (Union for Reform Judaism), **Dr. Ingrid Mattson** (Islamic Society of North America), **Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick** (Former Archbishop of Washington, DC), **Rabbi Gerald Serotta** (Rabbis for Human Rights – North America)

For a complete list of signatories and the full statement, visit www.CampaignToBanTorture.org

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