



The Center for Victims of Torture

“By not ruling out investigations of those policymakers and lawyers who authorized torture, President Obama today gave America firmer footing as a global leader. It is clear to the world that the U.S. committed torture. It is equally clear that authorizing, ordering or perpetrating torture is illegal. We do not need to strengthen our laws. We need to enforce them. Moving forward with investigations of those who authorized and ordered torture is required under the law and will help to promote the rule of law throughout the world. As the first torture treatment center in the U.S., we see clients who have fled countries where governments torture with impunity. The U.S. has long stood in sharp contrast to those nations. We should not seek to muddy that distinction now.”

Douglas A. Johnson
Executive Director
April 23, 2009