

HELP OBAMA END TORTURE NOW

TORTURE IS WRONG. For the followers of a tortured and crucified Savior, torture is unambiguously wrong. As Christians, we believe that each human being is made in the image and likeness of God, and that whatever is done to the least of these—including prisoners—is also done to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So when someone tortures another child of God, they also torture Christ.

The fastest way to halt U.S.-sponsored torture is for President-elect Obama to issue an executive order after he is sworn in as our new President on January 20th.

President-elect Obama has consistently stated his opposition to torture. But now we must encourage him to live up to his words and help him end torture now.

The following are principles for this ban on torture. Please read them and show your support for an executive ban on torture based on these principles by signing this statement of principles at www.djan.net/statements/torture2.htm.

This statement with signatures will be delivered to the Obama transition team (which has invited us to share this document with them):

The “Golden Rule.” We will not authorize or use any methods of interrogation that we would not find acceptable if used against Americans, be they civilians or soldiers.

One national standard. We will have one national standard for all US personnel and agencies for the interrogation and treatment of prisoners. Currently, the best expression of that standard is the US

Army Field Manual, which will be used until any other interrogation technique has been approved based on the Golden Rule principle.

The rule of law. We will acknowledge all prisoners to our courts or the International Red Cross. We will in no circumstance hold persons in secret prisons or engage in disappearances. In all cases, prisoners will have the opportunity to prove their innocence in ways that fully conform to American principles of fairness.

Duty to protect. We acknowledge our historical commitment to end the use of torture and cruelty in the world. The US will not transfer any person to countries that use torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

Checks and balances. Congress and the courts play an invaluable role in protecting the values and institutions of our nation and must have and will have access to the information they need to be fully informed about our detention and interrogation policies.

Clarity and accountability. All US personnel—whether soldiers or intelligence staff—deserve the certainty that they are implementing policy that complies fully with the law. Henceforth all US officials who authorize, implement, or fail in their duty to prevent the use of torture and ill treatment of prisoners will be held accountable, regardless of rank or position.

Heeding the call of General Assembly Resolution 0721, the Disciples Center for Public Witness, DJAN (Disciples Justice Action Network), and DAWN (Disciples Advocacy and Witness Network in the Christian Church Capital Area) urge you to sign this statement and then invite others to do the same. Please sign the statement at www.djan.net/statements/torture2.htm. To read more about this, please visit www.disciplesaction.blogspot.com.