

Why Torture Matters

The United Nations Convention Against Torture was signed by Ronald Reagan in 1988 and ratified by the US Senate in 1992. However since the 9/11 attacks, the CIA and U.S. military personnel have engaged in torture and other cruel or degrading treatment of detainees held in Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and elsewhere, often with encouragement from the highest levels of the U.S. government.

This conference considers diverse religious and secular perspectives on Torture and Human Rights.

- What is torture?
- Why do most religions find the use of torture to be morally repugnant?
- Are there special situations that justify the use of torture?

The conference also seeks to place the issue of torture within the context of international human rights theory and law.

- Can universal human rights be grounded in multiple faith traditions?
- What institutions exist to enforce human rights?
- What actions can we take to end the use of torture and to support international human rights treaties?



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An Interfaith Forum on the Ethics of Torture & Human Rights



**Wednesday,
July 23, 2008**

9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Portland
7:30 to 9 p.m., Eugene

**Thursday,
July 24, 2008**

12 to 1:30 p.m., Bend

