

Resolution Opposing Nomination of Gina Haspel for Director of the Central Intelligence Agency

A RESOLUTION urging Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine to oppose the confirmation of Gina Haspel as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

WHEREAS, Ms. Haspel oversaw a secret interrogation site in Thailand during the George W. Bush administration that reportedly engaged in brutal interrogation practices fairly characterized as torture, and was involved in the destruction of tapes documenting these practices which could be considered Federal records and possible evidence.¹

WHEREAS, torture violates common human decency as well as the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.²

WHEREAS, reported suggestions that Ms. Haspel was "just following orders"³ do not justify her confirmation, given that the United Nations International Law Commission has stated that "the fact that a person acted pursuant to order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility under international law, provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him."⁴

WHEREAS, there is legitimate concern that, if confirmed, Ms. Haspel will continue the brutal practices of secret interrogation sites.

WHEREAS, more than 50 Virginia elected officials and leaders from progressive and faith communities have signed onto a letter, organized by the Center for Victims of Torture, that opposes the confirmation of Ms. Haspel due to her prominent role in the Bush administration's covert torture program.⁵

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Arlington County Democratic Committee urges Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine to oppose the confirmation of Gina Haspel as Director of the CIA, because her confirmation would send a disturbing message that torture is acceptable and will be rewarded.

Passed and Approved this Resolution on the Second day of May, 2018.

¹ "What Happened at the Thailand 'Black Site' Run by Trump's CIA Pick," The Atlantic, March 2018, available at <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/03/gina-haspel-black-site-torture-cia/555539/>.

² United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, United Nations, December 10, 1984, available at https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-9&chapter=4&clang=_en.

³ "Washington Breaks Out the "Just Following Orders" Nazi Defense for CIA Director-Designate Gina Haspel," The Intercept, March 2018, available at <https://theintercept.com/2018/03/15/washington-breaks-out-the-just-following-orders-nazi-defense-for-cia-director-designate-gina-haspel/>.

⁴ "Principles of International Law Recognized in the Charter of the Nürnberg Tribunal and in the Judgment of the Tribunal," United Nations International Law Commission, 1950, available at http://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/draft_articles/7_1_1950.pdf.

⁵ "More than 50 Virginia Elected Officials and Leaders from Progressive, Faith Communities Urge Sens. Warner and Kaine to Oppose Gina Haspel Nomination as CIA Director," Center for Victims of Torture, April 18, 2018, available at <https://www.cvt.org/news-events/press-releases/more-50-virginia-elected-officials-and-leaders-progressive-faith>.