



# Christian Study for NC No Torture

## Contents

North Carolina's Role in Torture: A Faith Response.....	2
Before you lead this study .....	2
Prepare to Lead the Workshop/Study .....	4
Arrangements and Preparation .....	4
The Workshop/Study .....	5
Welcome .....	5
Opening Prayer .....	5
The Biblical Witness: Humanity is Created in God's Image .....	5
Invite Participants at Each Table to Talk About Torture .....	6
The Facts found by the NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture .....	6
The Consequences for the Victims of Torture .....	6
The Consequences for Our Country .....	6
Checking in With Small Groups.....	6
Call to Action.....	7
Evaluations .....	7
Closing Prayer and Dismissal .....	7
Additional Resources for Study .....	8
Action Items .....	9
A Sample Resolution .....	9
Suggested Post Card Message .....	12
The 49 Individuals Transferred by North Carolina Jets.....	13
Christian and Non-Christian Prayers .....	15
The Faith Petition.....	17
Signature Page.....	19

# North Carolina's Role in Torture: A Faith Response

---

## Before you lead this study

1. Pray in one sentence as you read each scripture, "Dear God, open my heart to your Word."
2. Read the whole chapter of the Bible in a study edition such as the NRSV translation that contains each verse, including the footnotes.
3. Research each scripture through your favorite internet search engine. Choose websites that include the history and culture of each scripture.
4. Study what you have read so that you can respond to questions from those in your group.
5. Meditate on the scripture so that you come to understand why it was chosen for this study.
  - "So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." - Genesis 1:27
  - The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. - Leviticus 19:34
  - You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. - Deuteronomy 6:5
  - He has told you, "O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" - Micah 6:8
  - You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." - Matthew 5:43-48
  - He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." - Luke 10:27
  - Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. - Hebrews 13:3

6. Read about the issue of torture. The following sources are useful:
  - [Human Rights First](#)
  - [The National Religious Campaign Against Torture](#)
7. Watch the video featuring an interview with an N.C. person of faith, Allyson Caison, "[Amateur Sleuths . . .](#)" 2018.
8. Watch the video, "[Here the Rain Never Finishes.](#)" 2017.
9. Read the information found at the website for the [NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture](#) and become familiar with it.
10. Read these articles that have covered N.C. and torture:
  - "[CIA rendition flights from rustic North Carolina called to account by citizens](#)", The Guardian, Larry Siems, January 2018.
  - "[Citizens' report shines light on NC role in CIA torture program](#)", The News & Observer, Ned Barnett, October 2018.
  - "[The morality of torture: A toxic legacy](#)", Al Jazeera English, Sarah Spiller, November 2018.
  - "[Citizen-led Truth Commission Seeks Justice For Survivors of North Carolina Torture Flights](#)", Shadowproof, Jonathan Michels, October 2018.
  - "[The Government Dropped the Ball on U.S. Torture Accountability. Citizens Picked It Up](#)", American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Christina Cowger and Frank Goldsmith, September 2018.
11. Read about the evidence of N.C.'s Role in Torture in the Executive Summary and Report by the NCCIT, "[Torture Flights: North Carolina's Role in the CIA Rendition and Torture Program.](#)"
12. Watch the video produced by Duke Law School on the N.C. Commission of Inquiry on Torture and the process of rendition, "[The Truth About Rendition.](#)"
13. Listen to the [Podcast from NC Policy Watch](#) (13 minutes).
14. Learn the names of each of the 49 [here](#); then choose one or two to search the internet for more information about them (particularly helpful reporting on them can be found at CNN, The Guardian (UK), The NY Times, and Al Jazeera (English), or the [UNC Policy Lab Narrative Report](#)).

## **Prepare to Lead the Workshop/Study**

1. Write your thoughts:
  - What attracted you to lead this subject?
  - What results do you hope will manifest?
  - Who will you invite?
  - When will the session(s) be held?
  - How will you seek participants for the sessions?
2. How will you prepare for potentially conflicting opinions among those gathered, such as acknowledging at the beginning of the study that there may be different opinions?
3. How will you follow up with all participants, especially those who may experience conflict?

## **Arrangements and Preparation**

1. Pre-register participants.
2. Send information about parking, building access, etc.
3. Have name tags for each person checking in.
4. Set up snacks and drinks in the same room as the study is being held so folks can help themselves when they need to.
5. Provide a display of responsive actions, including:
  - Candles labeled with each person's name to encourage participants to take one home and pray for that person.
  - People of Faith or NC Stop Torture Now petition for participants to sign.
  - Postcards for elected officials to be collected and mailed.
  - Information about your faith traditions stance on torture and the Resolution provided that calls for a governmental inquiry.
6. Put out evaluation forms.

# The Workshop/Study

## Welcome

1. Introduce yourself and say why you have chosen to lead this discussion and why this issue is important to you.
2. Point to the amenities in the building, restrooms, snacks, etc.
3. Point out the evaluations you have placed upon the tables, to be collected at the end of the session.
4. Introduce any invited speakers and others assisting.
5. State your own and the congregation's interest in leading this study.
6. Speak to the role that people of faith have in the legislative and political process when seeking transparency for activities such as these.

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you are the creator of all beings who has desired that your people live in harmony and peace. You have sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to teach us how to be faithful to you and one another in this journey called life.

We recognize that the actions you call us to learn about may place us in an uncomfortable position. Grant that in this time together we allow you to open our hearts and minds so that we may be true to the love and dignity you hold for all of humankind.

Grant that we would learn, grow, and draw nearer to you so that we may draw toward one another in unity of heart and mind. Enable our actions to witness and encourage your justice. Grant that we would receive your compassion so that we can reach out with compassion to those who have been harmed, we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Biblical Witness: Humanity is Created in God's Image

1. Divide the group into smaller groups of 3-4 in each. Assign *one scripture passage to each group* and ask them to discuss it. If there are fewer than 3 tables of 4 people, give more than one reading to each table.
2. Frame the discussion of each reading by asking:
  - Who is God in this verse?
  - What does God seek from the people?
  - What is the relationship between God and the people?
  - How are we to respond to this verse?
3. Each group reports to the larger group in 2-3 sentences.

## Invite Participants at Each Table to Talk About Torture

- How would you define torture?
- How is use of torture understood, according to international, American, and state laws?
- What is your faith community's stance on the use of torture?

## The Facts found by the NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture

- **Inform the group:** Contact the Council for an invitational speaker, show one of the videos, or present the information in [‘Torture Flights.’](#)
- **Inform the group:** Chapter 9 of the Report details the steps that state government officials can take to shine a light on the activities at the airports in Johnston and Lenoir Counties. Read each recommendation in Chapter 9 to the group.

## The Consequences for the Victims of Torture

Show the 8 minute video of Sulieman, who was victimized by the CIA's rendition program, [“Here the Rain Never Finishes,”](#) 2017.

### For Discussion:

- What surprised you as you watched the video?
- What challenged your thinking?
- What moved you in the video?
- How would you feel if you were tortured in these ways?

## The Consequences for Our Country

Read the information found at the website of [Human Rights First](#) and [The National Religious Campaign Against Torture](#).

## Checking in With Small Groups

- Do you have any interest in learning more about torture and NC's role?
- Have your thoughts or opinions changed because of this study?
- What will you remember and consider as you leave this study?

## Call to Action

1. Encourage a discussion about possible responses by those present.
2. Present the video featuring an interview with a N.C. person of faith, Allyson Caison, "[Amateur Sleuths . . .](#)"
3. Encourage participants to:
  - Using the Sample Resolution, create their own denominational Resolution Calling for the Investigation of the Activities at Johnston County Airport and Global TransPark in Kinston.
  - Sign the petition to Governor Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein calling for a Governmental Inquiry to investigate N.C.'s role in the CIA torture program.
  - Sign the postcard(s) to elected officials asking them to call for an investigation.
  - Take a candle and a prayer sheet to pray for one or more of those harmed by the program.
  - Learn more about the work of organizations focused on ending torture such as [NC Stop Torture Now](#), [The Center for Victims of Torture](#), the [National Religious Campaign Against Torture](#). Visit their websites to sign petitions, volunteer, and donate.

## Evaluations

1. Invite folks to fill it out, and turn them in.
2. Pause for filling out the evaluations. When it looks like they are completed, offer the closing prayer and dismissal.

## Closing Prayer and Dismissal

Almighty God, you have given us this opportunity to study your word in ways we may not have experienced before. Grant that we can continue to meditate on these scriptures, that our witness would be faithful and life giving to our communities and those who have been tortured and harmed, we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

# Additional Resources for Study

---

## Websites/Links:

- [American Civil Liberties Union](#)
- [Amnesty International](#)
- [Center for Victims of Torture](#)
- [Human Rights First](#)
- [Human Rights Watch](#)
- [National Religious Coalition Against Torture](#)
- [NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture](#)
- [NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture Report](#)
- [NC Council of Churches, NC No Torture Program](#)
- [NC Stop Torture Now](#)
- [Redress](#)
- [Reprive](#)
- [Senate Report on CIA Torture](#)

There are many articles on the CIA's Rendition and Torture program, as well as accounts on the fate of victims who were transported by planes operating out of Johnston County Airport and Kinston Regional Jetport.

## Additional Articles:

- ["What Happened in North Carolina: The State's Role in U.S. Post-9/11 Rendition and Torture"](#), Just Security, Jayne Huckerby and Aya Fujimura-Fanselow, September 2018.
- ["The Stain of Torture"](#), The Jurist, David Crane, June 2018.
- ["NC was part of a worldwide network of CIA torture centers. We can do better"](#), News & Observer, Justin Osterman, June 2018.
- ["Confronting America the Torturer"](#), The American Conservative, Lawrence Wilkerson, June 2018
- ["New film, "Discreet Airlift" documents the struggle to hold U.S. accountable for torture"](#), The Intercept, Murtaza Hussain, June 2018
- ["How the CIA's secret torture program sparked a citizen-led public reckoning in North Carolina"](#), The Conversation, Alexandra Moore, April 2018.
- ["NC had a role in U.S. torture and rendition. The public deserves to know more about it"](#), The Charlotte Observer, Jen Daskal and Frank Goldsmith, April 2018.
- ["Here's Why I Resigned as Chief Prosecutor at Guantanamo"](#), Los Angeles Times, Col. Morris Davis, October 2017.
- ["A Problem of Torture"](#), Winston-Salem Journal, Deborah M. Weissman and Christina Cowger, November 2017.

# Action Items

---

## A Sample Resolution

### Resolution:

#### **Calling for a Governmental Inquiry for the Investigation of Aero Contractors, Johnston County Airport, and Kinston Regional Jetport.**

WHEREAS, torture is immoral, it violates the intrinsic dignity of the human being who is made in the image of God (Gen 1:26-28).

Human dignity (value, worth) comes as a permanent and ineradicable endowment of the Creator, to every person. Recognition of the intrinsic dignity of the human being requires a corresponding restraint in our behavior toward all human beings.<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, torture is evil, the biblical mandate is clear that evil must cease and evil deeds must stop. "Cease to do evil, learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:17). "But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire" (Matthew 5: 22).

WHEREAS, torture is wrong without exception, [CITE YOUR OWN GROUP'S STANCE ON TORTURE with footnote].

WHEREAS, torture is illegal, it is against our country's international law and treaty obligations, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The latter prohibits ". . . any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed."<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, torture is ineffective, it produces information that may be inaccurate, unhelpful, and even misleading for intelligence gathering purposes. The person being tortured will say anything, including particularly what he or she thinks the interrogator wants to hear in order to make the physical pain and psychological torment stop. In

---

<sup>1</sup> Gushee, David P. 2006. "Against Torture: An Evangelical Perspective." *Theology Today* 63:349-364

<sup>2</sup> Part I, Article 1 of the "Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment." *United Nations Convention Against Torture*, June 26, 1987.

addition, the systematic use of torture and failure to take responsibility for it have damaged the moral standing and integrity of our government, perhaps irreparably.<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT) found that Aero Contractors Ltd., based in Smithfield, N.C., secretly transported (“extraordinarily rendered”) at least 49 individuals, who had been forcibly kidnapped, to international CIA “black sites” or foreign custody. Those who were kidnapped experienced beatings, prolonged stress positions, temperature extremes, long-term isolation, various water tortures, mock execution, and sexual abuse.<sup>4</sup>

WHEREAS, the CIA Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation (RDI) program depended on North Carolina’s private citizens and public infrastructure.<sup>5</sup>

WHEREAS, the silence of county and state government officials about the torture flights makes them complicit in the rendition and torture of detainees. Their silence is effectively an endorsement of those illegal activities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this [NAME OF GROUP] does

1. Reaffirm its opposition to torture and requests its members to:
  - use the study provided by The North Carolina Council of Churches,
  - study the use of torture throughout history and the 20<sup>th</sup> century move to ban it, and
  - study the use of torture after 9/11/2001, including North Carolina’s role in the CIA’s Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation (RDI) program. View NCCIT’s report [here](#).
2. Engage in our Christian practice of confession, repentance, and reconciliation so we may better understand our state’s complicity in programs of torture and work to stop present and future programs of torture.
3. Learn about the ongoing use of torture techniques in jails, prisons, immigrant detention centers, and domestic settings, etc.
4. Pray for each of the 49 named persons who were kidnapped in the Aero Contractor planes and the families of those persons.
5. Sign the North Carolina Council of Churches’ petition for People of Faith and Conscience calling on Governor Cooper and Attorney General Stein to hold Aero Contractors accountable for its illegal actions; provide acknowledgment, redress, and reparation to its victims; and prevent further N.C. support for torture.

---

<sup>3</sup> *Torture Flights: North Carolina’s Role in the CIA Rendition, and Torture Program*, [pg. 48]. Report by the NC Commission of Inquiry on Torture, September 2018. On the web at: [www.nctorturereport.org](http://www.nctorturereport.org).

<sup>4</sup> *Torture Flights*, [pg. 36].

<sup>5</sup> *Torture Flights*, [pg. 21].

6. Support and become active in the ministry of [YOUR GROUP], The North Carolina Council of Churches, or NC Stop Torture Now.
-

## Suggested Post Card Message

Dear Representative / Senator \_\_\_\_\_.

The CIA and public officials must be held accountable for the illegal renditions and torture facilitated by North Carolina's Aero Contractors, who utilized public infrastructure at Johnston County Airport and Kinston Regional Jetport to support their "torture chambers in the sky."

Without accountability, there is no guarantee our state will not once again be used as a launching pad for torture. We call upon you to take the lead in Congress to support the recommendations made by the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture ([www.nccit.org](http://www.nccit.org)), and ensure that North Carolina is a leader in human rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address

# The 49 Individuals Transferred by North Carolina Jets

1. **Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri**  
Afghanistan to Thailand 2002;  
Poland to Morocco 2003;  
Morocco to Guantanamo Bay 2003
2. **Abd al-Salam al-Hilah**  
Egypt to Afghanistan 2002
3. **Abdel Hakim Belhadj**  
Thailand to Libya via Diego Garcia 2004
4. **Abdul Halim Dalak**  
Pakistan to Syria 2002
5. **Abou Elkassim Britel**  
Pakistan to Morocco 2002
6. **Abu Abdallah**  
Iraq to Afghanistan 2004
7. **Abu Yasir al-Jaza'iri**  
Afghanistan to Poland 2003;  
Poland to Romania 2003;  
Romania to Jordan/Afghanistan 2003
8. **Abu Zubaydah**  
Poland to Guantanamo Bay 2003
9. **Ahmed Agiza**  
Sweden to Egypt 2001
10. **Amanatullah Ali**  
Iraq to Afghanistan 2004
11. **Ammar al-Baluchi**  
Afghanistan to Poland 2003;  
Poland to Romania 2003
12. **Asadallah**  
Afghanistan to Egypt 2003
13. **Aso Hawleri**  
Afghanistan to Iraq 2003
14. **Binyam Mohamed**  
Pakistan to Morocco 2002;  
Morocco to Afghanistan 2004
15. **Bisher al-Rawi**  
The Gambia to Afghanistan via Egypt 2002
16. **Fatima Boudchar**  
Thailand to Libya via Diego Garcia 2004  
(pregnant during time of rendition and detention).
17. **Gouled Dourad**  
Djibouti to Afghanistan/Morocco 2004
18. **Hassan bin Attash**  
Afghanistan to Jordan 2002;  
Jordan to Afghanistan 2004
19. **Hassan Ghul**  
Iraq to Afghanistan 2004;  
Afghanistan to Romania 2004
20. **Hiwa Rashul**  
Iraq to Afghanistan 2003;  
Afghanistan to Iraq 2003
21. **Ibn Sheikh al-Libi**  
Afghanistan to Guantanamo Bay via Morocco 2003
22. **Jamal Boudraa**  
Afghanistan to Algeria 2004
23. **Jamil el-Banna**  
The Gambia to Afghanistan via Egypt 2002
24. **Jamil Qasim Saeed Mohammed**  
Pakistan to Jordan 2001
25. **Khaled al-Maqtari**  
Iraq to Afghanistan 2004
26. **Khaled el-Masri**  
Macedonia to Afghanistan via Iraq 2004
27. **Khaled Sheikh Mohammed**  
Afghanistan to Poland 2003;  
Poland to Romania 2003
28. **Laid Saidi**  
Malawi to Afghanistan 2003

29. **Mamdouh Habib**  
Egypt to Afghanistan via  
Uzbekistan 2002

30. **Mohamed el-Zery**  
Sweden to Egypt 2001

31. **Mohamed Bashmilah**  
Jordan to Afghanistan  
2003

32. **Mohamedou Ould  
Slahi**  
Jordan to Afghanistan  
2002

33. **Mohammed al-Asad**  
Djibouti to Afghanistan  
2004

34. **Mohammed Saad  
Iqbal Madni**  
Indonesia to Egypt via  
Diego Garcia 2002;  
Egypt to Afghanistan via  
Uzbekistan 2002

35. **Mohamed Ibrahim**  
Afghanistan to Romania  
2004

36. **Mustafa al-Hawsawi**  
Afghanistan to  
Guantanamo Bay  
via Morocco 2003

37. **Mustafa Salim Ali el-  
Madaghi**  
Mauritania to Morocco  
2004

38. **Umar Fartuq**  
Indonesia to Egypt via  
Diego Garcia 2002;  
Egypt to Afghanistan 2002

39. **Omar Ghramesh**  
Pakistan to Syria 2002

40. **Pacha Wazir**  
Morocco to Afghanistan  
2002

41. **Ramzi bin al-Shibh**  
Afghanistan to Morocco  
2002;  
Morocco to Poland 2003;  
Poland to Morocco 2003;  
Morocco to Guantanamo  
Bay 2003

42. **Saifullah Paracha**  
Thailand to Afghanistan  
2003

43. **Salah Qaru**  
Jordan to Afghanistan  
2003

44. **Saleh Di'iki**  
Morocco to Afghanistan  
2004

45. **Samr al-Barq**  
Afghanistan to Poland  
2003;  
Poland to Romania 2003;  
Romania to Jordan 2003

46. **Sanad al-Kazimi**  
UAE to Afghanistan 2003

47. **Ali al Hajj al-  
Sharqawi**  
Pakistan/Afghanistan to  
Jordan 2002

48. **Walid bin Attash**  
Afghanistan to Poland  
2003;  
Poland to Romania 2003

49. **Yunus Rahmatullah**  
Iraq to Afghanistan 2004

# **Christian and Non-Christian Prayers**

## ***A Christian Prayer for Those Who Have Been Kidnapped, Tortured, and Transported***

Almighty God,

As you love all of your creation, we do not deny your love of those who have been tortured through the Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation program that operated in our state. We lift to you *name her/his family* for your blessing of comfort and peace. Grant them relief from the memories, the suffering, and the trauma endured by those tortured. Enable each family to find healing and wholeness; we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## ***A Christian Prayer for Forgiveness***

Gracious God,

You created humanity in your image. You have commanded us to love our neighbors and to share hospitality to strangers. We have more often not loved our neighbors and turned away from strangers. The knowledge that airfields were used to host jets that transported strangers to be tortured is grievous to us. Forgive us for turning away from your teachings and for ignoring the stranger. Grant us the will to admit our failure and the vision to redress their injury, we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## ***A Non-Christian Prayer for Those Who Have Been Kidnapped, Tortured, and Transported***

Creator of the Universe,

As you love all of your creation, we do not deny your love of those who have been tortured through the Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation program that operated in our state. We lift to you *name her/his family* for your blessing of comfort and peace. Grant them relief from the memories, the suffering, and the trauma endured by those tortured. Enable each family to find healing and wholeness.

### ***A Non-Christian Prayer for Forgiveness***

Creator of the Universe,  
You created humanity in your image. You have instructed us to show hospitality to strangers. We have more often turned away from strangers. The knowledge that airfields were used to host jets that transported strangers to be tortured in our names is grievous to us. Enable us to turn toward your teachings. Grant us the will to admit our failure and the vision to redress their injury.

---

# The Faith Petition

**\*Please use this cover sheet with each page of signatures\***

**Petition by People of Faith, to be presented to Governor Roy Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein, requesting a governmental inquiry into Aero Contractors, Johnston County Airport, and Kinston Regional Jetport during the operational years of the CIA's Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation (RDI) program (2001-2006), which facilitated the rendition and torture of 49 individuals, and to provide acknowledgement for victims and their families.**

Those who subscribe and live within the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament Scriptures as their guide for living moral, ethical, and productive lives. The foundation for a faithful response to the challenge to basic human rights comes from Holy Scripture:

- “So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” - Genesis 1:27
- The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. - Leviticus 19:34
- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. - Deuteronomy 6:5
- He has told you, “O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” - Micah 6:8
- He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. - Luke 10:27
- Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. - Hebrews 13:3
- You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and

sisters, [a] what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. - Matthew 5:43-48

Since 2005, North Carolina citizens, including many people of faith, have called for the investigation of Aero Contractors Ltd, a CIA-affiliated company headquartered in the Johnston County Airport of Smithfield, North Carolina. Aero has used Johnston County Airport, as well as the Kinston Regional Jetport, home of the North Carolina Global TransPark, as a launching pad for its involvement in the CIA Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation (RDI) program.

In 2015, citizen led activism led to the formation of the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT), a nonprofit organization “dedicated to transparency and accountability regarding the state’s participation in U.S. torture.” After 18 months of research, including public hearings where Commissioners heard testimony from various experts, the Commission released their groundbreaking report [“Torture Flights”](#) in September 2018. The report successfully catalogued evidence that North Carolina airports were used to render at least 49 individuals to be tortured. A significant portion of the individuals were rendered without any terrorist connections, but rather were kidnapped under mistaken identity or false intelligence.

We recognize through our faith traditions that in order to love our neighbor, care for the stranger, and practice justice and mercy, we must humbly walk with God toward a resolution of the moral, ethical, and illegal dilemma. We call on Governor Cooper and Attorney General Stein to open a governmental inquiry into Aero Contractors, Johnston County Airport, and Kinston Regional Jetport during the operational years of the CIA’s RDI program (2001-2006), and to provide acknowledgement for victims and their families. We ask them to investigate the evidence presented by NCCIT to ensure that our state is never again used as a launching pad for human rights violations. Only through accountability and acknowledgement are we enabled to mitigate the lasting harm experienced by the victims and their families.

- Torture is illegal in North Carolina, the United States, and the International Community.
- Torture is immoral in every faith community.
- Torture is ineffective according to military and governmental experts.

We encourage you to sign this petition, make copies, and invite others to sign it.

# Signature Page

## N.C. Council of Churches Petition

**To: Governor Roy Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein, requesting a governmental inquiry into Aero Contractors, Johnston County Airport, and Kinston Regional Jetport during the operational years of the CIA's Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation (RDI) program (2001-2006), which facilitated the rendition and torture of 49 individuals, and to provide acknowledgement for victims and their families.**

**Return signed petitions to:**

**NC No Torture  
North Carolina Council of Churches  
27 Horne St.  
Raleigh, NC 27607**

