

THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT



Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law

TCP Statement on DOJ Decision to Limit Investigation of Detainee Deaths

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WASHINGTON - Today, The Constitution Project (TCP) announced its support for the Department of Justice decision to investigate the deaths of two detainees who died in the custody of the CIA. "Whenever persons die in U.S. custody, and whenever there are allegations that detainees have been mistreated illegally in our name, it is our national responsibility to investigate thoroughly and fairly to learn the facts. We expect the Department will conduct just such a review, to enforce the law and, if appropriate, to hold people responsible," said TCP President Virginia E. Sloan.

TCP has long been concerned with allegations of widespread detainee mistreatment and abuse that go well beyond the two cases the Justice Department is investigating. Given our work in upholding the rule of law, we are deeply committed to eliminating legal obstacles that have enabled and may continue to enable detainee mistreatment, so that our detention policies comply with the law and promote our national security.

For that reason, TCP established the Task Force on Detainee Treatment. The goal of the Task Force is to bring to the American people a comprehensive understanding of what is known and what may still be unknown about the past and current treatment of all detainees by the U.S. government during the Obama, Bush and Clinton administrations. The Task Force will analyze the law and present as comprehensive a record of the facts as can be obtained. Our thirteen member Task Force is bipartisan and includes members from both parties who bring diverse and distinguished experience in congress, the military, diplomacy, medicine, law, the judiciary, ethics, and academia. We are confident that their work will be objective and will help inform policymakers and the public on how to ensure that our detention practices protect our nation while preventing the abuse and death of those in our custody.

About The Constitution Project

Established in 1997, The Constitution Project (TCP) is known for its ability to bring together unlikely allies-experts and practitioners from across the political spectrum-in order to promote and safeguard America's founding charter. TCP is working to reform the nation's broken criminal justice system and to strengthen the rule of law by undertaking scholarship, consensus policy reforms, advocacy and public education. TCP was born out of the belief that we must cast aside the labels that divide us, in order to keep our Constitution and our democracy strong.