

**RIGHT LIVELIHOOD AWARD - THE ALTERNATIVE NOBEL PRIZE  
RECIPIENTS  
SUPPORT FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS  
OPPOSING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT USE OF TORTURE**

A recent report by Amnesty International, *United States of America, Guantanamo and beyond: The Continuing Pursuit of Unchecked Power*, finds that "evidence of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment by U.S. forces in the 'war on terror' continues to mount." Despite all the evidence, the report states, "not one US agent has been charged with 'war crimes' or 'torture' under US law."

High-level US officials, including President Bush and Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld, have been dismissive of Amnesty's report.

We, the recipients of the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize, strongly support Amnesty International's report and call for the implementation of Amnesty International's recommendations to US authorities, which is based on the organisation's 12-Point Programme for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by Agents of the State, in part provided below:

**1. CONDEMN TORTURE AND OTHER ILL-TREATMENT**

*The highest authorities of every country should demonstrate their total opposition to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (other ill-treatment). They should condemn these practices unreservedly whenever it occurs. They should make clear to all members of the police, military and other security forces that torture and other ill-treatment will never be tolerated.*

**2. ENSURE ACCESS TO PRISONERS**

*Torture and other ill-treatment often take place while prisoners are held incommunicado - unable to contact people outside who could help them or find out what is happening to them. The practice of incommunicado detention should be ended. Governments should ensure that all prisoners are brought before an independent judicial authority without delay after being taken into custody. Prisoners should have access to relatives, lawyers and doctors without delay and regularly thereafter.*

**3. NO SECRET DETENTION**

*In some countries torture and other ill-treatment take place in secret locations, often after the victims are made to "disappear". Governments should ensure that prisoners are held only in officially recognized places of detention and that accurate information about their arrest and whereabouts is made available immediately to relatives, lawyers the courts, and others with a legitimate interest, such as the International*

*Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Effective judicial remedies should be available at all times to enable relatives and lawyers to find out immediately where a prisoner is held and under what authority and to ensure the prisoner's safety.*

#### 4. PROVIDE SAFEGUARDS DURING DETENTION AND INTERROGATION

*All prisoners should be immediately informed of their rights. These include the right to lodge complaints about their treatment and to have a judge rule without delay on the lawfulness of their detention. Judges should investigate any evidence of torture and other ill-treatment and order release if the detention is unlawful. A lawyer should be present during interrogations. Governments should ensure that conditions of detention conform to international standards for the treatment of prisoners and take into account the needs of members of particularly vulnerable groups. The authorities responsible for detention should be separate from those in charge of interrogation. There should be regular, independent, unannounced and unrestricted visits of inspection to all places of detention.*

#### 5. PROHIBIT TORTURE AND OTHER ILL-TREATMENT IN LAW

*Governments should adopt laws for the prohibition and prevention of torture and other ill-treatment incorporating the main elements of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Convention against Torture) and other relevant international standards. A II judicial and administrative corporal punishments should be abolished. The prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment and the essential safeguards for its prevention must not be suspended under any circumstances, including states of war or other public emergency.*

#### 6. INVESTIGATE

*All complaints and reports of torture or other ill-treatment should be promptly, impartially and effectively investigated by a body independent of the alleged perpetrators. The methods and findings of such investigations should be made public. Officials suspected of committing torture or other ill-treatment should be suspended from active duty during the investigation. Complainants, witnesses and others at risk should be protected from intimidation and reprisals.*

US Congress should:

0 Establish an independent, impartial and non-partisan commission of inquiry into all aspects of the USA's "war on terror" detention and interrogation policies and practices. Such a commission should consist of credible independent experts, have international expert input, and have subpoena powers and access to all levels of government, all agencies, and all documents whether classified or unclassified.

## 7. PROSECUTE

*Those responsible for torture or other ill-treatment must be brought to justice. This principle should apply wherever alleged torturers happen to be, whatever their nationality or position, regardless of where the crime was committed and the nationality of the victims, and no matter how much time has elapsed since the commission of the crime. Governments should exercise universal jurisdiction over those suspected of these crimes, extradite them, or surrender them to an international criminal court, and cooperate in such criminal proceedings. Trials should be fair. An order from a superior officer should never be accepted as a justification for torture or ill-treatment.*

## 8. NO USE OF STATEMENTS EXTRACTED UNDER TORTURE OR OTHER ILL-TREATMENT

*Governments should ensure that statements and other evidence obtained through torture or other ill-treatment may not be invoked in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture or other ill-treatment.*

## 10. PROVIDE REPARATION

*Victims of torture or other ill-treatment and their dependants should be entitled to obtain prompt reparation from the state including restitution, fair and adequate financial compensation and appropriate medical care and rehabilitation.*

## 11. RATIFY INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

*All governments should ratify without reservations international treaties containing safeguards against torture and other ill-treatment, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its first Optional Protocol; and the UN Convention against Torture, with declarations providing for individual and inter-state complaints. Governments should comply with the recommendations of international bodies and experts on the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment.*

## 12. EXERCISE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

*Governments should use all available channels to intercede with the governments of countries where torture or other ill-treatment are reported. They should ensure that transfers of training and equipment for military, security or police use do not facilitate torture or other ill-treatment. Governments must not forcibly return a person to a country where he or she would be at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.*

Furthermore, taking into account the overwhelming evidence presented by Amnesty international's report, we call upon the US Government to immediately close Its base at Guantanamo Bay and cease to circumvent international law and the US Constitutional guarantee of due process of law.