January 6, 2017

Donald J. Trump
President-elect of the United States of America
Trump Tower
735 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear President-Elect Trump,

We are a group of 175 retired flag officers from all branches of the United States military. We have over six thousand years of combined experience in commanding and leading American men and women in war and in peace, and believe strongly in the values and ideals that our country holds dear. We know from experience that U.S. national security policies are most effective when they uphold those ideals.

For these reasons, we are concerned about statements made during the campaign about the use of torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of detainees in U.S. custody. The use of waterboarding or any so-called “enhanced interrogation techniques” is unlawful under domestic and international law. Opposition to torture has been strong and bi-partisan since the founding of our republic through the administration of President Ronald Reagan to this very day. This was reinforced last year when the Congress passed the McCain-Feinstein anti-torture law on an overwhelmingly bi-partisan basis.

Torture is unnecessary. Based on our experience—and that of our nation’s top interrogators, backed by the latest science—we know that lawful, rapport-based interrogation techniques are the most effective way to elicit actionable intelligence.

Torture is also counterproductive because it undermines our national security. It increases the risks to our troops, hinders cooperation with allies, alienates populations whose support the United States needs in the struggle against terrorism, and provides a propaganda tool for extremists who wish to do us harm.

Most importantly, torture violates our core values as a nation. Our greatest strength is our commitment to the rule of law and to the principles embedded in our Constitution. Our servicemen and women need to know that our leaders do not condone torture or detainee abuse of any kind.

We look forward to working with you in the future on this and any other issue as you serve our great country.

Sincerely,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Keith B. Alexander, USA (Ret.)</td>
<td>Director, National Security Agency, 2005-2014 and Commander, U.S. Cyber Command 2010-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>General John R. Allen, USMC (Ret.)</td>
<td>Commander, U.S. Forces Afghanistan, 2011-2013</td>
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<td>General Walter E. Boomer, USMC (Ret.)</td>
<td>Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, 1992-1994</td>
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<td>Admiral Frank “Skip” Bowman, USN (Ret.)</td>
<td>Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion, 1996-2004</td>
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<td>Admiral Archie R. Clemins, USN (Ret.)</td>
<td>Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, 1996-1999</td>
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<td>General William W. Crouch, USA (Ret.)</td>
<td>Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, 1997-1998</td>
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<td>General Douglas Fraser, USAF (Ret.)</td>
<td>Commander, U.S. Southern Command, 2009-2012</td>
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<td>General Carlton W. Fulford Jr., USMC (Ret.)</td>
<td>Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command, 2000-2002</td>
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<td>General Ronald H. Griffith, USA (Ret.)</td>
<td>Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, 1995-1997</td>
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<td>Admiral John C. Harvey, Jr, USN (Ret.)</td>
<td>Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, 2009-2012</td>
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<td>General Richard D. Hearney, USMC (Ret.)</td>
<td>Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, 1994-1996</td>
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<td>General James T. Hill, USA (Ret.)</td>
<td>Commander, U.S. Southern Command, 2002-2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Paul J. Kern, USA (Ret.)</td>
<td>Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, 2001-2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Charles C. Krulak, USMC (Ret.)</td>
<td>Commandant of the Marine Corps, 1995-1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>General David M. Maddox, USA (Ret.)</td>
<td>Commander, U.S. Army Europe, 1992-1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Stanley A. McChrystal, USA (Ret.)</td>
<td>Commander, U.S. Forces Afghanistan, 2009-2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Barry R. McCaffrey, USA (Ret.)</td>
<td>Commander, U.S. Southern Command, 1994-1996</td>
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</tbody>
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GENERAL MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS, USA (RET.)
Commander, U.S. Army Europe, 1998-2002

GENERAL THOMAS A. SCHWARTZ, USA (RET.)
Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command, 1998-1999

GENERAL LARRY O. SPENCER, USAF (RET.)
Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force, 2012-2015
Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command, 1998-1999

GENERAL CHARLES F. “CHUCK” WALD, USAF (RET.)
Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command, 2002-2006

LIEUTENANT GENERAL STEVEN L. ARNOLD, USA (RET.)
LIEUTENANT GENERAL H. STEVEN BLUM, USA (RET.)
LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN CASTELLAW, USMC (RET.)
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LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIE J. WILLIAMS, USMC (RET.)
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REAR ADMIRAL JAMES J. CAREY, USN (RET.)

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VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD H. CARMONA, USPHS (RET.)
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LIEUTENANT GENERAL KEITH J. STALDER, USMC (RET.)
LIEUTENANT GENERAL MITCHELL H. STEVENSON, USA (RET.)
LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERT "SAM" WETZEL, USA (RET.)
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MAJOR GENERAL DONNA BARBISCH, USA (RET.)
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MAJOR GENERAL EUGENE FOX, USA (RET.)
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REAR ADMIRAL JANICE M. HAMBY, USN (RET.)
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MAJOR GENERAL JIM H. KEEFER, USAF (RET.)
MAJOR GENERAL STEVEN J. LEPPER, USAF ( RET.)
MAJOR GENERAL DONALD E. LORANGER, USAF (RET.)
REAR ADMIRAL ARCHER M. MACY, JR., USN (RET.)
MAJOR GENERAL DEE ANN McWILLIAMS, USA (RET.)
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MAJOR GENERAL WILTON SCOTT GORSKE, USA (RET.)
MAJOR GENERAL IRVING HALTER, USAF (RET.)
MAJOR GENERAL MARCELITE HARRIS, USAF (RET.)
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MAJOR GENERAL MARGARET WOODWARD, USAF (RET.)
MAJOR GENERAL DAVID T. ZABECKI, USA (RET.)
 Brigadier General Bruce A. Adams, USA (Ret.)  
 Brigadier General John Adams, USA (Ret.)  
 Rear Admiral James A. “Jamie” Barnett, USN (Ret.)  
 Brigadier General Robert Beletic, USAF (Ret.)  
 Brigadier General Bruce Berwick, USA (Ret.)  
 Rear Admiral Robert E. Besal, USN (Ret.)  
 Brigadier General David M. Brahms, USMC (Ret.)  
 Rear Admiral Michael J. Browne, USN (Ret.)  
 Brigadier General Stephen A. Cheney, USMC (Ret.)  
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 Rear Admiral Grady L. Jackson, USN (Ret.)  
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 Rear Admiral Harold L. Robinson, USN (Ret.)  
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 Brigadier General Scott E. Wuesthoff, USAF (Ret.)  
 Brigadier General Stephen N. Xenakis, USA (Ret.)  
 Brigadier General Frederick A. Zehrer III, USAF (Ret.)