



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to invite the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Dr. Theo van Boven, to conduct a full and impartial investigation into the United States military intelligence and interrogation practices within U.S. military prisons in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

We fully support our American military men and women serving in Iraq. Their honorable service to our nation is unquestionable and they and their families deserve our nation's full support. Unfortunately, the torture and human rights abuses perpetrated in Iraq have dishonored the service of our troops and have placed their lives and the safety of all Americans working in the region at risk.

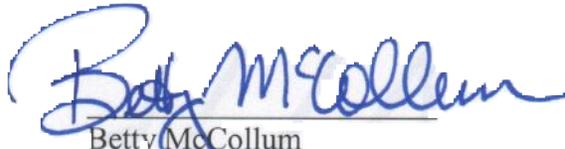
In January 2004, the United Nations Special Rapporteur's on Torture and Right to Health submitted a request to the U.S. government asking to visit prison facilities in Guantanamo Bay. To this date, they have not received a response. **Now is the time to respond affirmatively to this request and to further allow the U.N. investigatory access to Iraq and Afghanistan.** Any investigation performed solely by the U.S. government risks credibility by the international community, especially in the Arab world. If indeed the documented abuses at Abu Ghraib prison were the fault of only a few individuals, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture will find this and report it with credibility. If the torture is a more systemic problem, the Special Rapporteur will identify this as well and can provide the information and counsel needed to break the cycle and stop the torture.

As the U.S. seeks a new U.N. Security Council resolution encouraging greater international participation in our efforts in Iraq, demonstrating our faith in the U.N. system of investigation would go a great distance toward achieving this resolution's passage. Allowing the U.N. to conduct an independent investigation into U.S. practices in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo and elsewhere is also a critical step in the restoration of our credibility around the world.

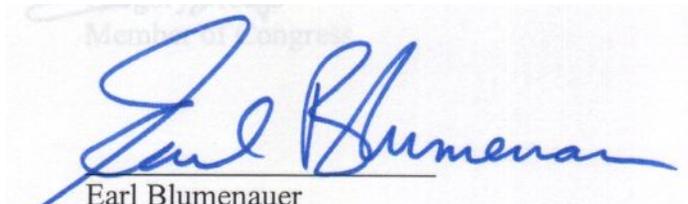
We must maintain the moral authority which sustains American troops during their dangerous service. This is the foundation of our democracy and the legacy we as a nation have a duty to uphold.

Again, Mr. President, we urge you to invite the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture to conduct an independent investigation into U.S. intelligence and interrogation techniques within U.S. military prisons in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay.

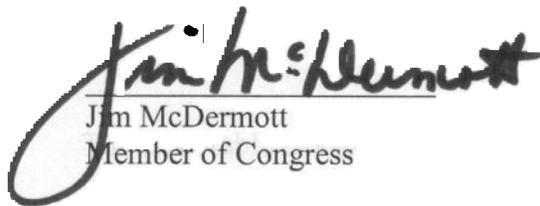
Sincerely,



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



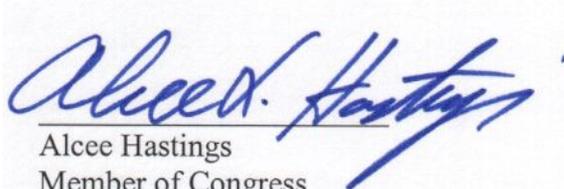
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



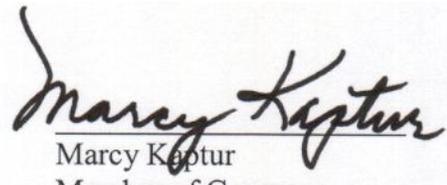
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



Tom Allen
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



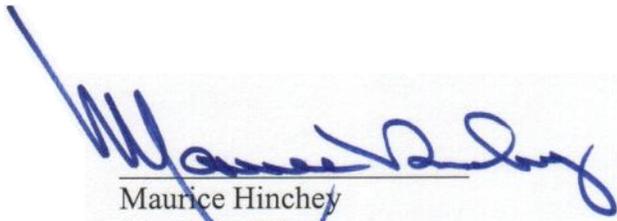
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



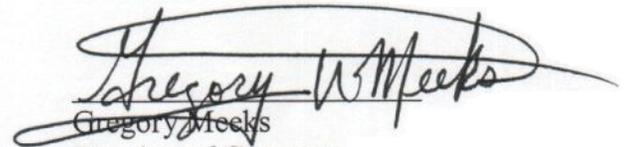
Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Colin Powell, Secretary of State