

By Concerned Fordham University Students

As many have probably heard, John Brennan, FCRH '77 and the Obama administration's deputy national security adviser for counterterrorism and homeland security, has been selected to represent the Class of 2012 as the keynote speaker for commencement. Mr. Brennan has explicitly defended the use of torture, the use of rendition, and the United States's drone campaign. Such positions fail to recognize the sanctity and dignity of all life, and cannot be reconciled with our Jesuit values. While we understand that graduation is supposed to be a celebratory occasion, this blatant affront of morality cannot and will not go unnoticed. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." It is time to show that Fordham University truly does make men and women for and with others; men and women who are troubled by the world around them, and who will not stand for injustice whether domestic or abroad. As a way of voicing our discontent with Mr. Brennan's selection and the policies he and our government carry out, the following actions are planned for the day of commencement: 1. Orange ribbons will be distributed at entrances to be worn over graduation gowns. These ribbons symbolize our stance against the use of torture. 2. We will stand up and turn our backs once Mr. Brennan begins to speak to silently show that we do not agree with his policies/what he stands for. If you sympathize with our cause please join our group and forward this information to everyone you know.

If you would like to learn more in detail about John Brennan's specific policies and why we think he stands for exactly what a Catholic, Jesuit university is supposed to stand against, please see the following links: <http://www.change.org/petitions/john-brennan-s-selection-as-fordham-s-167th-commencement-speaker-stand-against-this-outrage>

<http://www.change.org/petitions/fordham-university-students-we-ask-that-fordham-university-choose-an-alternative-commencement-speaker>

http://www.theramonline.com/opinions/letter-to-the-editor-1.2718_026#.T6yOrFE5jBI