

# Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 6, 2008

The Honorable Michael Mukasey  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

We are writing to request that you appoint a special counsel to investigate whether the Bush Administration's policies regarding the interrogation of detainees have violated federal criminal laws. There is mounting evidence that the Bush Administration has sanctioned enhanced interrogation techniques against detainees under the control of the United States that warrant an investigation.

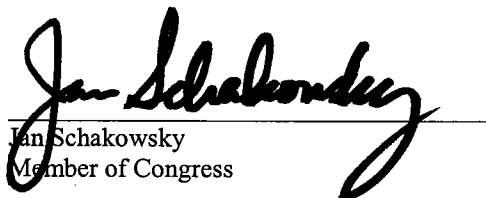
Congress is already aware of the pattern of abuse against detainees under the control of the United States and the Bush Administration. In 2004, prisoners being held at Abu Ghraib prison were subjected to abuse, sexual exploitation and torture. At the Guantanamo Bay Detention facility, prisoners have been held indefinitely, subjected to sleep deprivation, and drugged against their will. An independent investigation by the International Committee of the Red Cross documented several instances of acts of torture against detainees, including soaking a prisoner's hand in alcohol and lighting it on fire, subjecting a prisoner to sexual abuse, and forcing a prisoner to eat a baseball. In October 2005, the New York Times reported that three detainees were killed during interrogations in Afghanistan and Iraq by CIA agents or CIA contractors.


We believe that these events alone warrant action, but within the last month additional information has surfaced that suggests the fact that not only did top Administration officials meet in the White House and approve the use of enhanced techniques including waterboarding against detainees, but that President Bush was aware of, and approved of the meetings taking place. This information indicates that the Bush Administration may have systematically implemented, from the top down, detainee interrogation policies that constitute torture or otherwise violate the law. We believe that these serious and significant revelations warrant an immediate investigation to determine whether actions taken by the President, his Cabinet, and other Administration officials are in violation of the War Crimes Act (18 U.S.C. 2441), the Anti-Torture Act, (18 U.S.C. 2340-2340A), and other U.S. and international laws.

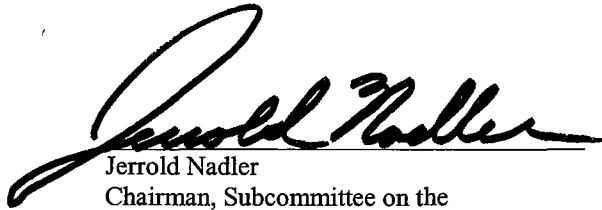
Despite the seriousness of the evidence, the Justice Department has brought prosecution against only one civilian for an interrogation-related crime. Given that record, we believe that it is necessary to appoint a special counsel in order to ensure that a thorough and impartial investigation occurs, and that the prosecution of anyone who violated federal criminal statutes prohibiting torture and abuse is pursued if warranted by the facts.

Again, we strongly urge that you act in a timely manner to appoint a special counsel. We look forward to hearing from you in response to our request.

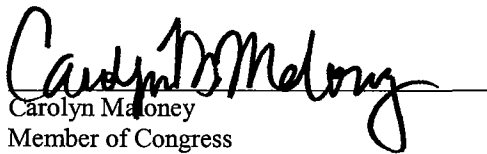
Sincerely,

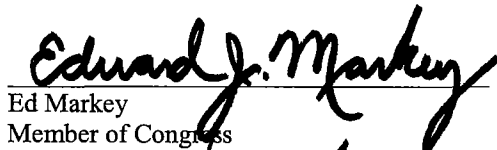
  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

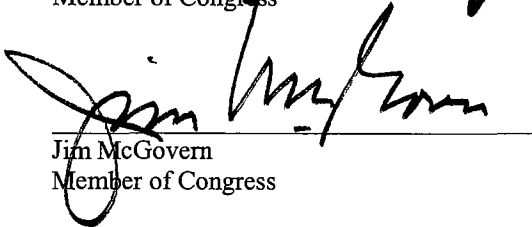
  
John Conyers  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee

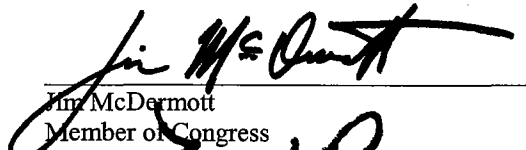
  
Jerrold Nadler  
Chairman, Subcommittee on the  
Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

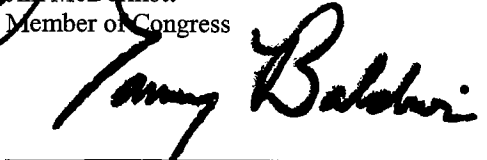
  
Jim Oberstar  
Member of Congress

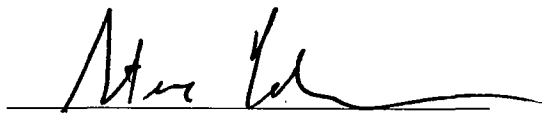
  
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress


  
Ed Markey  
Member of Congress


  
Jim McGovern  
Member of Congress

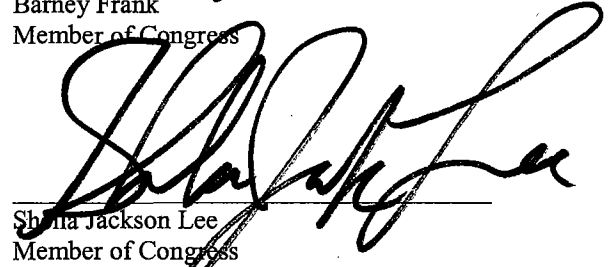
  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

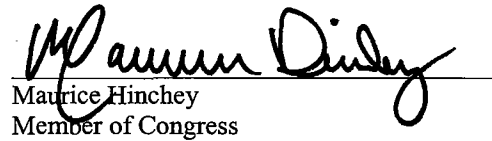
  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

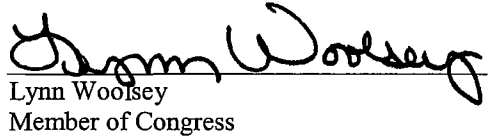
  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

  
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress

  
Shonta Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

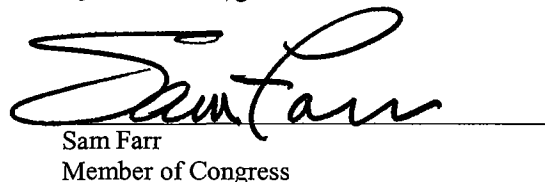
  
Maurice Hinchey  
Member of Congress


  
Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress

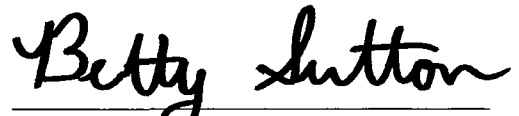
  
Bob Filner  
Member of Congress


  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

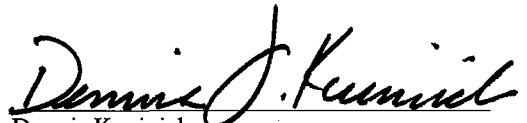
  
John Olver  
Member of Congress


  
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

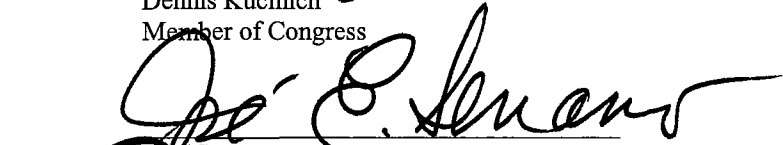
  
Jim Moran  
Member of Congress


  
Betty Sutton  
Member of Congress

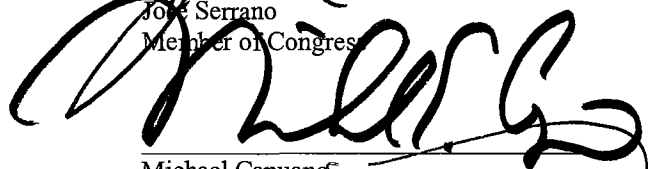
  
Bobby Scott  
Member of Congress


  
Dennis Kucinich  
Member of Congress

  
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

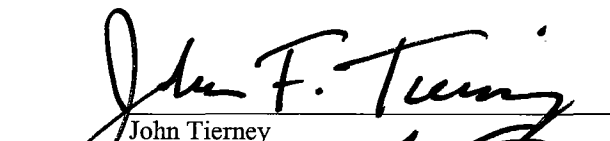
  
Jose Serrano  
Member of Congress

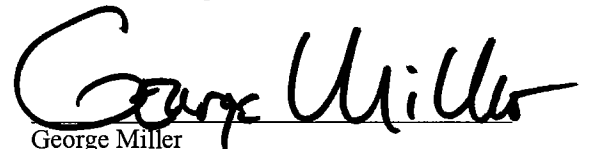
  
William Jefferson  
Member of Congress

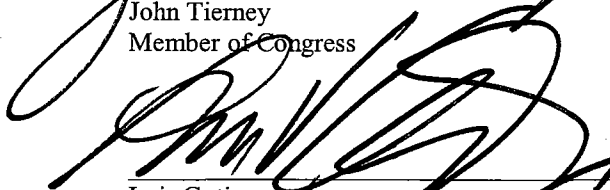
  
Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress

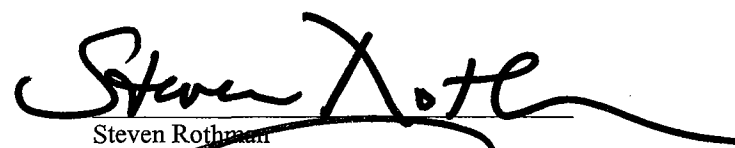
  
Pete Stark  
Member of Congress


  
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

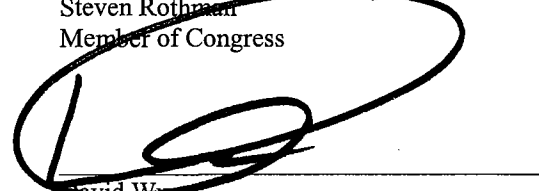
  
John Tierney  
Member of Congress

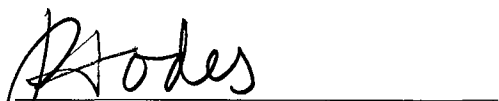
  
George Miller  
Member of Congress

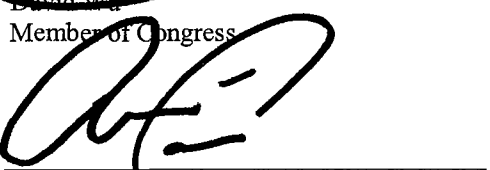
  
Luis Gutierrez  
Member of Congress

  
Steven Rothman  
Member of Congress

  
Rush Holt  
Member of Congress

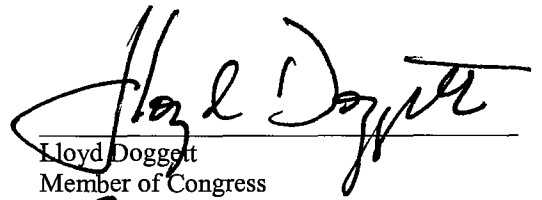
  
David Wu  
Member of Congress

  
Paul Hodes  
Member of Congress

  
Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



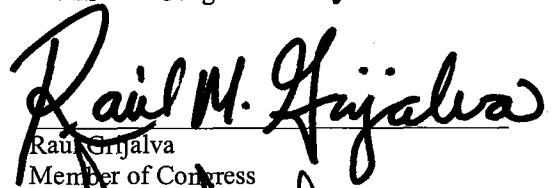
Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



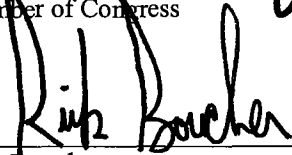
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



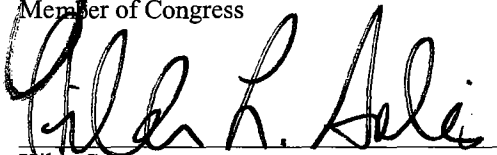
Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress



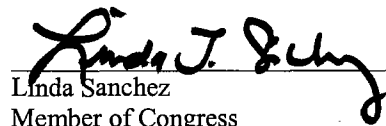
John Larson  
Member of Congress



Rick Boucher  
Member of Congress



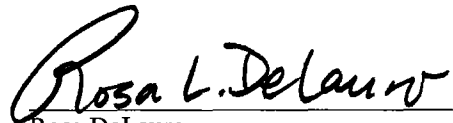
Hilda Solis  
Member of Congress



Linda Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Danny Davis  
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



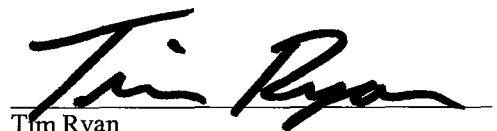
Mike Honda  
Member of Congress



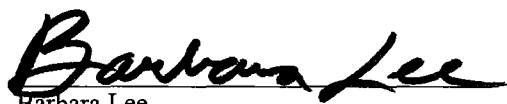
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



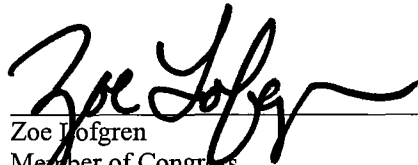
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



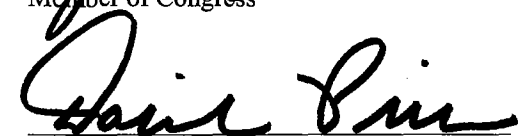
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



David Price  
Member of Congress