



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Richard Burr
Chairman
Senate Intelligence Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
Vice Chairman
Senate Intelligence Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Burr and Vice Chairman Warner:

I am writing on behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA) to request your commitment and active involvement to ensure that our nation's next Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is dedicated to safeguarding the human rights and physical and psychological welfare of individuals detained in U.S. custody and has not taken any action to support or shield the use of "enhanced" interrogation practices or other forms of torture or maltreatment of detainees.

APA is the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States. Our membership includes 115,700 members and affiliates, encompassing researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants, and students. APA works to advance the creation, communication, and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve people's lives. Our policies prohibiting the use of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment date back to 1985. Our unequivocal condemnation applies to such maltreatment under all conditions, including the detention and interrogation of both lawful and unlawful "enemy combatants" (as defined by the U.S. Military Commissions Act of 2006).

Given recent media accounts, we are concerned about the appropriateness of Gina Haspel being confirmed as CIA Director based on allegations that she was involved in overseeing a CIA "black site" in Thailand where "enhanced" interrogations of al-Qaeda detainees occurred in 2002 and that she played a role in the destruction of videotapes of actual "enhanced" interrogations.

It is our understanding that classified CIA documents are expected to shed further light on these allegations and that the CIA has offered the Committee access to these documents in a secure facility. Not only does this access need to be extended to the full Senate but also to the public, wherever possible, to adequately inform consideration of Ms. Haspel's fitness for the CIA Director position. If critically needed information is not made available or the information indicates that Ms. Haspel supported torture, then we urge the Committee to reject her nomination for CIA Director.

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Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD
*Chief Executive Officer and
Executive Vice President*

Thank you for your due diligence in evaluating the suitability of Ms. Haspel for CIA Director. It is of the utmost importance that we ensure that our next CIA Director rejects torture and has no record of supporting torture or other mistreatment of detainees in U.S. custody.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur C. Evans, Jr., Ph.D.", written in a cursive style.

Arthur C. Evans, Jr., Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee