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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon denounces health professionals' involvement in experiments on detainees**

Today Physicians for Human Rights released a new report, *Experiments in Torture: Human Subject Research and Evidence in the 'Enhanced' Interrogation Program* ([www.nrcat.org/PHRtorturepapers](http://www.nrcat.org/PHRtorturepapers)). The report details the participation of health professionals in what appears to be experiments designed to refine the illegal torture practices used on CIA detainees between 2002-2006 and to help provide legal cover for interrogators employing those illegal techniques. In light of today's release, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) has joined with the [National Religious Campaign Against Torture \(NRCAT\)](http://www.nrcat.org) and other ecumenical organizations throughout the country with the following statement:

As religious leaders and lay people, we commend Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) for their groundbreaking work uncovering and documenting evidence of the involvement of United States military and intelligence health professionals in performing experiments, without consent, on detainees in the custody of the United States following September 2001.

Such experimentation would violate the legal and ethical protections afforded by the Nuremberg Code, the Geneva Conventions, federal regulations governing human subject research—known as “The Common Rule”—and the federal War Crimes Act.

We have adamantly opposed and consistently spoken out against U.S.-sponsored torture. Torture is immoral and abhorrent, violating the teachings of all our religious traditions, and defiling the image of God present in all human beings.

Separate and distinct from the torture, such medical experiments could themselves constitute war crimes and possibly crimes against humanity.

These revelations are profoundly disturbing and raise for us the question of what more remains hidden. The spiritual health of our nation will continue to suffer until the full truth opens a path to the justice and healing that our nation so desperately needs.

David Leslie, EMO executive director and NRCAT Board of Directors member, said, “With heavy hearts and a keen sense of urgency, we call upon the President and the Congress to establish a Commission of Inquiry to undertake a comprehensive investigation into the use of torture—including its use in medical experiments on detainees—and to pursue the steps required to ensure that U.S.-sponsored torture will never again be sanctioned and practiced.”

### MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church ■ American Baptist Churches ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ■ Church of the Brethren  
Community of Christ ■ Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches