

# June is TORTURE AWARENESS MONTH

## Calendar of Events

**All month long, every weekday, 12noon-1:00pm:**

VIGIL for investigations of torture enablers by Federal Attorneys. Led by Tackling Torture At The Top, *On the plaza of the Federal Courthouse in Minneapolis, 300 4th St S, Minneapolis*  
**JOIN US!**

**Tuesday, June 1, 6:30-8:30pm:** "Torturing Democracy," a film by Sherry Jones. *The Salon, at Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 West 7th, St. Paul 55102*

**Tuesday, June 15, 6:30-8:30pm:** Tackling Torture At The Top, a committee of W.A.M.M. (Women Against Military Madness). *The Salon, at Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 West 7th, St. Paul 55102*

**Wednesday, June 16, 5:00-6:00pm:** ANTI-TORTURE VIGIL, on the Peace Bridge (*Lake St bridge between Minneapolis and St. Paul*)

**Tuesday, June 22, 6:30-8:30pm:** readings from Poems from Guantanamo and other writings related to torture. *The Salon, at Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 West 7th, St. Paul 55102*

**Saturday, June 26, 11am-1pm:** The Center for Victims of Torture honors torture survivors on UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. *717 E. River Parkway, Minneapolis (outdoors)*

**Saturday, June 26, 2:00-4:00pm:** Screening and discussion with Capt. Yee of "The Response" the award-winning 30 minute dramatization of a military tribunal at Guantanamo directed by Adam Rodgers, followed by cookout. *2418 E 24th St, Minneapolis, RSVP required, space is limited. Call 612-822-9520*

**Saturday, June 26, 7:00-10:00pm:** screening and discussion of the film "Torturing Democracy" by Sherry Jones, *Walker Community Church, 16th Ave S and 31st St E, Minneapolis 55407*

**Sunday, June 27, 9am and 11am:** Capt. James Yee speaks at services at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, *4537 3rd Ave S, Minneapolis*

**Sunday, June 27, 12:30-1:30pm:** Capt. Yee speaks informally in connection with St. Joan of Arc's Peace and Justice Committee and NRCAT (National Religious Campaign Against Torture, [nrcat.org](http://nrcat.org)), *4537 3rd Ave S, Minneapolis*

Torture is not  
a partisan issue. It...  
Endangers our soldiers  
Breaks the law  
Destroys the torturer  
Creates more enemies  
Diminishes our credibility on  
human rights  
Decreases cooperation from  
our allies  
Sets a dangerous precedent  
Creates false leads  
Emboldens the enemy  
Promotes disrespect for law  
Weakens our treaties  
Results in blowback  
Dries up intelligence sources  
Corrupts the torturing country

**Sunday June 27, 3:00-5:00pm**

## EDUCATIONAL FORUM ON TORTURE

***Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave S (at Franklin), Minneapolis***

**Marjorie Cohn**, immediate past president of the National Lawyers Guild  
**Captain James Yee**, former Army Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo  
**Ellen Kennedy, PhD**, Interim Director, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Univ. of MN, Executive Director, World Without Genocide ([www.worldwithoutgenocide.org](http://www.worldwithoutgenocide.org))  
**Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer**, Assistant Professor of Justice and Peace Studies, Univ. of St. Thomas, and MN Senatorial candidate (2008)

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INTERNATIONAL** 

**ENDORSED BY:** THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE...VETERANS FOR PEACE  
Minnesota ACLU...Minnesota Chapter of the NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD



This calendar is produced by Tackling Torture At The Top (T3), a committee of W.A.M.M. We are formed to call for investigations and prosecutions of those who have authorized torture in the name of the USA. We also work to educate the public on this crucial issue and keep it in the public consciousness.

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**High officials in our government have confirmed that our country has engaged in torture.** Judge Susan Crawford, the convening authority of the Guantanamo Military Commissions, refused to allow a prosecution to go forward because she said we tortured the detainee. Major General Antonio Taguba said, “the Commander-in-Chief and those under him authorized a systematic regime of torture.” Former Navy General Counsel Alberto Mora has written that approved interrogation techniques “could produce effects reaching the level of torture” and “almost certainly...[constituted unlawful] ‘cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.’”

Yet few have been held accountable. Some lower level people have been convicted, but no one who ordered torture, no one who authorized torture as policy, and no one who “legalized” it for those seeking a golden shield. Since the Federal Torture Statute was passed in 1994, only one person has been charged and convicted under it--and that was for torture committed in the name of the government of Liberia. His name was Chuckie Taylor. He was the son of the President of Liberia, Charles Taylor, and he tortured people as part of that country’s Anti-Terrorism Unit. Sounds too familiar, doesn’t it?

Former Vice-President Mondale says the danger of these abuses of power is that they remain as precedents “like a loaded pistol that you leave on the dining room table.” But even he is loathe to hold people accountable through prosecutions. He has said, “I’m not talking about prosecuting anybody, but the people at the management level, who made these policies surely should be subject to a hearing. We should have a clear record of what they did. Beyond that, I’ve got trouble with prosecuting people. I think it would just tear us apart.”

And so the loaded pistol just sits there. In fact, torture now is almost legal. Our local U.S. Attorney’s office claims the Executive Branch has made a policy decision not to prosecute for torture. Unfortunately, that is not their choice to make. Other governments are now asserting their rights under the doctrine of universal jurisdiction. A Spanish judge is investigating high Bush administration officials for torture. And last year, an Italian court convicted in absentia 23 Americans for kidnapping a suspect and transferring him to a country that practices torture.

***Join us in our efforts to seek accountability for the torture committed in our names. TacklingTorture@gmail.com***