

LIC's Statement on the Torture Report

We are shocked, disgusted and appalled beyond belief at the depravity of medieval style torture of Muslims conducted by the CIA. The CIA's release of the Report on Torture, shows the extent to which America has turned into a 'security state' in which human rights and the rule of law have been abandoned. Such extreme, brutal and barbaric actions have no place in any civilised society and exemplifies oppression of the highest order.

The Report evidenced above all that not a single piece of information which was extracted and obtained through the process of torture, foiled a single terror plot, in other words, it was all done for mere play and amusement to feed such animalistic desires. We have no doubt that these revelations will only act as a recruiting tool for America's detractors and further add to destabilising the world.

We support the call of Ben Emmerson, the United Nation's Special Rapporteur and those of Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other rights advocates who call for prosecutions against those who carried out these heinous crimes and those who shielded officials who ordered or approved of it.

We are also not surprised to see that many Muslim countries were complicit in the torturing of their co-religionists, countries which are controlled by despotic and oppressive regimes, who are unfortunately propped up by many Western states.

Islam's position on oppression is unequivocally clear. In a Hadith Qudsi, it is found that Allah says:

"O My servants! I have forbidden dhulm (oppression, aggression) for Myself, and I have made it forbidden amongst you, so do not oppress one another."

Islam also reminds us that nations were destroyed when they violated the rights of others through torture and punishment. Allah tells us in the Glorious Qur'an:

"And these towns (population, 'Ad, Thamud, etc.) We destroyed when they did wrong. And We appointed a fixed time for their destruction (18:59)". .. "Such is the Seizure of your Lord when He seizes the (population of) towns while they are doing wrong. Verily, His Seizure is painful, and severe". (11:102)

Lastly, we would like to highlight that a British citizen, Shaker Aamer continues to languish in the black hole of the world's justice system in Guantanamo Bay, who has now been unlawfully held without charge for 13 years. His nightmare and that of his family MUST be brought to an end with immediate effect and we therefore strongly urge everyone to write to and/or meet their MP to ask that they stand up for justice and demand the release of Shaker Aamer.

15/12/2014