

1. **Title of the Resolution:** A moratorium on psychologist involvement in interrogations at US detention centers for foreign detainees.
2. **Mover:** Neil Altman, Ph.D.
3. **Mover's Organizational Representation within APA:** Division 39 representative to the Council of Representatives
4. **The Issue:** That psychologists participating in interrogations of foreign detainees at US detention centers may be working within a framework in which there is inadequate protection of detainee human rights.
5. **Relation to APA Priorities:** This resolution fits with the priority of promoting human welfare through social justice policy and education.
6. **Estimated Costs/Staff Resources:** Minimal, only as needed to publicize the resolution.

**7. Main Motion:** Whereas, the American Psychological Association (APA), as an accredited NGO at the UN, is committed to the spirit, purposes, and principles of the UN and other relevant UN instruments;

Whereas, in 2006, the APA Resolution Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment reaffirmed the APA's long-standing commitment to basic human rights including its position against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment;

Whereas, in 2006, the APA Resolution Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment affirmed that psychologists regardless of their roles, shall not knowingly engage in, tolerate, direct, support, advise, or offer training in torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment; that psychologists shall not provide knowingly any research, instruments, or knowledge that facilitates the practice of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment; that psychologists shall not knowingly participate in any procedure in which torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment is used or threatened;

Whereas, in 2006, the APA Resolution Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment affirmed that should torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment evolve during a procedure where a psychologist is present, the psychologist shall attempt to intervene to stop such behavior, and failing that exit the

procedure; and that psychologists shall be alert to acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment and have an ethical responsibility to report these acts to the appropriate authorities;

Whereas, the US government in the Military Commissions Bill of 2006 has declared that certain people held at detention centers are “enemy combatants” and as such may not be guaranteed human rights protections, particularly in relation to due process, and humane interrogation techniques, as established under the Geneva Conventions and other UN documents, treaties, conventions, and protocols that protect the human rights of people without exception.

Whereas, current interrogation methods at U.S. centers holding “enemy combatants” may include techniques defined as torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment under the 2006 APA Resolution Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

Whereas, psychologists working in U.S. detention centers for foreign detainees are placed at risk (ethically and psychologically), particularly in relation to involvement in interrogations interpreted as legal under U.S. law but inclusive of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment as defined under international law and the 2006 APA Resolution Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

Therefore, Be it resolved that APA adopts this resolution calling for a moratorium on all psychologist involvement, either direct or indirect, in any interrogations at U.S. detention centers for foreign detainees. This moratorium is necessary as detainees may be currently denied protections outlined under the Geneva Conventions and interrogation techniques in violation of the 2006 APA Resolution Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment may be considered acceptable practice according to the Military Commissions Bill of 2006;

And Be it Further Resolved that APA disseminates and publicizes this resolution along with its 2006 Resolution against Torture both within the Association and to the wider public.

7. **Expected Outcomes/Products:** Improved ethical and legal guidance for psychologists working in US detention centers holding foreign detainees.
8. **Co-sponsors:** Joseph Aponte, Kentucky; Bernice Lott, Div. 9; Allen Omoto, Div. 9; Dolores Morris, Div. 39; Judith Van Hoorn, Div. 48; Laura Barbanel, Div. 39; G. Rita Dudley-Grant, Div. 42; Laurie Wagner, Div. 39; Maurine Kelly, Div. 39; Sharon Brennan, New York; Jacquelyn White, Div. 35; Jean Lau Chin, Div. 35; Linda M. Woolf, Div. 48; Barbara Cowan, New York; Trish Crawford, British Columbia, Bert Karon, Div. 39.

