

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

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WHERE DOES TORTURE HAPPEN?

Not only in other countries, as the readers of this newsletter well know. In the U.S. it's like there is an unwritten media rule that even if someone in official custody has been treated badly or harmed, it can't be torture. Ha!

Over the last ten years, some progress has been made by a number of organizations to demonstrate that actions taken by various U.S. government agencies outside of the U.S. are, in fact, government devised and sanctioned torture. Yet, within the U.S., police, court and penal systems' policies and practices often encourage similar actions which are routinely--albeit invisibly to most--carried out.

Both the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association have adopted "ethical standards" prohibiting direct participation of physicians in interrogations. In 2008, the American Psychological Association banned its members from taking part in interrogations at Guantanamo and other military detention sites where they believe international law was being violated. To date, that Association has not declared such practices unethical.

Commonly experienced patterns of ill-treatment include beatings and other forms of severe physical and sexual assault, isolation, sleep deprivation, forced nakedness, severe humiliation and degradation, and sensory deprivation. The U.S. State Department has identified these very practices, when committed by foreign governments, as torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The UN Committee Against Torture, among others, considers each of the above interrogation techniques and conditions of incarceration and treatment as "prohibited conduct."

Resources

Physicians for Human Rights &
Campaign Against Torture
2 Arrow Street - Suite 301
Cambridge MA 02138, 617-301-4200

En donde sucede la tortura?

No solamente en otros países, como los lectores de este boletín bien saben. En los EE.UU. es como tener una regla no escrita de que aun si ahí una persona en custodia y ha sido abusado o maltratado no es tortura. ¡Ha! Atravez de un periodo de 10 años un poco de progreso por diversas organizaciones han demostrado que acciones tomados por varias agencias del gobierno de los EE.UU. afuera de los EE.UU. es un hecho que han leglarío y sauctionado la tortura. Sin embargo, aqui en los EE.UU. la policias y practicas frecuentamente animan similares acciones.

La Asociación Medica Americana y la Asociación Psiquiátrico Americana prohibieron medicos en participar en interojaciones. En 2008, la Asociación Psicólgica Americana prohiba miembros en participar en interojaciones en Guantánamo y en detenciones del ejercito en donde ellos creen que la ley internacional esta siendo violada. Hasta la fecha la Asociación ha declarado que estas practicas han sido poco éticos.

Comunmente experencian maltratamiento que incluyen golpizas y otras formas de severos abusos fisicos, sexuales, aislamiento, privación de dormir, y degradación. El departamento del estado de EE.UU. han identificado varias de estas practicas cuando sean cometidos por gobiernos extranjeros como torturao cruel, inhumano tratamiento degradante, o castigos. El Comite en Contra de Tortura de las Naciones Unidas y otros comités han consideraron que cada de las tecnicas de interrogacion y conductas de encarcelmiento y tratamiento como "conductas prohibidas."

Otro golpe al ligado para nuestras comunidades de inmigrantes. El estado de Georgia a pasado una lay copiona de Arizona. La comunidad espera escuchar de los estados de SC, IN, OK, AL, FL en donde todavia ahí una posibilidad de que pasen un lay igual. 24 estados tienen la misma propuesta en espera. "No dejen que asi se acabe. Diles que yo dije algo." -Pancho Villa.

CRIME OF THE MONTH

In January of 2011, the New Mexico Gas Company (located in Michigan) shut off the gas to heat many New Mexican homes north of Albuquerque.

As expected in January in New Mexico, at altitudes of 5,000 to 9,000 plus feet, it gets really cold. And this year it went below zero, way below zero, off and on over a couple of weeks. The Gas Company chose to shut the gas off to the coldest--and coincidentally, largely lower income--parts of New Mexico, 28,707 customers. Certainly not to Los Alamos, also in the north, and home not only to nuclear bomb development but also the richest county in the country.

In many homes, it got so cold that the water pipes froze and broke, causing great damage. The Gas Company announced that it had a million dollar fund for damages caused by the lack of gas for heat, but this compensation has been slow and partial at best, when not altogether absent.

When it was announced that the gas would be brought back, it took at least six days of subzero weather to get it turned on in many places.

Shortly after this, the Gas Company demanded a \$34.5 million (21%) rate hike.

Sabotage is the crime this month, and the Gas Company of New Mexico is guilty of this. Its demand for more money also qualifies as extortion, since there is an implication that it might do next winter what it did this one if its demands aren't met.

A copy of this Newsletter will be included in all correspondence we send out. To receive our monthly issues regularly, send us self-addressed, stamped envelopes (with the CPR return address)--up to 12 at one time.

Please continue to send us address changes and renewal requests in order to receive the year-end holiday card/new calendar. This is especially important for those in California and Texas.

Also, please note that the ONLY address to use to be sure to reach us continues to be: PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504.

Many, many thanks to the Real Cost of Prisons Project for making our newsletter available on-line for free downloading and distribution. It is at: <http://www.realcostofprisons.org/coalition.html>. It is an excellent site!

A reminder: none of us at the CPR are lawyers or legal workers.

VOICES FROM INSIDE

VIOLATIONS OCCURRING

Haynesville VA January 8, 2011

Violations of First Amendment rights are established and enforced by operating procedure. In April 2010 a memo stated that religious non-music CDs would be made available for purchase through the solo approved vendor. When their 2010 catalog came out in August, there were still no religious non-music CDs listed. File a complaint with the Special Litigation Section, Civil Rights Division, 950 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC 20530.

WITH ELECTRIC FIELD FENCES AROUND

Live Oak FL January 12, 2011

This new institution, Suwannee C.I., is set up for research, and they are testing new mental health pills and medication on inmates, using them as guinea pigs and training mental health counselors with no kind of degrees or license at all. They try to force their mental health services and medication upon all the inmates against their will. What they are doing here is illegal and a violation of inmates' medical rights.

E-MAIL NOW

Coleman FL January 27, 2011

Here at Coleman FCC-Medium we now have access to e-mail services. (Correspondents can get on) if you send me your e-mail and I will place it on my list.

RUMOR HAS IT

Tennessee Colony TX January 28, 2011

As rumor has it that TDCJ-CD is fixing to stop all religious programs and cut all chaplaincy departments in Texas for lack of funding. I guess they don't care about Title 42 USC sec. 2000661 Religious Freedoms Act or Title 18 USC sec. 245 and Title 18 USC sec. 242. Many of us watch dogs in Texas are monitoring this.

WRITE-UP CHARGE

Taylorsville NC January 31, 2011

We prisoners of North Carolina have a need to come together. All file grievances on the \$10 write-up charge that takes family and friends' hard earned money. Money sent to us as gifts of support and/or aid. Anyone after filing a grievance must appeal to step-3. Then contact Prison Legal Service.

A few tax breaks for the wealthy: \$11.5 billion--per year cost of recent tax cuts for millionaires' estates; \$8.9 billion--cost of allowing mortgage interest deduction for vacation homes; \$6.7 billion--spent to avoid taxes.