

STATEMENT AGAINST TORTURE FROM NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING
CONSERVATIVE OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

APPROVED SEVENTH MONTH 14, 2007

Rising from the concern expressed by participants at the Fall 2006 gathering of the Southeast Region of the Friends World Committee – Section of the Americas

We, the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends, condemn the use of torture, whether to further the objectives of war, to prevent terrorism, or for any other purpose. Torture by any means, whether direct or by proxy is immoral. Torture demeans the humanity of the tortured, the torturer, and those who have knowledge of it. It denies the sanctity of Life.

The United States government has sought to redefine torture to make its practice and the evidence gained thereby to be admissible in courts. The United States government has utilized extraordinary rendition; has compromised the integrity of United States constitution, due process, and habeas corpus; and has sought to compromise international agreements through its modification of the Geneva Convention.

We seek to bring about an end to torture by all governments and all people through our support of the work of the Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT), and by direct appeal to our elected representatives. We ask the leaders in the executive, congressional, and judicial branches of our government to follow existing laws and treaties which ban torture and to work for stronger measures. We ask also that the secretive “extraordinary rendition” program of the Central Intelligence Agency be stopped. As stated by William Penn (1683), we remind our leaders that action by our government and individuals should be based on the proposition that “A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it.”

We pray that the transforming power of the Divine will bring the redemption and release of the tortured, the torturer, and those who promulgate and defend policies of torture and the use of torture. We are all called to live into the Light and to reach out to that of God in all whom we meet.