

At the conclusion of National Catholic Worker Gathering, held from October 19-22 in Panora, Iowa, Catholic Workers from across the U.S., including the St. Benedict Catholic Worker, issued a statement appealing to the U.S. Catholic Bishops to break their silence and to call for an immediate end to the U.S. War in Iraq and Afghanistan. We also called on the Bishops to call for the eradication of the recently passed Military Commissions Act which allows for the indefinite detention for "enemy combatants," the ending of habeas corpus right for these prisoners, and the use of abusive interrogation methods which clearly constitute torture.

Catholic Worker Statement issued to the U.S. Catholic Bishops on the Military Commissions Act and the War in Iraq and Afghanistan

We Catholic Workers are outraged at the recent passage of the Military Commissions Act which subjects non-citizens, including legal residents of the US and foreign citizens living in their own countries, to summary arrest and indefinite detention with no hope of appeal. The Act allows abusive interrogation methods that clearly violate the Geneva Conventions, strip prisoners of habeas corpus rights, and provide immunity to the torturers.

We believe that torture is a sin.

We believe that war is a sin.

We call on the church leadership to break its silence and demand the eradication of the Military Commissions Act. We appeal to the Bishops to:

- Call for an end to the U.S. practice of torture.
- Call for an immediate end to the U.S. war in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Offer counsel to and support for conscientious objectors.
- Call for the closing of Guantanamo and all secret military prisons and torture centers.
- Call on all Catholics and people of faith to engage in prayer, fasting and acts of nonviolent resistance to stop torture and to end the war.

We invite all people of faith and goodwill to join with many of us for a nonviolent action in Washington, DC on January 11, 2007, the 5th anniversary of the first prisoners arriving at Guantanamo, to call for its closing.