

# CONFINEMENT BOXES. SLEEP DEPRIVATION. WATERBOARDING. TORTURE.

Dear Senator Collins and Senator King:

As clergy and religious leaders in Maine, we write to express our deep concern about the nomination of Gina Haspel to be CIA Director. Ms. Haspel is an experienced career CIA employee; however, **her operational role in the CIA's torture program disqualifies her from leading the agency.**

Although much of Ms. Haspel's career is classified, public reports indicate that she supervised a secret CIA black site in Thailand while at least one detainee, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, was waterboarded multiple times. While her role in the use of other forms of torture is not public, other torture used at that same black site include forced nudity, walling, and confinement boxes. CIA records describe lower level interrogators at the black site as at "the point of tears and choking up," "likely to elect transfer" away from the site, and questioning the legality of the techniques.

**We ask our Senators to demand that the full record of Ms. Haspel's involvement in torture be made public prior to the consideration of her nomination. Although involvement in any act of torture should be seen as disqualifying, the public should know what acts of torture, other than waterboarding, she supervised, authorized, or approved before the Senate votes on her nomination.**

In 2014, the Senate Intelligence Committee, with the support of both Maine Senators, voted to declassify a 500 page portion of its report on the CIA torture program. In 2015, a bipartisan majority of 78 Senators (again including both Senators from Maine) voted to strengthen the legal prohibition on torture. Those two decisions sent a message around the world—the United States not only rejects torture, but is willing to investigate and lay bare its own past mistakes.

Confirming someone who actively supervised torture to be the Director of the CIA would send the opposite message. It would cause our friends and allies to question our opposition to torture, and it would embolden tyrants and dictators in their own use of torture. It would betray those at the CIA, the FBI, and in our military, who objected to torture. It would also be understood as a message of support for torture by our President—who has repeatedly stated his personal interest in restarting the torture program.

This is not a personal indictment of Gina Haspel. Instead it is a principled plea—**do not promote someone who was directly responsible for torture to one of the highest positions in our government.** Do not tell our President that the Senate supports a CIA Director who tortured. Do not send us again down this dangerous path.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kent E. Allen, *Yarmouth*  
 Rev. Maureen Ausbrook, *Waterville*  
 Rev. Dr. Judith Blanchard, *Freeport*  
 Rev. Dr. Edward F. Campbell, *Scarborough*  
 Rev. Phyllis Chaffee, *Scarborough*  
 Rabbi Joshua Chasan, *Portland*  
 Beth Clifford, *Perry*  
 Rev. Lauren Seganos Cohen, *Orono*  
 Rev. Kate Dalton, *Portland*  
 Rev. Dr. Susan E. Davies, *Veazie*  
 Rev. Deborah Davis-Johnson, *Portland*  
 Sr. Miriam Devlin, SMIC, *Bangor*  
 Diane Dicranian, *Bath*  
 Rev. Mia Dyson, *Freeport*  
 Pastor Margaret Edmondson, *Winthrop*  
 Rev. Marvin M Ellison, *Portland*  
 Rev. Allen Ewing-Merrill, *Portland*  
 Rev. Sara Ewing-Merrill, *Portland*  
 Rev. Mandi Gearhart, *Bangor*  
 Rev. Dr. James Gertmenian, *Cumberland Foreside*  
 Andrew Grannell, *Portland*  
 Dorothy S. Grannell, *Portland*

Rev. Peter Gray, *Old Orchard Beach*  
 Rev. Bill Gregory, *Yarmouth*  
 Rev. Dr. Robert Grove-Markwood, *Portland*  
 Shirley Hager, *Chesterville*  
 Rev. George H. Hardy, *Brunswick*  
 Rev. AbbyLynn Haskell, *Wells*  
 Rev. Charlotte Hendee, *Wells*  
 Rev. Dieter T Hessel, *Cape Elizabeth*  
 Karen McLean Hessel, M. Div., *Cape Elizabeth*  
 Edwin E. Hinshaw, *Sumner*  
 Rev. Brad Hirst, *Kittery*  
 Rev. Mair Honan, *Freeport*  
 Pastor Richard Horner, *Kennebunk*  
 Janet Hough, *Edmunds*  
 Rev. Jeffrey Huot, *Westbrook*  
 Rabbi Rachel Isaacs, *Waterville*  
 Carie J Johnsen, *Augusta*  
 Rev. Dr. Myke Johnson, *Portland*  
 Rev. Samuel M. Johnson, *Wells*  
 Rev. Richard Killmer, *Yarmouth*  
 Rabbi Darah R. Lerner, *Bangor*  
 Rev. Alyssa Lodewick, *Portland*

Rev. Cindy Maddox, *South Portland*  
 Maine Episcopal Network for Justice  
 Leslie Manning, *Bath*  
 James Matlack, *Rockport*  
 Rev. Andrea Thompson McCall, *South Portland*  
 Rev. John B. McCall, *South Portland*  
 Rev. Dr. Ralph M. Moore, Jr., *Rockland*  
 Rev. Robert A. Moore, *Wells*  
 Silver Moore-Leamon, *Auburn*  
 Rev. Darren L. Morgan, *Glenburn*  
 Rev. Frank Morin, *Augusta*  
 Diane Oltarzewski, *Belfast*  
 Rev. Marilyn Robb, *Portland*  
 Rev. Donald J. Rudalevige, *Cape Elizabeth*  
 Rev. Jill Job Saxby, *Cape Elizabeth*  
 Rev. Charles J. Stephens, *Blue Hill*  
 Shastri Christopher St John, *Brunswick*  
 Rev. Jess Wade, *Bangor*  
 Janet B Weston, *Trescott Township*  
 Rev. Diane Wendorf, *Sanford*  
 Rev. Jane White-Hassler, *Bangor*  
 Rev. Mark D. Wilson, *Waterville*  
 Rev. Robert D. Witham, *Scarborough*

National Religious Campaign  
 Against Torture **Action Fund**