

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, Gina Haspel oversaw a torture/enhanced interrogation site in Thailand during the George W Bush administration, and authorized and oversaw the destruction of tapes that could be considered Federal records and possible evidence,

WHEREAS, Sen. Dianne Feinstein has written "As we move forward with the nomination process for Ms. Haspel, my fellow senators and I must have the complete picture of Ms. Haspel's involvement in the program in order to fully and fairly review her record and qualifications. I also believe the American people deserve to know the actual role the person nominated to be the director of the CIA played in what I consider to be one of the darkest chapters in American history."

WHEREAS, Sen. Tim Kaine wrote: "I have serious concerns about certain aspects of Deputy Director Haspel's background, including her involvement in several torture and interrogation programs. Deputy Director Haspel reportedly oversaw waterboarding and other interrogation techniques at some of the CIA's 'black sites.' Torture is not a proper method for ensuring our security and should not be a tool to pursue our foreign policy or national security goals." (Letter to Donald Walsh, April 10th, 2018)

WHEREAS, she has used the defense that she was "Just Following Orders", used at the Nuremberg trials and countless times since to excuse wrongdoing and that the United Nations International Law Commission later codified the underlying principle from Nuremberg as "*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.*"

WHEREAS, torture violates the Geneva Convention,

WHEREAS, some of victims of this state sponsored torture were Muslims there are roughly 200,000 Muslims in Virginia, most of whom live in Northern Virginia, and who represent the growing diversity of the Commonwealth, and we value inclusiveness of our communities, and this appointment would send a negative message,

WHEREAS, torture produces no evidence or testimony that is permissible in a court of law,

WHEREAS, significant information regarding Gina Haspel's role remains classified, making it difficult to assess her qualifications,

WHEREAS, there is concern that Haspel will continue a pattern of cover up, and secret interrogation sites,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Alexandria Democratic Committee urges Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine to oppose the confirmation of Gina Haspel as director of the CIA, because of the central role she played in the torture program, and frequent lobbying for the destruction of the videotape evidence recording the horrors the program produced. Her confirmation would send a disastrous message to the public, our allies and our enemies and most importantly, to the Trump administration, that torture is acceptable and will be rewarded.

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

Sources:

- "What Happened at the Thailand 'Black Site' Run by Trump's CIA Pick" The Atlantic, March 2018. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/03/gina-haspel-black-site-torture-cia/555539/>
- "What does the law say about torture?" International Committee of the Red Cross. <https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/faq/torture-law-2011-06-24.htm>
- "Washington Breaks Out the 'Just Following Orders' Nazi Defense for CIA Director-Designate Gina Haspel" The Intercept, March 2018. <https://theintercept.com/2018/03/15/washington-breaks-out-the-just-following-orders-nazi-defense-for-cia-director-designate-gina-haspel/>
- "Virginia's Muslim Population and its Role in This Year's Elections" WAMU July 2016. <https://wamu.org/story/16/07/19/virginias-muslim-population-and-its-role-in-this-years-elections/>