SOCIETY FOR MILITARY PSYCHOLOGY

Division 19 of the American Psychological Association

February 1, 2017

On January 26, 2017, the *Washington Post* and other news organizations published a draft executive order which calls for the review of current interrogation practices set forth in various executive and legislative mandates. If signed by President Trump, this executive order would stand in sharp contrast to a letter sent earlier this month, with signatures from 176 of the nation's most respected retired generals and admirals, which reinforced the United States' bipartisan opposition to torture.

As Division 19, the Society for Military Psychology within the American Psychological Association, whose members include representatives from all military branches, we strongly urge President Trump to restrain from loosening any rules governing the treatment of individuals in military custody. The members of Division 19 assert and affirm that torture or abusive treatment is deeply inconsistent with the ethics and values inherent to military service, our profession as psychologists and our stature as American citizens.

In direct contrast to statements made by the administration, experienced intelligence professionals and politicians from both sides of the aisle agree that torture is not effective and, more importantly, does not represent who we are as a nation – it is immoral. Moreover, the science of gathering human intelligence does not support any claims of effectiveness. The respect for human rights and the acquisition of actionable intelligence are not mutually exclusive, despite claims by some that they are.

Last year, Senators McCain (R-AZ) and Feinstein (D-CA) sponsored legislation that reinforces the United States' ban on the use of torture. That legislation passed the Senate with the support of a broad bipartisan majority. APA proudly supported that legislation, as did the membership of Division 19.

Speaking with one voice, we urge President Trump, in the strongest terms, to maintain the current legislative framework that recognizes the need for national security and respect for human rights.

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ENDORSEMENTS

Division 1	General Psychology, Executive Committee
Division 2	Society for the Teaching of Psychology, Executive Committee
Division 3	Society for Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science, Executive Committee
Division 6	Society for Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology, Executive Committee
Division 7	Developmental Psychology, President, Past-President, President-Elect
Division 8	Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Executive Committee
Division 9	Society for the Psychology Study of Social Issues
Division 12	Society of Clinical Psychology, Executive Committee
Division 13	Society of Consulting Psychology, Executive Committee
Division 14	Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Division 17	Society of Counseling Psychology, Board and Executive Committee
Division 18	Psychologists in Public Service, Executive Committee
Division 20	Adult Development and Aging, Executive Committee
Division 21	Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology, Executive Committee
Division 23	Society for Consumer Psychology, Executive Committee
Division 25	Behavioral Analysis, Executive Committee
Division 26	Society for the History of Psychology, executive Committee
Division 27	Society for Community Research and Action: Division of Community Psychology
Division 29	Society for the Advancement of Psychotherapy, Board of Directors
Division 31	State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Affairs
Division 33	Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities / Autism Spectrum Disorder, Executive Committee
Division 35	Society for the Psychology of Women
Division 36	Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, Executive Committee
Division 37	Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice, Executive Committee
Division 38	Society for Health Psychology, President, Past-President and President-Elect
Division 40	Society for Clinical Neuropsychology, Executive Committee
Division 41	American Psychology-Law Society, Executive Committee
Division 43	Society for Couple and Family Psychology, Board of Directors
Division 44	Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, Executive Committee
Division 45	Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race, Executive Committee
Division 46	Society for Media Psychology and Technology, Executive Committee
Division 47	Society for Sport, Exercise and Performance Psychology
Division 49	Society of Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy, Executive Committee
Division 50	Society of Addiction Psychology, President, Past-President and President-Elect
Division 51	Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity, Executive Committee
Division 52	International Psychology, Executive Committee
Division 53	Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, Executive Committee
Division 54	Society of Pediatric Psychology, Board of Directors
Division 55	American Society for the Advancement of Pharmacotherapy, Executive Committee
Division 56	Trauma Psychology