

January 31, 2013

Dear Senator,

We write to you regarding the confirmation hearing of John Brennan to be CIA Director.

We are retired professional intelligence experts and interrogators with combined experience totaling hundreds of years serving in the United States armed forces, law enforcement and intelligence agencies. We have spent our careers interrogating high value suspects.

We know from experience that torture is unreliable, unlawful and un-American. But, does Mr. Brennan?

In 2007, Mr. Brennan said on *The Early Show* that approximately one-third of the 100 terrorism suspects held by the CIA were subject by CIA officers to “enhanced interrogation tactics,” which is a euphemism for torture. In the same interview, he claimed that information gotten through enhanced interrogation “has saved lives.”

Mr. Brennan was Deputy Executive Director of the CIA from 2001-2003 when the Bush administration adopted torture as an interrogation tactic. What role did Mr. Brennan play in the development, review or approval of what he has called “enhanced interrogation?”

We appreciate that in his 2008 letter withdrawing his name for nomination for the CIA Director, Mr. Brennan wrote, “I have been a strong opponent of many of the policies of the Bush Administration such as...coercive interrogation tactics, [including] waterboarding.” What evidence does Mr. Brennan have to support his assertion?

Does Mr. Brennan agree today with the following principles to which we as professional interrogators subscribe?

1. Non-coercive, traditional, rapport-based interviewing approaches provide the best possibility for obtaining accurate and complete intelligence.
2. Torture and other inhumane and abusive interview techniques are unlawful, ineffective and counterproductive.
3. The use of torture and other inhumane and abusive treatment results in false and misleading information, loss of critical intelligence, and has caused serious damage to the reputation and standing of the United States. The use of such techniques also facilitates enemy recruitment, misdirects or wastes scarce resources, and deprives the United States of the standing to demand humane treatment of captured Americans.
4. There must be a single well-defined standard of conduct, as in the *Army Field Manual*, to govern the detention and interrogation of people anywhere in U.S. custody across all U.S. agencies.

5. There is no conflict between adhering to our nation's essential values, including respect for inherent human dignity, and our ability to obtain the information we need to protect the nation.

Assuming Mr. Brennan has nothing to conceal and believes that he has a responsibility to be clear and frank with the American people, will he support public release of, with as few redactions as possible, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence study on CIA detention and interrogation after 9/11, adopted by the committee in December?

We acknowledge Mr. Brennan's significant contributions to our nation's defense, but given that Mr. Brennan faced significant opposition to his nomination to become CIA Director in 2008 and that the questions raised then have not been answered fully, we respectfully recommend that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence ask Mr. Brennan questions about his views on torture to give the American public full confidence in the nominee.

Sincerely,

Tony Camerino
Don Canestraro
Jack Cloonan
Barry Eisler
Col. Stuart Herrington
Marcus Lewis
Mike Marks
Robert McFadden
Malcolm Nance
Joe Navarro
Torin Nelson
Ken Robinson

Biographical information:

Tony Camerino

Tony Camerino has spent over eighteen years in the U.S. Air Force and Air Force Reserves. He personally conducted more than 300 interrogations in Iraq and supervised more than 1,000. Camerino was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his achievements in Iraq, including leading the team of interrogators that located Abu Musab al Zarqawi, who was subsequently killed in an airstrike. Camerino has conducted missions in over thirty countries, has two advanced degrees, and speaks three languages. He is the author (under the pseudonym Matthew Alexander) of *How to Break a Terrorist: The U.S. Interrogators Who Used Brains, Not Brutality, to Take Down the Deadliest Man in Iraq* (Free Press, 2008) and *Kill or Capture: How a Special Operations Task Force Took Down a Notorious al Qaeda Terrorist* (St. Martin's Press, 2011).

Donald Canestraro

Mr. Donald Canestraro was a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) from 1991 until 2012. He has participated in numerous international investigations involving money laundering, traditional organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism. He has provided training and expertise to U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies on surveillance, counter surveillance, and interviewing. Prior to his appointment to Special Agent, Mr. Canestraro served as an Intelligence Analyst with DEA where he provided advice to U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies on Colombian drug smuggling cartels. Mr. Canestraro is currently a law enforcement trainer and private investigator in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Jack Cloonan

Jack Cloonan served as a special agent with the FBI from 1977 to 2002. He began investigating Al Qaeda in the early 1990's and served as a special agent for the Bureau's Osama bin Laden unit from 1996 to 2002.

Barry Eisler

Barry Eisler spent three years in a covert position with the CIA's Directorate of Operations, then worked as a technology lawyer and startup executive in Silicon Valley and Japan, earning his black belt at the Kodokan International Judo Center along the way. Eisler's bestselling thrillers have won the Barry Award and the Gumshoe Award for Best Thriller of the Year, have been included in numerous "Best Of" lists, and have been translated into nearly twenty languages. Eisler lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and, when he's not writing novels, blogs about torture, civil liberties, and the rule of law.

Colonel (Ret.) Stuart A. Herrington, US Army

Stu Herrington served thirty years as an Army intelligence officer, specializing in human intelligence/counterintelligence. He has extensive interrogation experience from service in Vietnam, Panama, and Operation Desert Storm. He has traveled to Guantanamo and Iraq at the behest of the Army to evaluate detainee exploitation operations, and he taught a seminar on humane interrogation practices to the Army's 201st MI Battalion, Interrogation, during its activation at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

Marcus Lewis

Marcus Lewis is a former army interrogator, interrogation instructor, Arabic linguist, and reserve officer. Marcus has served in national defense for over 10 years. He enlisted in the Army after 9/11, worked as an interrogation team sergeant in Iraq, and recently returned from a position as an intelligence analyst in Afghanistan.

Mike Marks

Mike Marks is a retired NCIS agent with 23 years of experience. He has served in more than 20 countries, including Bahrain, Afghanistan, and Yemen. He assisted in the investigation of the USS Cole bombing, was assigned to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, and conducted numerous interrogations as part of the Criminal Investigations Task Force in Afghanistan.

Robert McFadden, NCIS Special Agent in Charge (Retired)

Robert McFadden is a 20-year Special of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), where he held a number of high-impact positions to include Senior Representative to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy (clandestine, sensitive, and low visibility operations oversight and policy), Deputy Assistant Director CI and National Security Operations, and Special Agent in Charge, Global Support Field Office. He was the co-case agent for the NCIS-FBI investigation of the USS Cole attack and al-Qa'ida maritime operations cell. He conducted scores of interviews and interrogations of terrorism subjects, witnesses, and sources.

Malcolm Nance

Malcolm Nance is a counterterrorism intelligence consultant for the U.S. government's special operations, homeland security, and intelligence agencies. He is a renowned expert of al-Qaeda strategy and tactic and a combat veteran with twenty-eight years' operational experience in the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia. An author of several books on counterterrorism and counterinsurgency and a blogger at smallwarsjournal.com, he is director of the International Anti-terrorism Center for Excellence. His latest book is An End to al-Qaeda: Destroying Bin Laden's Jihad and Restoring America's Honor.

Joe Navarro

For 25 years, Joe Navarro worked as an FBI special agent in the area of counterintelligence and behavioral assessment. A founding member of the National Security Division's Behavioral Analysis Program, he is on the adjunct faculty at Saint Leo University and the University of Tampa and remains a consultant to the intelligence community. Mr. Navarro is the author of a number of books about interviewing techniques and practice including Advanced Interviewing which he co-wrote with Jack Schafer and Hunting Terrorists: A Look at the Psychopathology of Terror. He currently teaches the Advanced Terrorism Interview course at the FBI.

Torin Nelson

Torin Nelson is the President of the Society for Professional Human Intelligence. He is an eighteen-year veteran interrogator and Human Intelligence specialist. Among other locations he has served at Guantanamo Bay, Abu Ghraib and the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Ken Robinson

Ken Robinson served a twenty-year career in a variety of tactical, operational, and strategic assignments including Ranger, Special Forces, and clandestine special operations units. His experience includes service with the National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency. Ken has extensive experience in CIA and Israeli interrogation methods and is a member of the U.S. Military Intelligence Hall of Fame.