



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

December 2, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to lend our voices to the growing community of academics, journalists, civil rights organizations, and members of Congress who have asked you to declassify the full version of the Senate Intelligence Committee's *Study of the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program*. We believe that it is imperative you do so before you leave office in January.

With your support, the executive summary of the Senate Intelligence Committee's report was released to the public in 2014. That summary exposed the brutal, unlawful interrogation practices of the Central Intelligence Agency under the Bush Administration. Your own reaction was apt: the practices described in that document "constituted torture," and are "contrary to who we are" and "contrary to our values" as a nation.¹

Under any circumstances, it would be important to provide a full public accounting of the CIA's torture program. Given the views of the incoming administration, however, the need for release of the full report is dire.

We need only take these officials at their word. Representative Mike Pompeo, tapped to lead the CIA, has argued that the practices described in the executive summary are "within the law" and "within the constitution"—and that the report itself is the product of "some liberal game being played by the ACLU and Senator [Dianne] Feinstein."²

Senator Jeff Sessions, nominated to be our next Attorney General, recently voted against a measure—that passed by overwhelming and bipartisan consensus—designed to reaffirm our prohibition on torture against enemy combatants.³

¹ F. Brinley Bruton, *President Obama: CIA's Post-9/11 Torture Was "Contrary to Who We Are,"* NBC NEWS, Dec. 10, 2014.

² Press Release, *Release of the Senate Report on CIA Activities Harms U.S. National Security*, Office of Rep. Mike Pompeo, Dec. 10, 2014.

³ *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016*, Roll Vote No. 209, Congressional Record S3910-3911 (June 5, 2015).

President-Elect Donald Trump was even more explicit on the campaign trail: “I would bring back waterboarding and I’d bring back a hell of a lot worse than waterboarding.”⁴

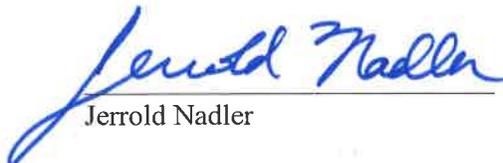
You have taken important steps to ensure that the United States will not engage in torture again. Men and women of conscience—across the political spectrum, both on Capitol Hill and off—are prepared to fight for those measures and the values they represent. But a full and public record will be our first defense against a return to these inhumane and unlawful practices.

As the ranking member of the House Committee on the Judiciary and the former chair and current ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, we ask that you take the steps necessary to ensure that the full torture report is released to the public, and we urge you to do so without delay.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr.


Jerrold Nadler


Steve Cohen

cc: Chairman Bob Goodlatte
House Committee on the Judiciary

⁴ *Transcript of the Republican Presidential Debate*, N.Y. TIMES, Feb. 6, 2016.