

National Religious Campaign Against Torture

Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/we-must-end-the-indignities-of-torture/>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

As a child growing up in the 1950s during the Korean War, my greatest fear was what it would be like to be tortured bamboo under my fingernails, for example. When I think of my beloved four grandchildren and the world we are leaving them, I am deeply concerned that the use of torture be forever abolished, especially by my own country.

So, how can our country make sure that our grandchildren and all of the grandchildren in the United States do not grow up in a nation that tortures human beings? How can all of us guarantee that U.S.-sponsored torture will never happen again?

A critical first step is to provide the documentation and recognition of the use of torture with the expectation that our government will then use this information to condemn and abolish it forever. This process has begun, in fact, with two important reports.

This spring, a non-governmental, bipartisan task force, the Task Force on Detainee Treatment convened by The Constitution Project, released a 500-page report based on a two-year investigation into the U.S. governments treatment of 9/11 detainees. Drawing on public records and the task force members own interviews with a number of eyewitnesses and involved persons, the report documents how the United States used interrogation techniques on detainees that it had previously condemned as illegal when used by others, including waterboarding, stress positions, extended sleep deprivation, sexual humiliation and prolonged solitary confinement, including cases where individuals were tortured to death.

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In addition to the Task Force on Detainee Treatment report, the Senate Intelligence Committee conducted its own investigation into U.S.-sponsored CIA torture during which it reviewed more than 6 million pages of documents, including classified files unavailable to the task force. The Senate Intelligence Committee approved its 6,000-page report in a bipartisan vote on Dec. 13, 2012, but the report has remained classified and has not been released to the public.

By the end of the year, the Senate Intelligence Committee is expected to vote on whether to release its findings. The report needs to be released to the public so that the American people can learn the whole truth about torture. Torture is shocking, counterproductive and ultimately harmful to our nations long-term security.

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Our responsibility in a democracy is to assure that our government be accountable to the people. We believe that having as thorough as possible an understanding of the torture that occurred during this period and a willingness to acknowledge any shortcomings strengthens the nation and equips us to better cope with future crises as an exemplary practitioner of the rule of law. This is why it is critical that the Senate Intelligence Committee vote this month to release its report on CIA torture.

Our nation is at a turning point. The Intelligence Committee has the power to determine if my grandchildren and all of the grandchildren of this nation will live in a country that does not torture. Tell your senators to urge their colleagues on the committee to vote in favor of the grandchildren.

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Schrier has a record of working for practical solutions and will represent the eastern county well.

First, I enjoy reading the columns by Sid Schwab and Tom Burke, [Continue reading](#)

We strongly urge all Island County voters to join us in voting [Continue reading](#)

Laws that favored cars over walkers began in Los Angeles. But change is happening there, too.

Using covid vaccines mRNA technology, new flu vaccines, now in testing, could offer better protection.

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The 12th Legislative District race introduces new but veteran lawmakers to Snohomish County.

Access to abortion must remain a top issue because its tied to the livelihoods of half the population.

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During October, just three weeks from the Nov. 8 election, Republicans have

The Herald is to be complemented presenting the facts of this project

U.S. Senate candidate Tiffany Smiley recently announced shes pro-choice; she supports a

Contrary to claims, the law protects public safety while allowing pursuits when they are necessary.

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