

NRCAT WAS THERE

PEOPLE OF FAITH
ENDING TORTURE

2014 Annual Report

The torture of solitary confinement, CIA secret prisons and Guantanamo Bay detention center, and the bigotry of anti-Muslim sentiment are affronts to human dignity and a shame on this nation. Our national network of grassroots faith leaders continues to act with and on behalf of impacted individuals and communities to ensure that policy makers and the media hear our call to end torture, forever.

From houses of worship, to state capitol buildings, to the halls of the U.S. Congress, to the White House, and in one-on-one conversations with our neighbors, in 2014 NRCAT was there. Grounded in our belief that every human being has inherent dignity and worth, we are people of faith working to end torture. Join us!

Rev. Ron Stief
Executive Director



Interfaith delegation visits NYC Rikers Island jail complex on August 26, 2014 to meet with Commissioner Joseph Ponte of the City of New York Department of Correction.

Join us in ending U.S.-sponsored torture

In 2014, NRCAT's targeted advocacy in support of releasing the Senate Intelligence Committee's report on CIA torture led to an impressive 11-3 bipartisan vote to release the executive summary, findings, and conclusions of the report. On December 9th, those sections - the "Torture Report" - were made public.



Interfaith Prayer Vigil at U.S. Capitol on eve of State of the Union to mark Obama's Five-Year Promise to Close Guantanamo.

As the nation reacted with horror to the graphic descriptions of the CIA's immoral, illegal, and ineffective torture program, NRCAT organized op-eds and meetings of faith leaders to condemn the CIA's use of torture, went on CNN, and sent action alerts to every state urging action in Congress to ensure that the torture program is never repeated.

NRCAT is now working with Congress and the Obama Administration to use evidence uncovered in the report to craft and pass legislation that will strengthen the legal prohibitions against torture.

Regularly, NRCAT faith leaders in Washington, DC meet with White House and State Department officials to encourage the Administration to more quickly transfer detainees out of the Guantanamo Bay detention center. NRCAT worked successfully with Members of Congress to oppose additional restrictions on transfers proposed in Congress in 2014.

Join us in changing policy to eliminate the use of solitary confinement

In 2014, NRCAT network members offered faith leadership to a growing national movement of state campaigns and joined in national and international hearings to end the torture of solitary confinement. NRCAT members gave testimony at state hearings on solitary confinement in California, Maryland, New Jersey and New York, met with elected and appointed officials, conducted clergy visits to state prisons and city jails, and stood up for local, state, and national human rights at every opportunity.



UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Mendez, speaks at a Feb 25th NRCAT-organized press conference prior to the second congressional hearing on solitary confinement convened by Senator Richard Durbin. Additional speakers include Jim Winkler, General Secretary and President, National Council of Churches; Dolores Canales, co-founder of California Families Against Solitary Confinement; and Amy Fetting, Senior Staff Counsel, ACLU's National Prison Project (left-right).

In September, NRCAT submitted an interfaith Shadow Report to the United Nations Committee Against Torture for their review of the U.S. government under the Convention Against Torture (CAT). The Shadow Report was endorsed by more than 15 religious organizations and was included in the Executive Summary of the US Human Rights Network report. It spotlights the human rights and moral implications of the torture of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons, jails, and detention centers, particularly the disproportionate impact on people and communities of color.

State level campaigns to end solitary confinement:

NEW YORK

NRCAT joined the New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (NY CAIC) to support the passage of the HALT Solitary Confinement Act and in August co-sponsored an interfaith delegation of 30 faith leaders to visit the NYC Rikers Island Jail complex, which included an appointment with Commissioner Joseph Ponte.

PENNSYLVANIA

NRCAT organized an interfaith delegation of state faith leaders to visit punitive segregation at SCI-Greene, meeting with PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel and followed-up in early December by submitting a transition memo on solitary confinement to incoming Governor Wolf.

NEW JERSEY

State Senator Raymond Lesniak introduced a bill to curb the use of solitary confinement in NJ, drafted in collaboration with NRCAT, ACLU NJ, AFSC, persons currently incarcerated and members of the mental health community.

In 2014, NRCAT expanded our partnerships with Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim and South Asian communities in the U.S in order to address anti-Muslim sentiment and related bigotry. NRCAT also continued to provide leadership to the Shoulder-to-Shoulder campaign. Shoulder-to-Shoulder brings together national Jewish and Christian organizations to oppose Islamophobia and in 2014 expanded its grassroots network to equip rapid response to confront anti-Muslim bigotry.

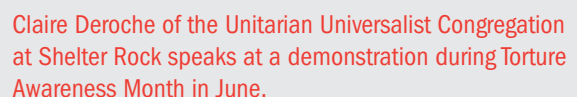
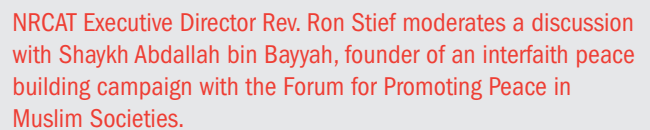


CALIFORNIA

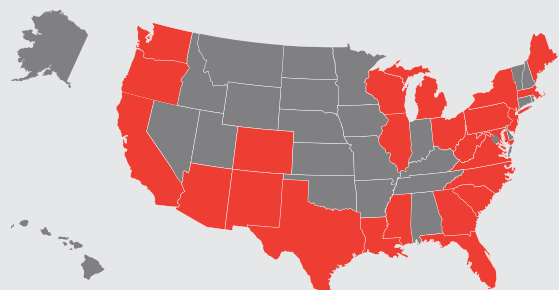
Education and Outreach

Education and outreach is critical to movement building and policy change. In 2014, NRCAT faith leaders, board members, and staff continued our steady pace of messaging and engagement through education and public witness events, social media, letters to the editor and opinion pieces.

On Human Rights Day 2014, NRCAT issued its inaugural e-newsletter, *Human Rights Faithfully*, along with a webinar featuring UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Prof. Juan Mendez and Dr. Rebecca Gordon, author of *Mainstreaming Torture*. Visit www.nrcat.org for up-to-the minute education and outreach resources to support movement building in your community.



For additional state campaigns, please visit
www.nrnat.org/StateCampaign.



Gratitude

NRCAT is grateful for the individuals and religious organizations that raised funds to meet our expenses in 2014. It is only through these generous financial contributions and advocacy that our shared work is possible. In particular, NRCAT wishes to recognize the following for extraordinary giving in 2014:

Foundations

An anonymous foundation
CrossCurrents Foundation
Jacob & Valeria Langeloth Foundation
Open Society Foundations

Religious Organizations

Christian Reformed Church in N.A.
Church of the Brethren
Clerics of St. Viator
Friends Committee on National Legislation
General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church
Islamic Society of North America
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
Unitarian Universalist Association Fund for a Just Society
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock

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Sophia Zohny

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Thanks to our Program Consultants:

Shenandoah Gale (Development)
West End Strategy Team (Media)
Eleison Group (Grassroots Campaigns)

Join the Movement in 2015 to End Torture Forever



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**Congregations and organizations
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