Imagine if your child were...

- Detained by police while traveling abroad or kidnapped on his way to worship.
- Handled over to the CIA, beaten, stripped, photographed, drugged, hooded, and shackled to the floor of a private plane.
- "Disappeared," to a foreign prison — while you knew nothing of his whereabouts — and denied access to the Red Cross, a lawyer, or a judge.
- Interrogated and tortured daily — electroshocked, beaten, burned, and mutilated.
- Denied sleep or daylight and bombarded around the clock with ear-splitting rock music; then, after years.
- Released without criminal charges, apology, or meaningful redress and treatment for the harm done.

(These happened to Khaled El-Masri, Ahmad Agiza, Binyam Mohamed, and dozens more.)

Would you want justice? Would you insist on accountability? Of course — whose Mom wouldn't?

North Carolina has supplied the training for the CIA's torture program. Our state also hosts the aircraft, pilots, and crews for the CIA's "extraordinary rendition" program — kidnapping and "disappearing" people to foreign prisons where they're interrogated under torture and held indefinitely.

Bush Administration officials must be investigated and prosecuted. The CIA's airline, Aero Contractors of Smithfield, NC, should be investigated and shut down. Centurion Aviation of Fayetteville, NC, has also been linked to rendition and should be investigated.

President Obama has halted torture by uniformed personnel, and will close Guantanamo. But he's also blocked torture victims' lawsuits, opposed habeas corpus for 600 detainees at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, and pledged CIA torturers will not be prosecuted.

The world wants us to investigate and prosecute torture, to make sure it never happens again. Our government never had the moral right to give anyone immunity for torturing. The Convention Against Torture and the Geneva Conventions are clear: superior orders and legal "whitewash" memos do not let anyone off the hook. Those who were "merely following orders" still broke the law, although they may deserve lesser penalties.

The politicians and attorneys who authored these crimes must be held fully responsible. Please help. Write your Senators and Representatives and ask them to:

- Actively support transparent investigations of torture and rendition in the Senate and House — for example, HR 383 (the Lee-Wexler-Conyers bill establishing a committee to investigate Bush administration officials).
- Call on Attorney General Holder to appoint a special prosecutor for crimes of torture, kidnapping, and rendition.
- Make sure the private and front companies involved in rendition, like Aero Contractors, are investigated and shut down.
- Centralize investigations of torture and rendition in the Senate and House — for example, H.R. 383 (the Lee-Wexler-Conyers bill establishing a committee to investigate Bush administration officials).
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