

Resolution on Banning Torture

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3 **WHEREAS** the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights ban Cruel and Unusual
4 Punishment 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
7 unreasonable treatment of prisoners of war;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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45 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Washington State Democratic Party
46 distribute copies of this resolution to all Democratic members of the Washington State
47 Congressional Delegation and Democratic Presidential Candidates Hillary Clinton and
48 Barack Obama.
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51 Submitted by the Skamania County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee
52 for consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/29/2008)
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54 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED
55 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.
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57 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
58 2008 meeting in Spokane.