

SIGN-ON RESPONSE FORM

YES, add my name to "A Christian Call to Stop Torture NOW!" to be published in *National Catholic Reporter* and the *Congressional Daily Roll Call*. Please print:

Name: _____
 Affiliation (if applicable): _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Suggested individual contribution:
 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ \$30 ___ other

Suggested group contribution:
 ___ \$150 ___ \$100 ___ \$75 ___ other

If paying by Visa or MasterCard:

Card Number: _____
 Expiration Date: _____
 Signature: _____

• This form can also be sent by fax to Pax Christi USA, "Attention: Sign-on" at: 814-452-4784. For more information, please contact our national office at 814-453-4955, ext. 228, or email info@paxchristiusa.org.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO PAX CHRISTI USA AND RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN APRIL 3, 2006.



Pax Christi USA
 532 West 8th St.
 Erie, PA 16502
 814-453-4955
info@paxchristiusa.org
www.paxchristiusa.org

**Order "Jesus, Our Tortured Brother Today"
 By Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU • Item No. 540-480
 \$.50 each; \$10/100; \$80/1,000 (plus s/h)**

To order this prayer card by Sr. Dianna Ortiz, director of the Torture Abolition and Survivor Support Coalition (TASSC - <http://www.tassc.org>), fill out the information below and return it with your check, money order, or credit card info to: Pax Christi USA, 532 West Eighth Street, Erie PA, 16502. You can also order online at www.paxchristiusa.org, fax 814-452-4784, email sales@paxchristiusa.org, or call 814-453-4955, ext. 231.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Qty.	Item No.	Description	Unit \$	Total \$
		Please allow at least two weeks for order processing and shipping. Rush shipping is available.	Subtotal	
			PA residents 6% sales tax	
			*Shipping/Handling	
			Total	

International orders will be calculated for shipping based on weight, destination and applicable handling fees.

If you wish to pay by VISA or MASTERCARD:

Card No. _____ Exp. _____
 Signature _____

***SHIPPING** – \$9.99 and less: \$3; \$10-\$29.99: \$4.50; \$30 and more: add 16% (inquire on orders over \$200)

In addition to placing this ad in *National Catholic Reporter* and *Roll Call*, it is our intention to make the ad available for publication in local newspapers, church bulletins, and diocesan newspapers. If you have interest in this possibility, please contact Michael Jones at 814-453-4955 ext. 228 or mike@paxchristiusa.org. For more information on Pax Christi USA, visit our Web site at www.paxchristiusa.org.

A CHRISTIAN CALL TO STOP TORTURE NOW!



"The thought of Jesus being stripped, beaten and derided until his final agony on the cross should always prompt a Christian to protest against similar treatment of their fellow beings. Of their own accord, disciples of Christ will reject torture, which nothing can justify, which causes humiliation and suffering to the victim and degrades the tormentor."

– Pope John Paul II

**A NATIONAL SIGN-ON STATEMENT
 Deadline for signatures April 3!**

With your help, this statement will be published in *National Catholic Reporter* and in the Congressional Daily Paper, *Roll Call*, during the first week of May to mark the two-year anniversary of the Abu Ghraib prison scandal. Fill out the “Response Form” on the back of this brochure, and send this to Pax Christi USA today!

As followers of Jesus, we must state clearly and unequivocally that torture violates the basic human dignity afforded all of God’s children, and is never morally acceptable. On this two-year anniversary of the revelations of the cruel, inhumane and humiliating treatment of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison—the first of numerous revelations regarding institutionalized torture practices in the U.S. War on Terrorism—we reiterate our Church’s profound respect for the dignity of all persons and reject as antithetical to Christianity any and all justifications for the use of torture.

There is no debate on where the social teachings of the Catholic Church lie on the issue of torture: “International judicial instruments concerning human rights correctly indicate a prohibition against torture as a principle which cannot be contravened under any circumstances,” states the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

Pope John Paul II echoed this call when he decisively stated that there is never any justification for torture. “Christ’s disciple refuses every recourse to such methods, which nothing could justify and in which the dignity of humanity is as much debased in the torturer as in the torturer’s victim.”

Despite U.S. laws banning torture, the Bush Administration has employed interrogation techniques in the War on Terrorism which clearly constitute tor-

ture. Despite prohibiting cruel and degrading treatment of prisoners, the recently passed McCain bill also provides legal defenses that greatly shield those who command or commit torture.

As people of faith, we are ashamed by efforts of the Bush Administration to circumvent national and international laws that prohibit the use of torture, under the auspices of national security. Evidence that the Bush Administration implemented a system of “rendition outsourcing”—which involves other countries implementing policies of torture under the direction of the U.S. government—as a component of its War on Terrorism is exceptionally egregious. Such evidence—two years after the reports from Abu Ghraib of water-boarding, beatings, pouring chemicals on inmates, and unleashing attack dogs on prisoners—shows that this administration aims to institutionalize torture practices.

We call on the Bush administration:

- to cease its justifications of torture in the name of national security;
- to publicly reaffirm U.S. support for the *U.N. Convention on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*;
- to institute as a national policy that no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emer-

gency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.

We call for the U.S. Congress:

- to establish an independent commission to publicly investigate the reports of abuse in U.S. detention centers around the world;
- to pass legislation to uphold U.S. and international law against “extraordinary rendition,” requiring a ban on transferring a detainee to a country that has a history of torture;
- to investigate ongoing reports of torture by Iraqi officials, particularly in the Interior Ministry, and hold accountable any U.S. citizens, either military or civilian, associated with conceiving, directing, supporting or acquiescing to this use of torture.

We join with the National Council of Churches in saying that torture debases the torturer and tortured alike, and denies the preciousness of life “and the dignity of every human being.” As citizens of the U.S. and followers of the nonviolent Christ who suffered torture at the hands of imperial power, we offer sincere and heartfelt apologies to our sisters and brothers in the Middle East, Iraq, Latin America, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, and throughout the world who have been victims of torture. We pledge that we will do everything necessary in our country to abolish torture and to hold all offending parties accountable for this affront to God and human dignity.