



Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice

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MEDIA ADVISORY

June 8, 2009

CONTACT

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“End Torture Forever” - 24-Foot Banner at Michigan Capitol Michigan Religious, Legal, and Peace Groups Mark Torture Awareness Month by Calling for Investigation, Legislation

WHAT Press Conference in front of “End Torture Forever” banner that will hang on the Michigan State Capitol Building’s East Steps

WHEN: Thursday, June 11, 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Michigan Capitol Building - East Steps.

SPEAKERS:

Dawud Walid is currently the Executive Director of the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MI) and the assistant Imam of Masjid Wali Muhammad in Detroit. Walid also serves as a board trustee for the Detroit Metropolitan Interfaith Workers Rights Committee (www.cairmichigan.org).

Mary Bejian, Deputy Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan. The ACLU, through the courts, legislatures and communities, has worked tirelessly to expose the abuse and torture of detainees in U.S. military prisons and “black sites” overseas, and to uphold the rule of law.” (www.aclumich.org)

The Rev. Reid Hamilton is the Chaplain of Canterbury House, the Episcopal Campus Ministry at the University of Michigan, and brings to anti-torture activism his experience as a military lawyer with the 82d Airborne Division. (www.canterburyhouse.org/)

Jim Turner is a Regional Representative for U.S. Senator Carl Levin. Sen. Levin has been a leader in the Senate, investigating torture. Senator Levin has pushed for strong standards to prohibit cruel treatment and torture (levin.senate.gov).

Erika McNamara is an attorney and serves as the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice representative to the Regional and State Partners Council for the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (www.nrcat.org).

Other events for **Torture Awareness Month in Michigan** include:

Ann Arbor -- June 13th: Michigan Theater, 1:00 pm, Saturday, June 13, 2009. Showing of the documentary movie, *Torturing Democracy*, by Sherry Jones, describing how the U.S. government adopted torture as official policy in the aftermath of 9/11, followed by discussion with Human Rights expert Susan Waltz.

East Lansing -- June 23rd: MSU College of Law, 7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 23, 2009. Panel presentation, “What is at Stake in the Torture Debate?” - with Catherine Grosso, Susan Waltz, Dorean Koenig, and Erick Williams

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (www.icpj.net) empowers people of faith and people of conscience in the Washtenaw County/Ann Arbor, Michigan area to act on their moral and religious values to build a better world. The *Peace Education Center* (www.PeaceEdCenter) and the *Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice* (www.glnawi.org) educate and advocate for peace & human rights in the Lansing area.

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