

December 14, 2012

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein;

Re: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Study

The undersigned human rights and civil liberties groups write to thank you for your tremendous leadership as Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in documenting the Central Intelligence Agency's rendition, detention and interrogation program. The adoption of the study by the full committee yesterday is an historic step towards ensuring that torture and abuse during detention and interrogation are never again part of US government policy or practice.

We understand that Committee staff faced the daunting task of reviewing six million pages of records, and that the final study was thousands of pages with tens of thousands of footnotes. Over the years while the study was being researched and drafted, you have spoken out forcefully against the false claims that torture was effective and enhanced US national security, and instead have made clear that the abusive chapter of US history was not only shameful but dangerous.

The study would not exist, and would not have been adopted, without the tireless dedication of you and your staff and we thank you for that. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the lessons detailed in the study are carefully examined by policy makers and help ensure a lasting prohibition on torture, cruelty and abuse in US detention and interrogation policy.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union
Amnesty International USA
Center for Victims of Torture
Human Rights First
Human Rights Watch
National Religious Campaign Against Torture
Open Society Policy Center
Physicians for Human Rights