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Take Torture Off the Table: Close Guantanamo NOW

The cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment -- torture -- inflicted on disfranchised subjects, from Pelican Bay in California to Bagram, Afghanistan, must not only end; the presumption of American immunity to international law must be repudiated. Dismantling of U.S. torture camps can't wait. And that is up to us.

On New Year's Eve 2011, President Obama signed an appropriations bill into law that effectively reneged on his election promise to close Guantanamo, 60 illegally detained men remain in Guantanamo, including 20 uncharged "forever prisoners." Not a single senior official has yet faced accountability for the systematic torture of detainees.

The human cost of this failure has been documented. The New York Times maintains a docket of the roughly 780 men detained at Guantanamo over the years, nine of whom died while in custody. A new book by psychologist/reporter/activist Jeffrey Kaye, *Cover-up at Guantanamo*, examines so-called suicides at the Cuba-based U.S. interrogation and detention camp, between 2006 and 2009.

While Obama dallies, Congress threatens to institutionalize the indiscriminate application of criminal laws and the wanton treatment of suspected criminals at Guantanamo. Last month the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would block transfers of detainees from the Guantanamo Bay prison to the U.S. mainland or any foreign country, reports Sputnik News. Amnesty International USA Security with Human Rights Coordinator Elizabeth Beavers urges a presidential veto, and speaks to election season silence on the issue. "It is unfortunate that they [candidates] don't talk about it because the decisions that the future president will make will have implications for generations to come."

Guantanamo's ill-conceived structures (military tribunals employed to sidestep due process) cannot provide justice. "Indefinite detention is a violation of international human rights law," continues Beavers. "By continuing to prop up a parallel detention system in which individuals can be held for more than a decade without charge or trial, the United States has built a dangerous precedent upon which human rights violations can be normalized and then expanded upon. The public has been primed to accept violations of rights in the name of national security, and that is a treacherous foundation on which to build a future."

What happens when you don't deal with the crime of indefinite detention? 800 years of Habeas Corpus law, the right to know why you are being held captive by the State, comes undone. We witness no savior from the Democratic Party. It's up to people living in the United States to mobilize against agents of denial and neglect.

Prosecute key officials for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Contact World Can't Wait to tell us how you want to help: sj@worldcantwait.net

Indict John Yoo For War Crimes

The University of California harbors a war criminal. John Yoo was a principal legal architect of the Bush/Cheney torture machinery, before returning to Berkeley Law where he now teaches the next generation of lawyers and judges.

The torture operations designed, ordered, and carried out under Bush received the "stamp of approval" from torture team lawyer John Yoo. The lawless detention policy derived from his work product at the



Office of Legal Counsel -- the now discredited unitary executive theory freeing the President of constitutional constraints -- resulted in the torture and death of scores of illegally held prisoners suffering the U.S. war of terror on the Middle East.

Despite a worldwide outcry, UC has yet to respond to charges of ethical misconduct against professor Yoo. Feigned helplessness to do so has been supplanted by promotion of a lawyer whose career hallmark is his stint in Bush's Justice Department providing legal-sounding excuses so that torture could be used under color of presidential power, can not be a role model for students. John Yoo should be in prison, awaiting trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity!

Culpability for the legacy of ruined lives and damaged minds at the hands of CIA interrogators extends to apologists for what *California Law Review* calls "flawed and eccentric historical theory [that] came to underpin the government's conduct of war and foreign policy."

It is our responsibility to call out criminal and enabler alike.

worldcantwait.net firejohnyoo.net warcriminals.watch.org

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Why we stand against torture

Today we represent the views and the hearts of many more tens of millions of people who know that torture is a war crime, and a crime against humanity. International and UN law both prohibit torture, under any and all circumstances, without exception.

John Yoo, a key player in the criminal enterprise of the Bush-now-Obama Regime, codified specific torture tactics used on wrongfully captured human beings, many of whom were sold to the U.S. government by bounty hunters.

Real people became victims of Yoo's misapprehension of presidential power. Yoo's rulings for the "Justice" Department caused immeasurable suffering: thousands have been subjected to torture, tens of thousands incarcerated, tens of millions spied upon, and over 600,000 deaths have been attributed to the 2003 invasion of Iraq (Yoo argued in his legal opinion that the president was not bound by the War Crimes Act).

The Torture Memos: Giving the green light for torture

After capturing alleged high-ranking al Qaeda members, the CIA requested legal advice from the Bush administration as to what was allowable during interrogation to see how far they could go in torturing prisoners without the fear of being prosecuted. Alberto Gonzales directed the Office of Legal Council (OLC) to provide an answer. John Yoo drafted a response that was signed by his boss Jay Bybee, who was subsequently awarded a position on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The OLC *Interrogation of al Qaeda Operative* document is the first known one to utilize Yoo's definition that says physical pain "must be equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even death."

It went on to state that even if an act is "cruel, inhuman, or degrading," it does not necessarily inflict the level of pain that federal legal standards prohibit, and thus does not subject an interrogator to criminal prosecution. It further asserted that a defense of "necessity or self-defense may justify interrogation methods". In essence the memo gave the green light for the use of torture and the CIA then proceeded to use torture in its interrogations, including extensive use of waterboarding.

Join us in challenging Torture Professor John Yoo, author of the now infamous Torture Memos ... take some of the flyers we are handing out here and spread the word that if we are ever to return to a rule of law, that recognizes and protects the human rights that we value, we must hold the War Criminals in our midst accountable.

Viewing the Boalt Hall Museum of Torture

The display in front of you here itemizes 10 "techniques" approved for use. Take the time to check these out and consider what kind of mind came up with these ideas.

Let Yoo know that people of conscience insist on speaking up and speaking out, and that his crimes will be known everywhere he goes.

Let judges who accept a torturer as a colleague see orange jumpsuits everywhere they go.

And let Boalt Hall administrators know that there is a movement of people living in this country who will not allow torture judges, torture professors, torture lawyers, torture ex-presidents and vice-presidents, et al to waltz back into comfortable civilian lives as if their hands aren't covered in blood.

"A disturbing recent trend in American academia is the awarding of prestigious positions and honors to those whose conduct has been truly reprehensible," wrote Danny Colligan, Stanford Says No to War. "Most notably, the senior political officials of the previous administration have been embraced with open arms by the nation's top universities. These are the same individuals who were responsible for instituting a lawless torture regime, implementing a dragnet domestic surveillance apparatus, and starting two aggressive wars in Afghanistan and Iraq."

What you can do

If you refuse to accept the U.S. Torture State and you won't stand for torture in your name . . .

If you do not think that the lives and purported "safety" of Americans is more valuable than the lives of others . . .

If you look at the brutal destruction of lives of thousands – the detainees who've been disappeared, renditioned, tortured, and murdered – and you insist that war criminals must face justice . . .

And if you know that many Americans still do not really know or understand what the torture state has done in their names – and you're willing to go public with the truth, to resist the lies with your actions, to help open their eyes and shake their consciences awake . . .

Join us today in witness of the Torture Professor who provided the legal cover to the Bush administration for its crimes, the crimes that continue to be done in our names. The world really can't wait to stop the crimes of our government.