



HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN

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Chairman Hunter Calls on American Media To Print United States Laws Banning Torture

Washington, D.C. --- U.S. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) today called on American media organizations to print the current United States laws banning Americans from torturing detainees.

“Contrary to widespread media reports, torture is banned under American criminal laws. Any American who tortures a detainee overseas may be imprisoned for up to twenty years or in cases where the torture results in death may be executed. News agencies which have printed stories stating explicitly or implicitly that torture is allowed under present law have disserved American troops,” said Rep. Hunter.

The primary laws banning torture abroad, which Hunter referenced, are Title 18 Section 2340 and Section 2340A of the United States Code. Section 2340A states, “Whoever outside the United States commits or attempts to commit torture shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both, and if death results to any person from conduct prohibited by this subsection, shall be punished by death or imprisoned for any term of years or for life.” This law was signed by President Clinton on September 13, 1994. Virtually every state jurisdiction prohibits torture domestically. Federal statutes that apply domestically include, but are not limited to Title 18 Section 113, Section 114, Section 241 and Section 242 of the United States Code.

Hunter cited a number of national news organizations which have erroneously stated that torture has not been banned, including *The Associated Press* and *The Washington Post*. Hunter called on all American media outlets to print the present ban on torture abroad – Title 18 Section 2340 and Section 2340A of the United States Code – and set the record straight.

Title 18 Section 2340 and Section 2340A of the United States Code are attached.

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