

Center for Constitutional Rights

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

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Public Facing Advocacy Writing

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March 13, 2018 New York In response to news that Donald Trump is replacing Rex Tillerson at the State Department with Mike Pompeo, who currently heads the CIA, and naming Gina Haspel to head the CIA, [Vincent Warren](#), Executive Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) made the statement below. The Center for Constitutional Rights represents victims of the CIA Torture Program, including [Sharqawi Al Hajj](#) and [Guled Duran](#), and has recently [urged](#) the [International Criminal Court](#) to open an investigation into the Bush administrations CIA torture program.

During the Bush administration, Gina Haspel oversaw the torture of Abu Zubaydah and others at a CIA Black Site in Thailand, where he was waterboarded 83 times. She was then instrumental in the destruction of the tapes of those interrogations, which were evidence of torture. She is unfit to lead the CIA. Gina Haspel should be prosecuted not promoted.

We further oppose Mike Pompeos appointment to head the State Department because he is a loose cannon who acts before he thinks, the opposite of the temperament required for the top diplomatic job. He, too, has defended and endorsed torture and characterized those complicit in the CIA torture program as patriots.

Much as their appointments are a disaster for the country and the world, and the Senate must not confirm either nominee, they could not be a better fit for an incompetent and irrational president with contempt for diplomacy, the rule of law, and the most basic tenets of democracy.

The Center for Constitutional Rights works with communities under threat to fight for justice and liberation through litigation, advocacy, and strategic communications. Since 1966, the Center for Constitutional Rights has taken on oppressive systems of power, including structural racism, gender oppression, economic inequity, and governmental overreach. Learn more at ccrjustice.org.

Please contact us for general press inquiries, or to set up interviews.

We can connect you with just the right person at CCR for the story youre working on.

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