

An Explanation of the Anti-Torture Banner



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The American people need to reach a firm, widespread rejection of torture. At this point, many Americans accept torture as legitimate when used against people suspected of terrorism, imagining that reality is like the TV show "24." As Christians and Episcopalians, we can put forward better views, helping Americans say "never again" to torture.

The Episcopal Church Declares:
End Torture — Forever
Investigate • Legislate

Diocese of WNY 2007 Convention passed a resolution asking Congress to ban torture and extraordinary rendition. General Convention 2009 passed a resolution calling on every Episcopalian to refuse to participate in torture.

Pres. Obama banned most uses of torture, by Executive Order. But this order could be rescinded or changed at any time, by him or a future President.

We need a full investigation of the abuses of the past decade, leading to accountability and public awareness, not just of misdeeds by low-level soldiers, but of policies and who made them, and of the scope of what was done in our name.

Torture is banned by U.S. domestic law, and violates the U.N. Convention Against Torture, which the U.S. ratified. Yet waterboarding and other brutal techniques were used, *by policy*. Clearly stronger legislation is needed.