



T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
266 West 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 803  
New York, NY 10018

May 8, 2018

The Honorable Richard Burr, Chair  
The Honorable Mark Warner, Vice Chair  
U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

cc: All U.S. Senators

Dear Senator,

We write on behalf of close to 2,000 rabbis and cantors across the United States to urge you to oppose Gina Haspel's nomination for CIA Director. Given Ms. Haspel's role in the CIA's now-defunct torture program, a vote to confirm her is incompatible with any kind of meaningful commitment to the prohibition on torture and so-called "enhanced interrogation." Her oversight of a CIA black site is an extreme moral offense that overrides any other qualifications she might have to serve as the head of the CIA.

As Jews, we believe that every human being is created in God's image. This assertion applies to all people, friend or enemy. The shame and humiliation caused by torture degrade the divine spark inherent in each of us. Furthermore, the Torah commands not to inflict punishments that degrade the perpetrator. How much more so must dignity be respected in interrogations, where guilt has not been established and where torture neither effectively produces accurate intelligence nor keeps us safer.

But torture is more than just ineffective. It is also deeply immoral. Torture violates the very basic human dignity of the suspects, even if they turn out to be guilty. As the Talmud teaches, "When a human being suffers, what does God say? My head is too heavy for me, my arm is too heavy for me. Thus God suffers over the blood of the wicked, how much more so over the blood of the righteous." (Mishnah Sanhedrin 6:5)

The rabbis and cantors of T'ruah represent the moral voice of the Jewish community. In 2005, T'ruah was one of the first Jewish organization to condemn American use of torture in the ongoing War on Terror. We are founding members of the interfaith National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

We hope that the United States will never again return to the dark days of state-sponsored

torture. We must not appoint officials who fail to respect the power of international prohibitions against torture and the Geneva Conventions.

We urge you to support America's moral standing and reject the nomination of Gina Haspel as CIA Director.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Jill Jacobs  
Executive Director, T'ruah

Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster  
Deputy Director, T'ruah

Rabbi Michael Cohen  
Manchester Center, VT

Rabbi Amy Eilberg  
Los Altos, CA

Rabbi Zev-Hayyim Feyer  
Pomona, CA

Rabbi Howie Schneider  
Aptos, CA

Rabbi Suzanne Singer  
Riverside, CA

Rabbi Manachem Creditor  
Berkeley, CA

Rabbi Judith Seid  
Pleasanton, CA

Rabbi Samuel Broude  
Oakland, CA

Rabbi Meredith Cahn  
Petaluma, CA

Rabbi Sheldon Lewis  
Palo Alto, CA

Rabbi Sarah Weissman  
Redwood City, CA

Rabbi Diane Elliot  
El Sobrante, CA

Cantor Devorah Felder-Levy  
Lose Gatos, CA

Rabbi Robin Podolsky  
Los Angeles, CA

Rabbi Shoshanah Devorah  
Ukiah, CA

Rabbi Andrew Straus  
Thousand Oaks, CA

Cantor Rise Wallach  
Oakland, CA

Rabbi Keara Stein  
Pasadena, CA

Rabbi Laura Geller  
Los Angeles, CA

Rabbi Ephraim Pelcovits  
Los Angeles, CA

Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater  
Pasadena, CA

Rabbi Corey Helfand  
Foster City, CA

Rabbi Aryeh Cohen  
Los Angeles, CA

Rabbi Paula Marcus  
Aptos, CA

Rabbi Burt Jacobson El Sobrante, CA	Rabbi Marc Soloway Boulder, CO	Rabbi Eliot Baskin Greenwood, CO
Rabbi David Zucker Aurora, CO	Rabbi Deborah Bronstein Boulder, CO	Rabbi A. Nadya Gross Erie, CO
Rabbi Deborah Cantor Bloomfield, CT	Rabbi Stanley Kessler West Hartford, CT	Rabbi Murray Levine New Haven, CT
Rabbi James Ponet New Haven, CT	Rabbi Penina Alexander Washington D.C.	Rabbi Aaron Potek Washington D.C.
Rabbi Gilah Langner Washington D.C.	Rabbi Hannah Goldstein Washington D.C.	Rabbi Dr. Susan Marks Sarasota, FL
Rabbi Louis Rieser Boynton Beach, FL	Rabbi Cheryl Weiner Hollywood, FL	Rabbi David Weizman Clearwater, FL
Rabbi Moshe Tom Heyn Miami, FL	Rabbi Robyn Fisher Miami, FL	Cantor Rachelle Nelson Palmetto Bay, FL
Rabbi Jonathan Fisch Florida	Rabbi Phyllis Zarren-Zohar Miami, FL	Rabbi Sharon Steinberg Boca Raton, FL
Rabbi Mark Kula Miami, FL	Rabbi Jonathan Tabachnikoff Miami, FL	Rabbi Gayle Pomerantz Miami Beach, FL
Rabbi Rachel Greengrass Miami, FL	Rabbi Daniel Marmorstein Miami, FL	Rabbi Dr. Rafael Goldstein Miami, FL
Rabbi Joshua Lesser Atlanta, GA	Rabbi Scott Colbert Atlanta, GA	Rabbi Bruce Elder Highland Park, IL

Rabbi Suzanne Griffel Chicago, IL	Rabbi Danya Rutenber Evanston, IL	Cantor David Berger Chicago, IL
Rabbi Monica Gomery Chicago, IL	Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein South Elgin, IL	Rabbi H D Uriel Smith Lexington, KY
Student Rabbi Joshua Boydston Louisville, KY	Rabbi Barbara Penzner West Roxbury, MA	Rabbi Richard Meirowitz Peabody, MA
Rabbi Henry Zoob Westwood, MA	Rabbi Devorah Jacobson Amherst, MA	Rabbi Dr. Aryeh Wineman Northampton, MA
Rabbi Toba Spitzer Waltham, MA	Rabbi Matthew Soffer Boston, MA	Rabbi Randy Kafka Stoughton, MA
Rabbi Edward Feld Northampton, MA	Rabbi Ora Weiss Newton Centre, MA	Rabbi Michael Rothbaum Concord, MA
Rabbi Andrew Vogel Newton Center, MA	Student Rabbi Laura Bellows Jamaica Plain, MA	Rabbi Katy Allen Wayland, MA
Rabbi Rachmiel Langer Littleton, MA	Cantor Elise Barber Springfield, MA	Rabbi Robin Sparr Natick, MA
Rabbi Justin David Northampton, MA	Rabbi Gerald Serotta Chevy Chase, MD	Rabbi John Franken Chevy Chase, MD
Rabbi Charles Buckholz Jerusalem	Rabbi Nina Cardin Baltimore, MD	Rabbi Jeremy Kridel Elkridge, MD
Rabbi Sara Adler Ann Arbor, MI	Rabbi Michael Latz Minneapolis, MN	Rabbi Emma Kippley-Ogman St. Paul, MN

Rabbi Debra Rappaport Minneapolis, MN	Rabbi Joshua Chasan Portland, ME	Rabbi Rachel Isaacs Waterville, ME
Rabbi Doug Alpertt Kansas City, MO	Rabbi Scott Shafrin St. Louis, MO	Rabbi Tracy Nathan University City, MO
Cantor Joshua Finkel St. Louis, MO	Rabbi Jeffrey Stiffman Olivette, MO	Rabbi Susan Talve St. Louis, MO
Senior Rabbinic Intern Laurie Franklin Missoula, MT	Rabbi Rachel Jurovics Raleigh, NC	Rabbi Geoffrey Claussen Greensboro, NC
Rabbi Eric Solokon Raleigh, NC	Rabbi Brian Nelson Cary, NC	Rabbi Sharon Litwin Teaneck Township, NJ
Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz Millburn, NJ	Rabbi Ruth Gais Summit, NJ	Cantor Ilan Mamber Franklin Lakes, NJ
Rabbi Sally Priesand Asbury Park, NJ	Rabbi Elliott Tepperman Montclair, NJ	Rabbi Randall mark Wayne, NJ
Rabbi David Greenstein Montclair, NJ	Rabbi Ariann Weitzman West Orange, NJ	Rabbi Benjamin Adler Lawrenceville, NJ
Rabbi Micah Liben New Mildord, NJ	Rabbi Kerry Olitzky No Brunswick, NJ	Rabbi Andrew Gold Las Vegas, NV
Rabbi Jonah Geffen New York, NY	Cantor Janet Leuchter New York, NY	Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg Forest Hills, NY
Rabbi Julia Andelman New York, NY	Rabbi Michael Feinberg New York, NY	Rabbi Rachel Esserman Endwell, NY

Rabbi Adam Fisher  
Port Jefferson Station, NY

Rabbi Mark Hurvitz  
New York, NY

Rabbi William Plevan  
New York, NY

Rabbi Regina Sandler-  
Phillips  
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Shoshana Hantman  
Katonah, NY

Rabbi Howard Handler  
New York, NY

Rabbi Pamela Wax  
Bronx, NY

Rabbi Nancy Wiener  
New York, NY

Rabbi Marc Margolius  
New York, NY

Rabbi Shai Held  
White Plains, NY

Rabbi Jonathan Slater  
Hastings on Hudson, NY

Rabbi Andy Shugerman  
Brooklyn, NY

Cantor Suzanne Bernstein  
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Barat Ellman  
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Sara Zacharia  
New York, NY

Rabbi Lisa Grant  
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Dr. Tzemah Yoreh  
Baltimore, MD

Rabbi Joseph Selevan  
Tonawanda, NY

Rabbi Bob Gluck  
Albany, NY

Rabbi Drorah Setel  
Rochester, NY

Rabbi Shuli Passow  
New York, NY

Rabbi Melinda Zalma  
New York, NY

Rabbi Ellen Lippman  
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder  
New York, NY

Rabbi Rena Blumenthal  
New Paltz, NY

Rabbi Dr. Arthur Blecher  
New York, NY

Cantor Abbe Lyons  
Ithaca, NY

Rabbi Judith Bardack  
New York, NY

Cantor Judy Ribnick  
New York, NY

Rabbi Jonah Strom  
Chappaqua, NY

Rabbi Jeffrey Roth  
Olivebridge, NY

Rabbi Lina Zerbarini  
Lynbrook, NY

Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub  
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Dr. Daniel Bronstein  
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Jo Hirschmann  
Bronx, NY

Rabbi Burton Visotzky  
New York, NY

Rabbi Guy Austrian  
New York, NY

Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen  
New York, NY

Rabbi Sue Oren  
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Michael Fessler  
Poughkeepsie, NY

Rabbi Rachel Timoner  
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Andrew Pepperstone  
DeWitt, NY

Rabbi Linda Shriner-Cahn  
Bronx, NY

Rabbi Lester Bronstein  
White Plains, NY

Rabbi Susan Falk  
New York, NY

Cantor Sandy Horowitz  
New York, NY

Rabbi Jessica Meyer  
New York, NY

Rabbi Alex Kress  
Roslyn, NY

Rabbi Daniel Bogard  
Cincinnati, OH

Rabbi Miriam Terlinchamp  
Cincinnati, OH

Rabbi Jessica Shimberg  
Columbus, OH

Rabbi George Barnard  
Cincinnati, OH

Rabbi Enid Lader  
Cleveland, OH

Rabbi Deborah Prinz  
Cincinnati, OH

Rabbi Daniel Isaak  
Portland, OR

Cantor Linda Shivers  
Portland, OR

Rabbi Ruhi Rubenstein  
Eugene, OR

Rabbi Debra Kolodny  
Portland, OR

Rabbi Benjamin Barnett  
Oregon

Rabbi James Lebeau  
Jerusalem

Rabbi Douglas Charing  
Leeds

Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell  
Philadelphia, PA

Rabbi Margorie Berman  
Clarks Summit, PA

Rabbi Linda Holtzman  
Philadelphia, PA

Rabbi Yael Levy  
Philadelphia, PA

Rabbi David Teutsch  
Philadelphia, PA

Rabbi Lawrence Troster  
West Chester, PA

Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy  
Yardley, PA

Rabbi Mordechai Liebling  
Philadelphia, PA

Rabbi Meryl Crean  
Upper Gwynedd, PA

Rabbi Tamara Cohen  
Philadelphia, PA

Rabbi Robert Tabak  
Melrose Park, PA

Rabbi Arthur Waskow  
Philadelphia, PA

Rabbi Tsurah August  
Philadelphia, PA

Rabbi Beth Janus  
Philadelphia, PA

Rabbi Alan LaPayover  
Philadelphia, PA

Cantor Julie Newman  
Pittsburgh, PA

Rabbi Elyse Wechterman  
Wyncote, PA

Rabbi Myriam Klotz  
Bala Cynwyd, PA

Rabbi Alex Weissman  
Providence, RI

Rabbi Dr. Susan Einbinder  
Providence, RI

Rabbi Dr. Arthur Segal  
Hilton Head Island, SC

Rabbi Michael Tevya Cohen  
Dallas, TX

Rabbi Nancy Kasten  
Dallas, TX

Cantor Sheri Allen  
Ft. Worth, TX

Rabbi Rosalind Gold  
Reston, VA

Rabbi Michael Knopf  
Richmond, VA

Rabbi Esther Lederman  
Arlington, VA

Rabbi Elizabeth Goldstein  
Vienna, VA

Cantor Robert Scherr  
Alexandria, VA

Rabbi Elana Zaiman  
Seattle, WA

Rabbi Jill Borodin  
Seattle, WA

Rabbi Jay Heyman  
Seattle, WA

Rabbi Ellen Dreyfus  
Homewood, IL

Rabbi Darby Leigh  
Concord, MA

Cantor Benjie Schiller  
White Plains, NY

Rabbi Brian Field  
Denver, CO

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel  
Omaha, NE

Cantor Daniel Pincus  
New York, NY



Rabbi Judith Edelstein  
New York, NY

Rabbi Lev Meirowitz Nelson  
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbinical Student Salem  
Pearce  
Brooklyn, NY

Rabbi Bonny Grosz  
Herndon, VA

Rabbi Justin Goldstein  
Asheville, NC

Rabbi Batsheva Meiri  
Asheville, NC

Rabbi Ariel Stone  
Portland, OR

Rabbi David Minkus  
Chicago, IL

Rabbi Aryeh Bernstein  
Chicago, IL