

July 2, 2007

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Bay Area Activists to Celebrate July 4 By Taking a Stand for Human Rights

Anti-torture groups will bring demands for shutdown of Guantánamo, restoration of habeas corpus, and closure of CIA's "torture travel agency" to holiday festivities

San Francisco and San Jose – Activists from two grassroots anti-torture groups will ask Bay Area crowds celebrating the July 4 holiday to stand up for America's true ideals of justice and freedom by demanding an end to U.S. government policies of "extraordinary rendition," torture and indefinite detention.

In the South Bay, activists from the South Bay Coalition to Stop Torture will be at the San Jose Independence Weekend Festival on July 1, 3, and 4 to distribute information about a local San Jose company, Jeppesen Dataplan Inc. This company, a subsidiary of Boeing, is being sued by the ACLU for its role in handling logistics for the CIA's "extraordinary rendition" flights, which secretly carry individuals picked up by American authorities around the world to countries where, evidence shows, they are routinely tortured during interrogation.

The South Bay Coalition to Stop Torture includes activists from the San Jose Peace Center, South Bay Mobilization, Amnesty International, National Lawyers Guild and other South Bay groups.

The Independence Weekend Festival is at Discovery Meadow at Guadalupe River Park, next to the Children's Discovery Museum at San Carlos and Woz Way in San Jose. Members of the Coalition to Stop Torture will be at the San Jose Peace Center booth there from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 1, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, July 3, and from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 4.

In San Francisco, members of Act Against Torture will set up a life-like replica of a Guantánamo detention cage on the Embarcadero, in front of the Ferry Building, as crowds gather to watch the fireworks on the evening of July 4. Dressed in

orange jumpsuits and black hoods, the group will distribute leaflets explaining the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which stripped detainees of *habeas corpus* – the right to question their detention in court, a right that has been at the core of the Anglo-Saxon legal tradition for almost 800 years - and other fundamental legal protections.

In addition, the activists will ask visitors to sign postcards to their Senators and Representatives calling on them to support legislation to restore habeas corpus, repeal the Military Commissions Act, shut down Guantánamo, and stop government-sponsored torture.

Act Against Torture is a coalition of activists based in the San Francisco Bay Area working to abolish torture and indefinite detention, to end U.S. intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to prevent future wars. Since its formation a year and a half ago, the group has used leafleting, street theater, civil disobedience, and other creative tactics to raise awareness about Bush administration policies of torture, "extraordinary rendition," and indefinite detention.