

## **BACKGROUND**

The most foundational concept of all Catholic Social Teaching is the belief that each and every one of us on earth are made in the image and likeness of God, that all are children of God, and as such all have the inherent God given right to dignity.

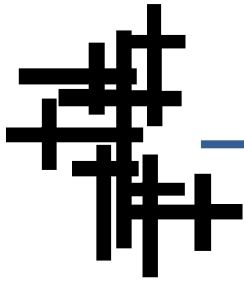
Over the course of human history, an ugly blight against this principle has permeated every age and culture, the use of torture. As such those concerned with the “least of those among us” (Mt. 25:40) are celebrating the recent action by the United States to halt the use of torture.

Recently President Obama signed an Executive Order requiring the CIA to comply by the guidelines in the Army Field Manual, closing secret prisons, ending rendition for torture, and providing the International Committee of the Red Cross with access to all U.S.-held detainees. He also has appointed numerous anti-torture individuals to key positions within the Administration.



## **ACTION**

There are two tiers to this months requested action. You may choose one or both. See the reverse side (page 2) for the details.



**GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH VOICES FOR JUSTICE  
ACTION ALERT - FEBRUARY 2009  
End Torture**

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First, we ask that you offer your gratitude for the profound action recently taken. You may do so by following the link provided here:



[http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/2162/t/3961/campaign.jsp?campaign\\_KEY=26507](http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/2162/t/3961/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=26507)

(If the link does not activate on click then copy and paste it into your browser)



Second, as evidenced by President Obama's appointment of several individuals within the Administration, there is a need to pursue deeper reductions in the use of torture worldwide. To add your voice of support to continued attention in this area by signing A Statement of Conscience of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), please follow this link:

[http://www.nrcat.org/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&Itemid=140](http://www.nrcat.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=140)

(If the link does not activate on click then copy and paste it into your browser)

If you do not have internet access, you can offer your gratitude for the Executive Order, or your request for continued efforts to end torture, via the following contact information:

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest

Washington, DC 20500

Phone: 202-456-1414

Phone: 202-456-1111

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Source for Action Alert provided by: Barb Messerknecht  
For additional information go to the NRCAT website at:

<http://www.nrcat.org/>