



JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chair
Senate Committee on Intelligence
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Intelligence
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein and Senator Chambliss:

On behalf of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, I am writing to you about the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence investigation into CIA interrogations. We understand that this investigation is coming to a close and that the Committee will soon decide both whether to adopt the report on the results of the investigation, and what information obtained through the investigation should be considered for declassification. We urge the Committee to adopt the report and to begin the process of making the results of the investigation public (redacted as appropriate). This report has been several years in the making and represents an important effort to shed light on practices that have placed in jeopardy our nation's reputation on defending human rights.

During the past decade, the United States has carried out a prolonged debate over detention and interrogation policies for suspected terrorists. In particular, this debate has focused on the ethic, effectiveness, and legality of the use of "enhanced interrogation techniques" which many consider torture. Judaism teaches that all people are created *b'tzelem elohim*, in the image of God, and are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. Not only is torture a clear violation of these principles, experience has taught us that there are more effective ways of extracting information from detainees that do not reach beyond the bounds of law. Adopting and releasing the report on the investigation into interrogation practices may help settle this debate and document the national security implications of torture. .

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs is the national policy umbrella agency of the organized American Jewish community. Founded in 1944, our membership includes 14 national organizations and 125 local affiliates, known as Jewish Community Relations Councils, throughout the country. Together, we develop and give voice to consensus policy positions, build strong intergroup relationships and coalitions, and promote broad-based civic engagement.

Please vote to adopt and release the report on the investigation into interrogation practices.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Steve Gutow
President and CEO
Jewish Council for Public Affairs