

## What Can Be Done to Stop Torture?

Opposing torture is *not* a partisan political issue; it is a cause for all people of good will.

Ask your elected representatives:

"What action have you taken to break North Carolina's links to kidnapping, extrajudicial detention, and torture?"

Ask candidates for public office:

"What will you do to ensure North Carolina is a torture free zone?"

## JOIN US, NOW!

Refuse to be either paralyzed or muzzled by fear and anger. Urge your family, your neighbors, and members of your spiritual community to speak up.

Bring our government back to legality, decency, and democratic rule and away from the road it is following toward an un-American empire of kidnapping, torture, and illegal detention.

NCSTN organizes regular vigils and protests against Aero Contractors and CIA activities in North Carolina.

***Demand that local, state  
and federal elected  
officials and  
law enforcement  
investigate and prevent  
these crimes in any and  
every jurisdiction.***



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**NORTH CAROLINA  
STOP  
TORTURE  
NOW**



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## What is North Carolina Stop Torture Now?

NCSTN is a coalition of individuals representing a variety of peace, human rights, and religious organizations **working to end the practice of “extraordinary rendition.”** Extraordinary rendition is the practice of kidnapping, detention, interrogation, and torture of suspected enemies.

Aero Contractors, Ltd., based at the Johnston County airport, hires pilots and maintains the aircraft that fly these CIA-directed, secret, and illegal missions.

NCSTN aims to end torture by first getting North Carolina out of this immoral business, by evicting Aero Contractors from public property and seeing to it that pilots and policy makers alike are brought to justice.

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## TORTURE IS ILLEGAL, IMMORAL, AND INEFFECTIVE

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### Is Torture Legal?

**No.** Torture is illegal in the United States of America, which was founded by overthrowing a ruler who tortured and illegally imprisoned his subjects. Standards of fair and humane treatment are embodied in the U.S. Constitution. Consistent with this tradition, the U.S. signed the United Nations’ Convention Against Torture, which was ratified by Congress and has the force of law in the U.S.

### Is Torture Effective?

**No.** Everyone knows that most people will agree to anything if tortured, so the resulting information is unreliable as intelligence. Intelligence specialists do not rely on it, and it is not admissible in a court of law.

## Does the U.S. Engage in Torture?

**Yes.** The CIA covertly operates secret prisons and delivers captives to interrogation in countries – such as Egypt, Syria, Morocco, and Afghanistan – where torture is routinely practiced. When President Bush denies that the U.S. engages in torture he means “in the U.S.,” so he is not telling the whole truth but maintaining the fiction that Americans do not torture. Aero Contractors of North Carolina perpetuates this fiction by supporting the CIA’s illegal and barbaric program of kidnapping, imprisonment, and torture.

**Torture is immoral.** Plainly, torture violates the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have done unto yourself.” Moreover, torture permanently injures another human and warps and haunts the torturer forever after.

## Why Do Americans Allow Torture?

We can only speculate as to why our government engages in a practice that is illegal, immoral, and ineffective. One possibility is that torture is viewed as a weapon in the “War on Terror,” not so much to gather valuable information, but to frighten and intimidate “illegal enemy combatants” and to project an image of ruthlessness intended to match that of the terrorists.

Instead, news of U.S. torture at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay, and elsewhere has had the opposite effect, stimulating hatred of the U.S. and increasing recruitment among terrorists. At a visceral level, torturing Muslims may also serve as a misplaced, but emotionally satisfying, payback for the great physical suffering witnessed on September 11, 2001.

## What Does Bush’s Torture Policy Cost the United States?

The fact that the United States captures, imprisons, and tortures Muslims is now open knowledge the world over.

Progressive, democratic peoples everywhere regard this fact with far greater disgust than they do a former president’s sexual behavior in the Oval Office. The reputation of the U.S. government and the American people for justice and democracy has reached an all-time low.

## If the “War on Terror” has forced the U.S. to diminish its own democracy and violate its own principles, who has won?

Muslims, who were initially sympathetic and well-disposed toward the U.S. following the 9/11 attacks are now more easily swayed by Al Qaeda’s image of America as a cruel, immoral, and despotic empire.

U.S. armed forces personnel have reason to fear retributive treatment in captivity, and they can no longer draw strength – as Senator McCain did when he was tortured as a North Vietnamese POW – from trusting that their own country does not stoop so low.

Finally, torture in a democracy is a cancer that destroys the body politic by misusing the power of the state and by separating the people from its government with a wall of secrecy and deceit. U.S. citizens are paying a big price while losing their self-respect.

**Learn more, visit:**

**[www.NCStopTortureNow.net](http://www.NCStopTortureNow.net)**