



The  
CENTER for  
VICTIMS of  
TORTURE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 8, 2018

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**Media Advisory for Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. ET**

**PRESS BRIEFING: Senator Tina Smith, Rep. Barbara Lee, The Center for Victims of Torture on Opposing Nomination of Gina Haspel to Lead the CIA**

**WASHINGTON** — Immediately following the Senate confirmation hearing of Gina Haspel to lead the CIA, The Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT) in conjunction with Senator Tina Smith (MN) and Rep. Barbara Lee (CA), will host a press briefing to address why Gina Haspel's record on torture and the destruction of videotapes documenting the CIA's "enhanced interrogation program" disqualifies her from running the CIA. Also joining at the briefing will be members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, faith leaders, military leaders, torture survivors and advocates.

**\*\*BRIEFING DETAILS\*\***

**WHAT:** Press briefing to address why nominee Gina Haspel's record on torture disqualifies her from leading the CIA. *The briefing will be held immediately following the nomination hearing.*

**WHO:** Senator Tina Smith, Representative Barbara Lee, members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, faith leaders, military leaders, torture survivors.

Additional speakers include:

**Yasmine Taeb**, The Center for Victims of Torture, Senior Policy Counsel

**Léonce Byimana**, Torture survivor and Executive Director, Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition

**Rev. Ron Steif**, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Executive Director

**Nihad Awad**, Council on American-Islamic Relations, National Executive Director

**Aliya Hana Hussain**, Center for Constitutional Rights, Advocacy Program Manager

**Elizabeth Beavers**, Indivisible, Foreign Policy Manager

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 9 at 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**WHERE:** Senate Swamp

**Co-sponsoring organizations:** *Friends Committee on National Legislation, Win Without War, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Indivisible, Franciscan Action Network, MoveOn, Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition, CODEPINK, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Defending Rights & Dissent, RootsAction.org, Center for Constitutional Rights, Conference of Superiors of Men (Catholic), Council on American-Islamic Relations, Poligon Education Fund, Amnesty International USA.*

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*The Center for Victims of Torture is a nonprofit organization headquartered in St. Paul, MN, with offices in Atlanta, GA, and Washington, D.C.; and healing initiatives in Africa and the Middle East. Visit [www.cvt.org](http://www.cvt.org)*