

Candidate Questionnaire

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture Action Fund (NRCAT-AF) is a partner organization to the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. It is comprised of people of faith who oppose torture and believe that the United States should act in accordance with American laws and American values to prevent the use of torture. NRCAT-AF has advocated for several important legal requirements to help prevent torture, including requiring the Army Field Manual to apply to all interrogations, requiring the taping of all interrogations by the military, and mandating access by the International Committee of the Red Cross to all detainees. NRCAT-AF continues to work to pass legislation that will prevent the torture of future detainees, limit the use of prolonged solitary confinement in U.S. prisons and other detention facilities, end bigotry against Muslims, and incentivize other countries to end torture.

Because you are a candidate for the U.S Congress, we ask that you respond to our candidate questionnaire. We ask that you please return your completed questionnaire to the National Religious Campaign Against Torture Action Fund by one of the three options listed below:

Email:	nrcataf2012@gmail.com
Fax:	202-547-1921
Mailing address:	NRCAT-AF 110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 502 Washington, DC 20002

Thank you for your response.

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Candidate Name:

1.) Do you believe that it is ever acceptable for the United States to use cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including torture, as defined by the U.N. Convention Against Torture?

Yes No

Additional Comments:

2.) Waterboarding is torture. After World War II, the United States prosecuted Japanese war criminals for waterboarding. Do you believe it is ever appropriate for the U.S. to use waterboarding?

Yes No

Additional Comments:

3.) The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is recognized around the world as an impartial observer of the treatment of detainees. Current U.S. policy is to disclose the identities of all detainees in U.S. custody to the ICRC in a timely manner and to allow the ICRC access to them to ensure that they are not tortured or otherwise abused. Would you support legislation to ensure that this policy is followed in the future?

Yes No

Additional Comments:

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4.) Do you believe that the U.S. ought to follow the 'Golden Rule' while conducting interrogations? Specifically, do you believe that all U.S. interrogators should be required to use only those interrogation methods that the U.S. would find legally and morally acceptable if used against a captured American by a foreign government?

Yes No

Additional Comments:

5.) Do you believe that there should be one uniform standard guiding all interrogations of detainees by U.S. personnel, a standard that both the military and the CIA, as well as other federal agencies, should be required to follow?

Yes No

Additional Comments:

6.) Do you believe that the U.S. should follow a policy of never sending (rendering) a detainee to another country where he or she is likely to be tortured?

Yes No

Additional Comments:

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7.) Federal law currently requires the Department of Defense to videotape interrogations of detainees in their custody. The videotapes are classified as appropriate. Do you support requiring all federal agencies, including the CIA, to videotape the interrogations of detainees in their custody?

Yes No

Additional Comments:

8.) Do you oppose all discrimination against Muslims by federal, state and local governments? For example, the FBI has admitted that they have used training materials that describe Muslims negatively.

Yes No

Additional Comments:

9.) The U.S. has often used its influence to improve human rights in other countries. Do you believe it is appropriate to restrict U.S. funding for countries and security forces that use torture?

Yes No

Additional Comments:

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10.) The UN Voluntary Fund provides grants to organizations that help victims of torture in more than 70 countries around the world. While the U.S. has traditionally provided the bulk of the funding for this important program, for FY 2013, the President has requested only \$3.5 million – less than half of the funding allocated in 2010 – a funding level that will leave many victims without help. Do you support restoring the U.S. contribution to the Voluntary Fund to \$7.1 million?

Yes No

Additional Comments:

11.) Solitary confinement can be a form of torture. Tens of thousands of prisoners are held in solitary confinement in U.S. prisons at any given time. Some have been held in solitary for months, years, and even decades on end. Medical experts tell us solitary confinement can cause severe psychological harm and can drive people insane. Research shows that solitary confinement is also expensive and is associated with high recidivism rates. Do you support reviewing the use of solitary confinement in U.S. prisons and identifying ways to limit its use?

Yes No

Additional Comments:

12.) It has been more than 40 years since the last comprehensive review of our nation's criminal justice system. Experts believe that a new comprehensive review could identify improvements that would save money, improve public safety, and prevent inhuman treatment of prisoners. Do you support legislation to create a bi-partisan commission to review all aspects of the nation's criminal justice system and to make recommendations for improvements?

Yes No

Additional Comments:

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Please feel free to add any additional comments, and, again, thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire.