

Statement on Commission Relating to Detention, Treatment, and Transfer of Detainees

We urge President Obama to appoint a non-partisan commission of distinguished Americans to examine, and provide a comprehensive report on, policies and actions related to the detention, treatment, and transfer of detainees after 9/11 and the consequences of those actions, and to make recommendations for future policy in this area.

We believe all members of the commission must have reputations for putting the truth and the respect for our nation's founding principles ahead of any partisan advantage. Members should be persons of irreproachable integrity, credibility, and independence. Leading academics, retired judges and government officials, retired military officers and intelligence officials and human rights experts are examples of the types of profiles that should be sought. The President should solicit recommendations from the majority and minority leaders in both houses in the process of choosing commission members.

Juan E. Méndez, President, the International Center for Transitional Justice; Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the UN on the Prevention of Genocide, 2004-2007; Commissioner, 2000-2003, and President, 2002, of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States

Thomas Pickering, Vice Chairman, Hills & Co., Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, 1996-2000

Judge William Sessions, Partner, Holland and Knight LLP, Director of the FBI, 1987-1993, Judge, United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, 1974-1987

Major General Antonio M. Taguba, USA (Retired)

Rev. Dr. John H. Thomas, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ
(Affiliations for Identification Only)

The following organizations have also endorsed the statement:

- Amnesty International USA
- The Brennan Center for Justice
- The Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, New York University, School of Law
- The Center for the Study of Human Rights in the Americas, University of California, Davis
- The Center for Victims of Torture
- The Constitution Project
- The Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley
- Human Rights First
- Human Rights Watch
- The International Center for Transitional Justice
- The International Justice Network
- The Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights
- The Jewish Council for Public Affairs
- The National Institute of Military Justice
- The National Religious Campaign Against Torture
- The Open Society Institute
- Physicians for Human Rights
- The Rutherford Institute