



ARTICLE 5 – NO TORTURE

“No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

- In 2008, US authorities continued to hold 270 prisoners in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, without charge or trial, with clear evidence of torture. Senior officials refused to denounce the practice of “water-boarding,” torture that simulates drowning. Former President George W. Bush authorized the CIA to continue secret detention and interrogation, despite its violation of international law.
- In Iraq, US military personnel took over the Abu Ghraib prison (where Saddam Hussein’s government had tortured and executed dissidents) and tortured Iraqi detainees.
- In Darfur, violence, atrocities and abduction are rampant and outside aid all but cut off. Women in particular are the victims of unrestrained assault, with more than 200 rapes in the vicinity of a displaced persons camp in one 5-week period, with no effort by authorities to punish the perpetrators.
- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, acts of torture and ill treatment are routinely committed by government security services and armed groups, including sustained beatings, stabbings and rapes of those in custody. Detainees are held incommunicado, sometimes in secret detention sites. In 2007, the Republican Guard (presidential guard) and Special Services police division in Kinshasa arbitrarily detained and tortured numerous individuals labeled as critics of the government.