

29th Session of the UN Human Rights Council – June 15 - July 3, 2015
New call from national and international rights groups on the need to ensure
accountability for the U.S. CIA Torture Program
Item 4 – Interactive Dialogue

Mr. President, this statement is delivered on behalf of 100 organizations from all over the world.

Last December, the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence released the summary of its investigation into the Detention and Interrogation Program operated by the CIA. Since then, the international human rights community has reiterated the call for full transparency and accountability for this unlawful program, in which systematic human rights violations were committed.

Last month, during the US' UPR, several States raised the issue of accountability and reparations for abuses in the context of the U.S. counter-terrorism policies and practices. They also emphasized the need to end indefinite detention and close Guantánamo.

On Friday, the world will mark the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The U.S.'s failure to hold accountable those responsible for the CIA torture program, ensure the victims' rights to truth and reparations, and guarantee non-repetition is a serious blow to the international human rights system and the global effort to eradicate torture and enforced disappearance, in particular.

During its next session, the Council will adopt the UPR report on the U.S. The Council should send a strong message against impunity for torture and enforced disappearances and demand that the United States meet the full spectrum of its international obligations, including declassification of the full Senate report, independent comprehensive criminal investigation, and the issuing of apologies and compensation to victims.

The struggle for truth and accountability for human rights violations can be a long and difficult journey. Yet the US has much to gain from rejecting impunity, returning to the rule of law, and providing adequate redress to those brutally abused by the CIA program.

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The Woodhull Sexual Freedom Alliance
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Unión Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas
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US Human Rights Network
Women's Link Worldwide
World Organization Against Torture