

## US Law &amp; Security

**End Torture Now**

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**One Year After Abu Ghraib****Congress to Deliberate on Senate Anti-Torture Measures**

On Friday November 4, 2005, the US Senate by voice vote agreed to attach the McCain amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill. This is the same amendment that Senator McCain attached to the Defense Appropriations Bill on October 5, 2005 by a Senate vote of 90 to 9 ([McCain Statement](#)). The House has delayed appointing conferees for the conference on the Defense Appropriations Bill, which is stalling resolution of this issue. This delay was Senator McCain's motivation for attaching the amendment to the now-moving Defense Authorization Bill.

Senator  
John McCain

The McCain amendment will make the Army Field Manual on Intelligence Interrogations binding interrogation policy for all those in military custody, and will reinforce the ban on cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees, which the Administration now asserts does not apply to U.S. actions abroad.

"The Senate should be commended for responding to the call from American men and women in uniform for clarity and integrity in interrogation policy," said Elisa Massimino, Washington Director of Human Rights First (formerly the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights). "Senator McCain's amendment offers Congress the opportunity to steer U.S. policy back on course, by making clear that torture and other cruel treatment will not be tolerated. The House should seize this opportunity and accept the Senate language."

"This is a situation where what is good for our troops is also in line with our values as Americans," said Rear Admiral John D. Hutson, U.S. Navy (Ret.), who served as the Navy's Judge Advocate General from 1997 to 2000. Admiral Hutson was also one of 28 retired military leaders who wrote a letter to Sen. McCain in support of the amendment (see letter at: [www.humanrightsfirst.org/us\\_law/etn/pdf/mccain-100305.pdf](http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/us_law/etn/pdf/mccain-100305.pdf)). "Getting our interrogation policies back on track will preserve our standing to fight for humane treatment of American soldiers who are captured in future combat operations, and it will help put our security efforts back on the moral high ground." After the graphic photos showing torture and abuse of U.S.-held prisoners at Abu Ghraib emerged in April 2004, the U.S. vowed to investigate and take steps to ensure that such horrendous acts never occurred again.

In a statement released by Senator McCain, he states:

"We are Americans, and we hold ourselves to humane standards of treatment of people no matter how evil or terrible they may be. To do otherwise undermines our security, but it also undermines our greatness as a nation. We are not simply any other country. We stand for something more in the world — a moral

mission, one of freedom and democracy and human rights at home and abroad. We are better than these terrorists, and we will we win. The enemy we fight has no respect for human life or human rights. They don't deserve our sympathy. But this isn't about who they are. This is about who we are. These are the values that distinguish us from our enemies."

## **Related Materials**

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[Media Alert](#) on Senate Approval of Prisoner Mistreatment Proposals

[Letter From Retired Military Leaders to Sen. McCain](#) - October 3, 2005 - (PDF - 10KB)

[Statement of Sen. McCain on the Army Field Manual](#)



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