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Contact: Kate Raphael 510-381-1287
Sasha Wright 510 967 7277
ActAgainstTorture@riseup.net
www.ActAgainstTorture.org

END THREE YEARS OF TERROR!

Direct Action to Stop Torture, Indefinite Detention and War At Sen. Dianne Feinstein's Office

When: Monday, March 20, 7:00 a.m.

Where: Montgomery & Market Streets, San Francisco

Exactly three years after anti-war demonstrations shut the City down for three days, anti-war groups, prison rights advocates, teachers, students and community members will be in the streets again demanding an end to the disastrous war in Iraq and the human rights violations it has spawned. 'Prisoners' sporting orange jumpsuits and other graphic symbols of torture and imprisonment will converge on intersections near Senator Dianne Feinstein's local office, demanding that she act to close Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, and other secret facilities around the world where people are detained indefinitely without charge. Some of the demonstrators are prepared to be arrested.

"The U.S. war and occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan have created a system that depends on violence and terror to maintain control," said Sasha Wright of Spark The Resistance, one of the sponsoring organizations. "While the U.S. claims to bring democracy and freedom, it is actually using torture and secret detention camps to instill fear and suppress dissent around the world."

Worldwide protests have already led the U.S. to consider closing Abu Ghraib. Action participants intend to further pressure the Bush administration to end its ongoing use of torture and indefinite detention in the "War On Terror." Event organizers cite the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "One who accepts evil without protesting it is really cooperating with it."

"We cannot do what we are doing, and call ourselves a democracy," said Kate Raphael of Act Against Torture. "Democracies do not kidnap people and take them thousands of miles from home, to be beaten, tortured, and held incommunicado for the rest of their lives without even a trial. As citizens of a country that is guilty of these actions, it is our duty to stand up and stop this injustice."

While Congress recently passed a general anti-torture law, it has done nothing to hasten the release of the thousands of prisoners now held in U.S. and Iraqi jails without charges. Act Against Torture is calling on Feinstein to take leadership in shutting down all facilities where the government is illegally detaining foreign nationals.

Act Against Torture and Spark The Resistance, which initiated the action, will be joined by the Women of Color Resource Center, Prison Activist Resource Center, Not In Our Name, and other organizations and community members who oppose the war.