

## **Stop Torture Now!**

By Catherine Gordon

[December 7, 2005] The Senate recently voted on two important bills: the Defense Appropriations bill and the Defense Authorization bill. We are urging our members and supporters to weigh in with their elected officials to support specific provisions.

### **ACT NOW:**

Call the Capitol Hill switchboard at 1-800-426-8073 and ask for your Representative, and if you have more time call again to ask for your Senators. If you do not know who your Members of Congress are, click here. Once you are connected to the appropriate office, ask for the staff person who handles defense issues and tell them:

- As a constituent of [name of Representative or Senator], I am calling regarding to bills that are very important to me: the Defense Appropriations bill and the Defense Authorization bill.
- On the Defense Appropriations bill, I urge you to support the Anti-Torture Amendment as passed by the Senate 90-9 and offered by Senator John McCain. Please do not accept any revisions to the Senate passed version of the amendment. This country must not allow any exceptions for torture or inhuman treatment.
- On the Defense Authorization bill, I urge you to support the Anti-Torture Amendment there too, but not as an alternative to the Appropriations bill. This is an important amendment that belongs on both bills.
- The United States must stand without exception for the principle of human decency and against the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. The world is watching.

### **Summary of Action Request**

Defense Appropriation bill: The Defense Appropriations bill funds US forces around the world and must pass the House before it recesses for the year. Because this bill must pass, Amnesty International strongly supports inclusion of the Anti-Torture Amendment in this bill.

Support the McCain Amendment as passed by the Senate:

- We are urging Members of Congress to retain the Anti-Torture Amendment to the Defense Appropriations bill, which was introduced by Senator McCain and passed the Senate on October 5th by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 90-9.
- The version adopted by the Senate will reaffirm the United States' prohibition against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and also establish uniform guidelines for the treatment of detainees in the custody or control of Department of Defense or at a DoD facility.
- It is crucial that the Anti-Torture Amendment be included in this bill, without any revisions which would provide loopholes or exceptions.
- Your calls are extremely important. Please urge your Member of Congress to support for the Anti-Torture Amendment in the Defense Appropriations bill and prevent it from being watered down.

Defense Authorization bill: The Defense Authorization bill provides the laws and guidelines that govern US armed forces around the world. It usually passes every year. However, there is a chance that this year it will not pass for various reasons, including many controversial provisions and amendments.

Support the McCain Anti-Torture Amendment:

- Urge your Member of Congress to vote for the McCain Amendment to the Defense Authorization bill, and also on the Defense Appropriations bill.
- The amendment must be included in both bills.

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