

STOP

Our Children From Becoming Torturers

If you're shocked and disturbed by our government's use of torture as an interrogation technique, you're not alone. At the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), we are outraged by these barbarous acts, and committed to ensuring they never happen again.

Events at Abu Ghraib prison and disclosure of government documents sanctioning the use of torture only add to the evidence of the CIA's longtime torture practices in many corners of the world.

My own husband, a Mayan resistance leader, was secretly held by the Guatemalan military, tortured for two years, kept in a full-body cast to prevent escape, then executed without trial. Despite three hunger strikes, I was unable to save his life. My efforts, however, did lead to official disclosure that he'd been killed by Guatemalan intelligence officers, several of whom were paid CIA informants. Moreover, the CIA was aware of his situation from the first week of his capture, but never informed me or officials trying to save him.

Sadly, my husband's case was far from unique. I've investigated many similar cases. Again and again, I have heard

from Central Americans who suffered severe torture at the hands of the local military. They confirm the presence of shadowy North Americans in their torture chambers, men with heavy U.S. accents, asking questions, speaking with clear authority, and at times even giving orders.

What do these actions teach our children? We should not accept the torture of any human being for any reason. Torture is wrong. Torture is illegal. Torture corrupts and destroys our most basic values.

Apart from the moral imperatives, consider our own soldiers or citizens who may one day become prisoners. The basic human rights we cast aside are protections lost to our own people. Our use of torture does not make us safer. It endangers us.

As director of UUSC's **STOP** (Stop Torture Permanently) **Campaign**, I ask you to help put an end to U.S.-sanctioned torture. Send a donation and join UUSC today by contacting us at www.uusc.org or 800.766.5236. Or mail your check directly to UUSC STOP Campaign, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139-1845.

Jennifer Harbury

Founded to help rescue victims of Nazi terror, UUSC has worked tirelessly for justice, confronted oppression, and promoted the dignity and worth of people around the world for 65 years.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
"The Power of You & You"

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