# THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT

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*Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law*

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## Military, National Security and Religious Leaders Urge Senate to Release Report on CIA Interrogations

**WASHINGTON, D.C. --** Nearly 60 former military officers, national security and foreign policy experts, and religious leaders are asking the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to declassify its report on the CIA's treatment of suspected terrorists after 9/11, and to make the report available to the public.

The Constitution Project joined the Center for Victims of Torture, Human Rights First and National Religious Campaign Against Torture in releasing the statement on the one-year anniversary of the committee's bipartisan adoption of the report.

"It is essential that the debate over how we treat terrorism suspects be grounded in facts, not in euphemisms and unverified reports, so that the public can play its vital role in our system of checks and balances," said Virginia Sloan, president of The Constitution Project (TCP), a bipartisan legal watchdog group.

"Declassifying the Intelligence Committee's report to the fullest extent possible and releasing it to the public is a crucial part of building durable safeguards against torture.  These safeguards -- institutional, legal and cultural -- must be strong enough to withstand future crises," she said.

The 6,300 page report details the capture, detention, interrogation, and conditions of confinement of all known CIA detainees.  The report is the product of three years of work, including a review of more than six million pages of materials.  Committee Chair Diane Feinstein (D-CA) has called the study "one of the most significant oversight efforts in the history of the United States Senate, and by far the most important oversight activity ever conducted by this committee."  Yet the report remains classified, and thus hidden from public view.

The groups also issued a collection of public statements from a variety of sources demonstrating the breadth of support for releasing the information.

In a report published in April, TCP's Task Force on Detainee Treatment found that the U.S. engaged in torture and that our country's most senior officials were responsible.  It made a number of recommendations designed to prevent a return to torture and abuse in the face of any future terrorist attack.  Increased transparency, including release of the SSCI report, is at the heart of many of them.

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**About The Constitution Project**
*Created out of the belief that we must cast aside the labels that divide us in order to keep our democracy*

*strong, The Constitution Project (TCP) brings together policy experts and legal practitioners from across the political spectrum to foster consensus-based solutions to the most difficult constitutional challenges of our time.  TCP seeks to reform the nation's broken criminal justice system and to strengthen the rule of law through scholarship, advocacy, policy reform and public education initiatives. Established in 1997, TCP is based in Washington, D.C.*