

Eshoo Introduces Bill to Close Guantanamo Bay Detention Facilities and Ban Extreme Torture Methods

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Palo Alto) introduced a bill that will provide for a legal, effective, and humane system of gathering intelligence and holding suspected terrorists. The legislation will require the closure of the detention facilities at Guantanamo and require the CIA and all other intelligence agencies to use the 19 specific interrogation techniques that are authorized by the Army Field Manual on Human Intelligence Collector Operations.

“This legislation protects our country and U.S. servicemen abroad by banning the use of cruel and inhumane interrogation methods and closing the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay. For years the documented reports of detainee abuses at Guantanamo have undermined U.S. efforts at home and abroad. The bill also incorporates legislation that I introduced in the last Congress that bans extreme interrogation methods, such as waterboarding,” said Eshoo.

The Lawful Interrogation and Detention Act of 2009 will:

• Require the closure of the detention facilities at Guantanamo within one year. All individuals held at Guantanamo must be:

- o Charged with crimes and tried in the United States through the federal criminal justice or the military justice system;
- o Transferred to an international tribunal, if one has jurisdiction to hold trials for such individuals;

- o Transferred back to their native country or to the custody of another country;

- o If the other options can't be followed and the individual is determined to pose no security threat, released; or
- o Held in accordance with the law of armed conflict.

• Require the CIA and all other intelligence agencies to use only the 19 specific interrogation techniques that are authorized by the Army Field Manual on Human Intelligence Collector Operations. This requirement would put intelligence interrogations under the same legal requirement for all Department of Defense agencies, thus creating a clear, single standard across the U.S. Government;

• Prohibit the CIA from using private contractors to conduct interrogations of detainees; and

• Require the intelligence community to notify the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) of any detainees being held, and to provide the ICRC with access to those detainees.

The original sponsors of the bill introduced today are Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Rep. Jane Harman (D-CA), Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), and Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers (D-MI). Companion legislation was introduced this week in the Senate by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).

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