

## TORTURE IS UNACCEPTABLE - ALWAYS!

To: F. James Sensenbrenner, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee • Senator Carl Levin • Senator Debbie Stabenow • Representative Mike Rogers

### PETITION CALLING FOR PROSECUTION OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DONALD H. RUMSFELD

- President George W. Bush oversaw the creation of the category of unlawful combatants for detainees from Afghanistan, Iraq, and other countries for the purpose of denying them rights granted to all prisoners under international law.
- President Bush requested or allowed policies that resulted in torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment and extrajudicial executions of detainees in Afghanistan and Iraq. These practices are not only morally repugnant but are strictly forbidden by the Geneva Conventions and violate the US War Crimes Act of 1996.
- Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense of the United States, oversaw the development and approved of policies governing interrogation techniques that clearly constituted torture. These practices, used against Iraqi detainees, included hooding, prolonged isolation, death threats, extended nakedness, suffocation, intimidation by dogs, and physical harm and injury.
- Secretary Rumsfeld received credible reports of torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment of Iraqi detainees as early as November 2003 and did not investigate those allegations.
- Secretary Rumsfeld received clear photographic evidence of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of Iraqi detainees and did not act to stop it.
- Secretary Rumsfeld intentionally restricted the International Committee of the Red Cross's access to some Iraqi detainees, in direct contravention of the Geneva Convention.
- These policies and practices resulted in the deaths of detainees and the torture and ill-treatment of many others in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Torture is both morally unacceptable and unlawful in all cases; policies designed to permit torture are equally unacceptable and unlawful.

**Because of the grievous nature of these crimes and the harm that they caused the United States, we call for the prosecution of President George W. Bush and Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.**

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