

A Memorial in Condemnation of Torture

1 WHEREAS Christians are called to love all persons...our families, our neighbors, and
2 our enemies, and

3

4 WHEREAS we are called to identify with, and stand with, those who have no power,
5 who live at the mercy of others, or who are tortured, and

6

7 WHEREAS torture and inhumane treatment are prohibited by the Geneva Convention
8 under any circumstances, and

9

10 WHEREAS in our 1995 ELCA social statement "For Peace in God's World," we
11 committed to "oppose genocide and other grievous violations of human rights such as
12 torture, religious and racial oppression, forced conscription (impressments), forced labor,
13 and war crimes (including organized rape); provide for the most basic necessities of the
14 poor; and defend the human rights of groups most susceptible to violations, especially all
15 minorities, women, and children," and

16

17 WHEREAS, that we are obligated to stand with those who are tortured, deny the merit of
18 and exception to the Geneva Convention to allow torture for those labeled "unlawful
19 combatant," and refuse to honor such language as degrades any person's humanity, and

20

21 WHEREAS, to stand by silently makes us complicit in policies condoning inhumane
22 treatment that degrades human dignity of both detainees and their interrogators, therefore
23 be it

24

25 RESOLVED that the 2007 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly memorialize the 2007
26 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to condemn the use of torture and inhumane treatment of
27 captives, and be it finally

28

29 RESOLVED, that the 2007 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly memorialize the 2007
30 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to authorize the Church in Society Unit to request of
31 appropriate U.S. government bodies that an independent committee with subpoena power
32 be established to examine the use of rendition and the erosion of human rights of
33 captives, especially those held by U.S. Government authorities and agents.

Author: Sonja Johnson, 612-721-1416

Adopted by: Minneapolis Area Synod Partnership Table, March 29, 2007

Contact: Sonja Johnson, 612-721-1416

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommends adoption of this resolution.