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STATEMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT'S LIBERTY AND SECURITY INITIATIVE

"We [the undersigned members of the Constitution Project's Liberty and Security Initiative] request that the Congress and the President establish a bipartisan commission, modeled after the 9/11 Commission, to investigate the issue of prisoner abuse. Specifically, we recommend that such a bipartisan commission investigate the various allegations of abuse of terrorist suspects by the United States, and make recommendations to guide U.S. officials in the future.

We recognize that several government investigations are already underway or have recently been completed. However, these investigations, including the recently completed Pentagon report, are not government-wide, and are not structured to provide recommendations to the President and the Congress on specific measures that might be taken to prevent any such abuse in the future. One of the principal accomplishments of the 9/11 Commission was the comprehensive and detailed list of recommendations it provided. We believe a similar approach is warranted in the context of prisoner abuse allegations.

We also recognize the complexity of the tasks faced by those charged with defending our nation's security in an age of global terror. In our view, however, that very complexity creates a need for a high-level, broad-gauged panel to assess the national security, foreign policy and human rights implications of the issue. The experience of the 9/11 Commission demonstrates that such a panel can engage in credible, effective fact-finding and can propose reforms that garner support from both the executive and legislative branches, as well as the public."

Members of the Liberty and Security Initiative Who Have Endorsed the Statement Above:*

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Reverend Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, Executive Director, The Interfaith Alliance

Dr. Morton H. Halperin, Director of U.S. Advocacy, Open Society Institute; Senior Vice President, Center for American Progress

David Lawrence, Jr., President, Early Childhood Initiative Foundation; former publisher, Miami Herald and Detroit Free Press

Robert A. Levy, Senior Fellow in Constitutional Studies, Cato Institute

Thomas R. Pickering, former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs; former United States Ambassador and Representative to the United Nations

Dr. Roger Pilon, Vice President for Legal Affairs, Cato Institute

John Podesta, President and Chief Executive Officer, Center for American Progress; White House Chief of Staff, Clinton administration

John Seigenthaler, Founder, The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University; former President, American Society of Newspaper Editors; former Administrative Assistant to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy

William S. Sessions, former Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation; former Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas

John Shore, Founder and President, noborg LLC; former Senior Advisor for Science and Technology to Senator Patrick Leahy

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