

Resolution on Banning Torture

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3 **WHEREAS** the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights ban Cruel and Unusual Punishment
4 and protect the privacy of its residents without a duly executed warrant;

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6 **WHEREAS** the Geneva Accords, to which the United States is a signatory, forbids unreasonable
7 treatment of prisoners of war;

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9 **WHEREAS** the current administration has admitted to waterboarding, a form of torture, and
10 wiretapping without a warrant, and holds prisoners at Guantanamo Bay and other unspecified sites
11 out of US territory without access to counsel, indictment on specific charges or the right to be heard
12 in court;

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14 **WHEREAS** torture is a crude implement that rarely discovers truth, and its use puts American
15 troops in jeopardy;

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17 **WHEREAS** the prisoner abuse at Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib, and the hunger strikes against cruel
18 and unusual punishment and lack of due process, have created worldwide outrage; and

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20 **WHEREAS** the current administration has abused signing statements to ignore Congressional
21 legislation regarding torture;

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23 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the US government follow rules against torture as defined in
24 the Geneva Conventions;

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26 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we support the criminalization in both federal
27 and military law of any form of torture by any agent on behalf of the United States government
28 during interrogation, detention or imprisonment of any individual regardless of citizenship, and
29 that at minimum, the standards set within the Geneva Conventions shall at all times apply;

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31 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we support laws prohibiting the transfer of any
32 prisoner accused or being held for any crime or investigation to any other international jurisdiction
33 for the purpose of torture or "extraordinary rendition" as part of an investigation, detention or
34 interrogation;

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36 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats request that
37 Congress enact legislation declaring waterboarding torture and forbid its use in any American
38 installation or its use under orders by any American entity;

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40 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all signing statements allowing torture be
41 reversed; and

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43 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Washington State Democratic Party distribute
44 copies of this resolution to all Democratic members of the Washington State Congressional
45 Delegation and Democratic Presidential Candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.
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48 Submitted by the Skamania County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
49 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/29/2008)

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51 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED A PASS" at
52 its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

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54 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14, 2008 meeting
55 in Spokane.

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