

Portland Peaceful Response Coalition

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For Immediate Release

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| Event: Friday rally and march call for action against Bush-Cheney Torture Policy. Date: Friday, December 14, 2007 Time: 5:00 PM Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square (SW Broadway & Yamhill) | Contacts: Portland Peaceful Response Coalition (503) 344-5078 pprc@riseup.net www.pprc-news.org |
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Friday rally and march call for action against Bush-Cheney Torture Policy.

The Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's weekly Friday rally and march at Pioneer Courthouse Square once again turns a spotlight on torture this week. The weekly rallies have been held at 5:00 PM at Pioneer Courthouse Square each Friday since November of 2001.

Recent weeks have brought to light shocking revelations about the Bush administration's torture policies and a cover-up involving destruction of video tapes of CIA torture sessions. The CIA has revealed that it destroyed hundreds of hours of video footage of interrogations involving torture, video tapes that had been called for in Freedom of Information Act requests and in criminal court cases, very likely making their destruction a criminal offense. In addition, it came to light this week that senior Democratic congressional leaders were briefed on the Bush torture policies and yet took no legislative action to challenge those policies.

"We're asking folks to call their Senators and Representatives to demand accountability for these crimes, and for strong and effective measures to end the use of torture by the United States once and for all," said William Seaman, a volunteer with PPRC. "We will have flyers with contact information for our elected officials and details on how folks can take action to stop the Bush-Cheney torture policies." PPRC is supporting the ongoing work of the Center for Constitutional Rights, an organization that has been at the forefront of opposition to the Bush Administration policies of torture, imprisonment without due process, the elimination of habeas corpus rights.

“The attack on our Constitution, on on the most basic elements of human rights and international law, is truly unprecedented,” said Seaman. “We hope folks will join us in supporting the CCR campaign to end the Bush-Cheney torture policies and to restore Constitutional law to our country.”

The CCR urgent action is appended below; their website is at: www.ccrjustice.org

Center for Constitutional Rights URGENT ACTION
www.ccrjustice.org

We need you to take action today and demand a full investigation of the CIA's destruction of tapes that document its program of torture.

Last week, The New York Times revealed that in 2005, in the midst of public outcry and investigations of its secret overseas prisons, the CIA destroyed videotapes documenting the interrogation of at least two men in its custody. These videotapes likely capture the torture of these men - including one man, Abu Zubaydah, who the government admits to having waterboarded.

Delaware Senator Joseph Biden has called for a special counsel to investigate the CIA's destruction of evidence. No one is above the law: the CIA - and the Bush administration - must be held accountable for their program of torture.

Take action:

Write a letter to your Senators: (you can find letter-writing links at the CCR website, www.ccrjustice.org) or call your Senators' offices to demand an inquiry into the destruction of torture evidence. The Senate switchboard can be reached at (202) 224-3121.

Senator Gordon Smith: Phone: 503.326.3386; Fax: 503.326.2900

Senator Ron Wyden: Phone: (503) 326-7525

Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Phone: (503) 231-2300; Fax: (503) 230-5413

Rep. Darlene Hooley: Phone: (503) 557-1324; Fax: (503) 557-1981

Rep. David Wu: Phone: (503) 326-2901; Toll Free: (800) 422-4003; Fax: (503) 326-5066

Rep. Peter DeFazio: Phone: 1-800-944-9603

Rep. Greg Walden: Phone: 1-800-533-3303

Links to e-mail contacts are available at the PPRC website: www.pprc-news.org

Call Senator Biden's office to express your support for a special counsel. His office can be reached at (202) 224-5042.

The destruction of evidence by the CIA has a direct impact on our client Majid Khan, the former Baltimore resident who was abducted, disappeared, and sent to secret CIA detention in 2003, tortured and held in "black sites" for three years, and then sent to Guantánamo in September 2006.

In fact, before the story broke, CCR attorneys filed a motion to preserve evidence of Majid's torture, fearing exactly what was confirmed by The New York Times: that the CIA has been destroying evidence. Click here (or cut-and-paste this into your web browser) to read the motion:

<http://www.ccrjustice.org/newsroom/press-releases/ccr-attorneys-release-revelations-torture-former-ghost-detainee-majid-khan>

Our attorneys recently met with Majid, and what they report back is chilling: from their unclassified descriptions, Majid is a shadow of his former self - in their words, "painfully thin and pale" - a marked difference from the vibrant man we see in photos taken of him before he was abducted and sent to three years of CIA interrogation under torture. He has symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as scars from a suicide attempt in which he tried to chew through one of his arteries. Click here (or cut-and-paste this link into your web browser) to read the recently declassified information from our visits with Majid:

<http://www.ccrjustice.org/newsroom/press-releases/ccr-attorneys-release-revelations-torture-former-ghost-detainee-majid-khan>

Majid was tortured in CIA secret prisons - and the CIA may have destroyed evidence of his torture, as well as the torture of countless others. The interrogations caught on tape also may falsely implicate others held at Guantánamo or elsewhere who would need the tapes as evidence to defend themselves. We need to know how the tapes came to be destroyed and why.

There must be a full, independent investigation into the CIA's destruction of evidence. Write and call your Senators today to demand the appointment of a special counsel to ensure that the CIA's criminal behavior does not go unpunished:

Please visit the Center for Constitutional Rights website to sign up for their urgent action alerts and to find out more: www.ccrjustice.org

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