

# **Torture.**

**A Quaker Conference.**

**June 2-4, 2006**

**Guilford College**

**Presented by QUIT:**

**The Quaker Initiative to End Torture**

**With Major Support from FWCC - Section of the Americas**

**Information: [www.quit-torture-now.org](http://www.quit-torture-now.org)**

## Queries

1. *Are we open to the promptings of love and truth in our hearts regarding our individual responsibilities to act to bring an end to torture? Are we prepared to resist the pressure to conform to the status quo?*
2. *Are we alert and mindful of the varieties of torture practiced throughout the world?*
3. *Are we open to the awareness that both spiritual and political action are needed in resisting the mechanisms that perpetuate torture? Do you know what love requires of you in terms of deepening your spirituality and strengthening your active witness?*
4. *Do our lives speak for justice and peace, and against the justifications and mindset that permit torture ‘for the common good?’*
5. *Do we sustain and uphold those who act under a particular concern about the use of torture?*
6. *Are we doing all we can to uphold and sustain those who are victims of torture?*
7. *In what ways are you involved in the reconciliation between those who support the use of torture and those who oppose it, those whose humanity is damaged by torture and those who are damaged by utilizing torture?*

“A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it.”

William Penn

*Dear Friends:*

QUIT is the spiritual work of Quakers to end torture.

There have been too many stories of American torture involving children and women, civilians and soldiers, abductions and disappearances, and the use of medical professionals to “improve” torture. These reports have brought North American Friends together to support a renewed effort to oppose torture as policy and practice in all places, at all times, for all peoples.

Minutes of support for this new work have come from numerous Monthly and Yearly Meetings to declare that torture is always immoral, illegal, and abhorrent. Our care for healing extends to all survivors and perpetrators as the practice of torture defiles all involved with the sickness of de-humanizing and the lasting memory of the worst humans can become.

The Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT) begins in the United States where we have learned that much of the responsibility for torture around the world resides. Our plan is to begin with a conference for education leading to action. These two intentions bring to bear a long history of good works among Friends in places of suffering and injustice.

Our greatest dangers are denial and inaction. The greatest good will come by being faithful to the Light that guides compassionate work and restores our frail humanity in the face of unimaginable pain and systemic illness.

We will begin in the silence of worship, waiting upon that leading to surrender our worldly obstacles, and continue in reverence, as the work is large and will take more than good intentions or a mere generation. We are hopeful because such work strengthens our spiritual muscles and disciplines our listening for the Divine in all.

In the light,  
John Calvi, QUIT convener

## REFLECTION

*“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 – New Revised Standard Version*

### QUIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

- ❖ **John Calvi**, New England YM,  
Convener, Massage Therapist, Putney, VT
- ❖ **Chuck Fager**, Baltimore YM, Philadelphia YM  
Director Quaker House, Fayetteville, NC
- ❖ **Joe Franko**, Pacific YM,  
Professor of Mathematics, Mount San  
Antonio Community College, Walnut, CA
- ❖ **Liz Keeney**, Lake Erie YM  
Learning Disabilities Tutor & Spiritual  
Director, Gambier, OH
- ❖ **John Meyer**, Baltimore YM  
Coordinator, Short Term Education  
Programs, Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA
- ❖ **Scilla Wahrhaftig**, Lake Erie YM  
Project Director for the AFSC PA State  
Program in Pittsburgh

## Schedule at a Glance

### Friday, June 2, 2006:

2:00–7:00 pm	Registration	Patterson Lobby in <i>Frank Family Science Ctr.</i>
5:00–6:00 pm	Dinner	Sternberger Auditorium in <i>Founders Hall</i>
7:00 pm	Welcome & Introductions	J.M. Bryan Jr. Auditorium
7:30 pm	Worship	Bryan Jr. Auditorium
8:00–9:00 pm	Keynote Address	Bryan Jr. Auditorium
9:00–9:15 pm	Reflective silence	Bryan Jr. Auditorium
9:15	Break	Patterson Lobby
9:30 pm	Film	Bryan Jr. Auditorium

### Saturday, June 3, 2006

8:00–9:00 am	Breakfast	Sternberger Auditorium
9:00–9:30 am	Worship	Bryan Jr. Auditorium
9:30–10:030 am	Plenary Session	Bryan Jr. Auditorium
10:30–10:45 am	Break (Coffee, Tea, etc.)	Patterson Lobby
10:45–Noon	Workshops	Various locations
Noon–1:00 pm	Lunch	Sternberger Auditorium
1:30–3:00 pm	Plenary Session	Bryan Jr. Auditorium
3:00–3:15 pm	Break (Coffee, Tea, etc.)	Patterson Lobby
3:15–4:45 pm	Town Meeting	Bryan Jr. Auditorium
5:00–6:00 pm	Dinner	Sternberger Auditorium
7:00–8:30 pm	Workgroup sessions	Various locations
9:00–10:00 pm	Concert	Bryan Jr. Auditorium

### Sunday, June 4, 2006

8:00–9:00 am	Breakfast	Sternberger Auditorium
9:15–9:45 am	Meeting for Worship	Bryan Jr. Auditorium,
9:45–11:45 am	Town Meeting	Bryan Jr. Auditorium
11:45 am	Closing	Bryan Jr. Auditorium

**Friday, June 2, 2006**

**7:00-8:00 pm.....Welcome & Introductions -- John Meyer**  
**Worship & Self-Care – John Calvi**

**8:00-9:00 pm .....Keynote Address**

**“The History of US Torture Practice & Policy”**

Jennifer Harbury, Human Rights Attorney & Author of *Truth, Torture and the American Way, the History and Consequences of US Involvement with Torture*

**9:00–9:15 pm.....Silence**

Reflective silence to absorb the message

**9:30 pm.....Film**

Screening of *Hidden in Plain Sight* – A history of the School of the Americas

**Saturday, June 3**

**9:00–9:30 am.....Worship**

Reflection and Preparation for the day ahead

**9:30–10:30 am.....Plenary Session**

Ruth Flower, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Karen Hanscom, Executive Director of Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma

Carlos Mauricio, School of the Americas Watch

**10:45–12:00.....Workshops [room assignments will be posted]**

**1. Direct Action**

Scott Langley, Activist, Catholic Worker Movement

Carlos Mauricio, SOAW

Patrick & Bernadette O’Neal, Activists, Catholic Worker Movement

**2. Legislation/Monitoring Executive**

Ruth Flower, FCNL

Eric Sears, Project Manager of Amnesty International  
USA’s *Denounce Torture Initiative*

## Saturday, June 3 (continued)

### 3. Treatment and Healing

Karen Hanscom, Executive Director for ASTT  
David Buruca, African Great Lakes Initiative  
Robert Zuber, UN Representative for the International  
Federation of Action by Christians for the  
Abolition of Torture

### 4. Torture in United States Prisons

Bonnie Kerness, AFSC

### 1:30–3:00 pm.....Plenary Session

An interactive presentation by Hector Aristizabal, torture survivor and human rights activist originally from Colombia

### 3:15–4:45 pm..... Town Meeting

“Quakers, Social Movements and Obstacles” – Chuck Fager  
“A Survivor’s Encouragement – Bal Pinguel

### 7:00–8:30 pm..... Workgroups

Each work group will focus on a category of ideas for a campaign to end torture, such as education, media, legislation, direct action, treatment, etc.

### 9:00-10:00 pm.....Concert

Take some time to relax with the stunning and original harmonies of *The Short Sisters*

## Sunday, June 4

### 9:15 – 9:45 am.....Meeting for Worship

### 9:45 – 11:45 am.....Town Meeting

Reports from workgroups on action plans  
Discussion of future undertakings for QUIT

### 11:45 am.....Closing

## Workshop Descriptions

### 1. Direct Action

Scott Langley, Raleigh Catholic Worker House  
Carlos Mauricio, Founder Stop Impunity Project  
Patrick & Bernadette O'Neill, Co-founders of

*Fr. Charlie Mullholland Catholic Worker House*

Recent actions to oppose torture have been happening in various places. QUIT has invited particularly daring people to share news of this work to inform and suggest further action for Friends.

### 2. Legislation/Monitoring Executive

Ruth Flower, FCNL

Eric Sears, Project Manager for Amnesty

International USA's *Denounce Torture Initiative*

The task of monitoring and responding to the legislative process opposing torture involves numerous aspects of talent, hard work, education, and the gathering of energies in careful timing. This session will provide an overview of the process currently.

### 3. Treatment and Healing

Karen Hanscom, Attorney, Author & Activist

David Buruca, African Great Lakes Initiative

Robert Zuber, UN Rep., International Federation of  
Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture

Treatment and reconciliation following torture are large and difficult topics involving survivors and perpetrators. This session will offer news in these important areas.

### 4. Torture in United States Prisons

Bonnie Kerness, AFSC

As a signatory to the UN Convention Against Torture, the US is obligated to a certain standard of human rights. This workshop will focus on the failure of the US to meet its human rights obligations through the use of vivid and haunting testimonies of men, women and children in prisons throughout the US. The testimonies describe torture and the use of devices of torture which occur daily in US prisons and jails.

## Notes and Important Information

**Registration & Assistance:** The registration and information table will be open at all times in the Patterson Lobby beginning at 2:00 pm on Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, except during the plenary sessions and workshops. For questions, needs and concerns about the conference, please check in at the Information Table in the Patterson Lobby or speak with a member of the *QUIT* Planning Committee (see page 2).

**Please be on time.** The schedule is very full and events will occur at the times listed. Please end your workshops and work groups on time. This courtesy will facilitate the flow of the entire program.

**Quiet Space:** While this is a working conference, the intensity of the schedule and the nature of the subject matter may cause some to need a space for prayer and reflection. A quiet room will be available during the conference. Signs will indicate its location.

**Elders:** The *QUIT* planning committee is grateful to the following Friends who are in attendance, holding this gathering in prayer and Light. Their role is to attend to the spiritual tone as we proceed and to inform the planning committee of particular needs in terms of balance, overload and support.

Shelly Angel, South Central YM  
Judy Guerry, Southern Appalachian YMA  
Linda Lyman, New England, YM  
Callie Marsh, Iowa YM (Conservative)  
Martha Roberts, Intermountain YM

**Scents and Perfumes:** Please refrain from using perfume or cologne, highly scented deodorants, aftershaves and lotions, as well as, permanent ink felt pens – as these odors are toxic to some Friends.

**Display Tables and Bookstore:** Various groups and organizations will have display tables set up in the Patterson Lobby. The bookstore will also be open during certain portions of the conference. Bookstore hours will be posted.

**Recordings:** The plenary sessions will be taped. Copies will be available for sale (for a modest fee) after the conference. Please sign up at the Information Table if you are interested in purchasing a tape.

## Minutes of Support

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas approved the following minute at their Annual Meeting 2006 in Chiquimula, Guatemala

*In 1976, FWCC in a minute of concern addressed the grave anxiety created by the increase in the use of torture and imprisonment by government and anti-government groups around the world. Sadly, today, FWCC Section of the Americas feels led to again minute our deepest concerns at the continued inhumane treatment of prisoners. Increasingly, we are seeing a legitimacy attached to the use of injustice and brutality that is reflected in an escalation in the use of torture in prisons, the holding of prisoners without access to courts for as many as three years, the establishment of secret prisons, and the institutionalized training in techniques of torture in places such as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Strategic Cooperation (formerly known as the School of the Americas). The Geneva Convention, which once seemed to have attained the status of settled law worldwide, is being violated, and the perpetrators of inhumane treatment are not being held accountable.*

*As Friends, we believe in the sacredness of each person. It is the belief in a divinely mandated call to honor the inherent worth of each individual that has allowed Friends to persevere in lengthy struggles against the great evils of the past and present – slavery, religious persecution, and oppression of those at the margins of society. At great cost, Friends have witnessed prophetically against injustice for more than 350 years.*

*We now call on Friends everywhere to raise our voices once again against a malevolent darkness that is spreading throughout our world – to join together with all people of faith and conscience in calling on our governments to banish forever the use of torture in any form.*

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas approved the following minute at their Triennial Meeting in 1976.

*It is a matter of grave anxiety that torture and secret imprisonment are being used by many governments, anti-government groups, and others to extract information, to suppress criticism, and to intimidate*

*opposition, so that throughout the world countless numbers of men, women and children are suffering inhuman treatment. We believe in the worth of every individual as a child of God, and that no circumstances whatsoever can justify practices intended to break bodies, minds and spirits.*

*Both tortured and torturer are victims of the evil from which no human being is immune. Friends, however, believe that the life and power of God are greater than evil, and in that life and power declare their opposition to all torture. The Society calls on all its members, as well as those of all religious and other organizations, to create a force of public opinion which will oblige those responsible to dismantle everywhere the administrative apparatus which permits or encourages torture, and to observe effectively those international agreements under which its use is strictly forbidden.*

The following monthly and yearly meetings have minuted their support for Friends' active witness in the effort to end the use of torture by all governments. The contents of the minutes may be found on the QUIT website, [www.quit-torture-now.org/Pages/QuitWebEndorse.html](http://www.quit-torture-now.org/Pages/QuitWebEndorse.html).

**South Central YM, May 11 2005**  
**Iowa YM (Conservative), July 30 2005**  
**Baltimore YM, August 2005**  
**Canadian YM, December 2005**  
**Frederick MD MM, May 2005**  
**Matinecock MM, October 2005**  
**Medford MM, October 2005**  
**New Brunswick MM, November 2005**  
**Memphis Friends Meeting, November 2005**  
**Oxford Friends Meeting, November 2005**  
**Pittsburgh MM, February 2006**  
**Boulder MM, March 2006**  
**West Hills Friends Church (EFI), March 2006**  
**Friends Meeting of Washington, April 2006**  
**Lake Forest FM, May 2006**

## In Gratitude

Without the generous financial, administrative and spiritual support given by FWCC, this conference would be only a dream and not a reality.

Guilford College has welcomed this conference, making its facilities and staff available to the planning committee, as well as underwriting significant financial support. A special thanks goes to Nancy Semones, Director of Conferences & Events at Guilford, for her time, attention and responsiveness.

Orange Grove MM in Pasadena, CA has embraced and supported the work of the conference by taking this gathering tenderly under its care and providing fiscal oversight.

Quaker House, of Fayetteville-Ft. Bragg, NC, has provided strong support for this conference. In particular, Susan Lees, as the conference's registrar, has kept us organized and provided excellent documentation that made the creation of this program far simpler than it would have been otherwise.

Deep thanks to Denny Webster of Boulder Friends Meeting who created the quilt that makes so vivid the devastation of torture.

In addition to the Elders who have joined us onsite, we thank the many Friends at home who are also holding our work in the Light throughout the weekend, serving as Elders-at-Large.

To all of those Friends and meetings who gave their time, creativity and treasure to make this conference a reality, supporting this undertaking in a multitude of ways, we extend our heartfelt appreciation.

As we take the first steps of this initiative, we are at once sobered by the immensity of the problem and lifted up by the power of the light and love which surrounds us. Truly, words cannot express our thanks.

## Speakers, Panelists and Workshop Leaders

(Listed alphabetically by last name)

**Hector Aristizabal:** Clinical Director and co-founder of CITYSCAPE, an Art Therapy program; theater director, actor and a practitioner of the techniques known as Theater of the Oppressed. He is co-founder of the Center for Theater of the Oppressed Applied Theater in Los Angeles, as well as the Colombian Peace Project and the Colombian Children's Peace Fund. He has been involved with community organizations, creating and implementing strategies to prevent violence, drug addition and all type of abuse. Aristizabal is a certified Marriage Family Therapist, and received a Masters Degree in Psychology at University of Medellin in Antioquia, Columbia.

**David Bucura** – Coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative/Friends Peace Teams. David has served as the National Coordinator of AVP Rwanda from 1998 to 2004. He was the General Secretary for Rwanda Yearly Meeting of Friends and was the first Coordinator of Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) in Rwanda where he organized the training of judges who adjudicated long imprisoned genocide suspects. He has introduced AVP in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Active in the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), his focus has been on peace and reconciliation work in Rwanda, trying to heal the wounds of the genocide. Currently a Student of Christian Ministry Leadership at the Nairobi International School of Theology, David is married to Rachel Bugenimana and has three children and three adopted children. He is the fifteenth and last child in his family.

**John Calvi:** The originator and convener of the QUIT conference and a certified massage therapist, John is a Quaker healer who has worked with torture survivors since 1983.

**Chuck Fager:** Organizer for the first QUIT conference and Director of Quaker House in Fayetteville-Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. A Conscientious Objector during the Vietnam War, Chuck worked for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

in Selma, Alabama during and after the historic voting rights campaign there. In addition, he has worked at Friends' World College and at Pendle Hill (Quaker retreat & study center). As a writer and publisher, Chuck has written numerous books, articles and pamphlets, and has served as clerk of the fellowship of Quakers in the arts. He has written and lectured extensively on the strategic aspects of Quaker peace witness and is well known to Friends.

**Ruth Flower:** Senior legislative secretary at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) focusing on U.S. domestic issues. Ruth has been a lobbyist since 1976 when she joined the staff of FCNL- California where her focus was on criminal justice and prison issues. She has worked with FCNL on domestic poverty and civil rights issues. During the last ten years she was the government relations director and then the public policy director for the American Association of University Professors. Her recent return to FCNL occurs at a time when attention to civil liberties, human rights, and compassion are sorely needed.

**Karen Hanscom PhD:** Executive Director of Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (ASTT). Karen is a specialist in Complex PTSD, psychological assessment and expert court testimony. She is an elected member of the executive committee of the National Association of Torture Treatment Programs. She recently published articles describing the work of ASTT in Baltimore and the work she did in Guatemala that provide a model of treatment for survivors.

**Jennifer Harbury:** Keynote speaker at QUIT, an attorney, author and activist whose three-year quest to find her Guatemalan husband revealed high-level involvement between the CIA and the Guatemalan military in his capture, torture, and murder. Jennifer has spent the last twenty years working for human rights reforms both in Guatemala and in the United States. She is the author of three books the latest of which is *Truth, Torture and the American Way*, which documents the use of torture by the U.S. government, connections between the

torture in Vietnam and Latin America, Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, and the practice of rendition.

**Bonnie Kerness:** An anti-racism activist since the age of 14, Bonnie has an extensive background as a community organizer in the Civil Rights movement, gay rights, welfare rights, women's rights, and other campaigns. Since 1975 she has been a human rights advocate, worked for American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) coordinating their Prison Watch Project, has raised 3 Caucasian and 5 children of African decent, and served on many Boards concerned with human rights, education and prison reform. She has been involved in publishing items concerned with prison, torture and the Survivor Manual. She is an advocate for those in prison on US human rights violations if the UN Convention Against torture.

**Scott Langley:** In December 2005, Sheila Stumph and Scott Langley from the Raleigh Catholic Worker went with a group of 24 U.S. Christians (named "Witness Against Torture") on a journey to the detention camp in Guantanamo Bay. The group, walked 65 miles through Cuba to the gates of the Guantanamo where they called on the U.S. government to allow them to visit the prisoners being held there. When denied entry, the group fasted four days at the military zone boundary and called for an end to torture, illegal detention, and the closing of the prison camp.

**Carlos Mauricio:** Founded the Stop Impunity Project and works closely with the School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) to close the training facility. He recently returned from a trip to Argentina, Uruguay and Bolivia with SOAW where he was instrumental in persuading the governments of Argentina and Uruguay to stop sending troops to the School of the Americas. In 1983, as a professor at the University of El Salvador, he was kidnapped from his classroom and taken to National Police headquarters, where he was tortured for two weeks. In 2002, he was one of three plaintiffs who successfully sued two former

Salvadoran Ministers of Defense for their responsibility in his imprisonment and torture.

**Patrick & Bernadette O'Neill:** Co-founders of the Father Charlie Mulholland Catholic Worker House in Garner NC. They have been active in many peace and social justice struggles, and in 2005 took part in protests against a North Carolina company which has made torture "rendition" flights for the CIA. Early in 2006 they were found guilty of trespass after being arrested during one of the anti-torture protests.

**Baltazar 'Bal' Pinguel:** Program Coordinator for the Peacebuilding & Demilitarization Program, the Youth and Militarism Program and the Goal Coordinator of the Peacebuilding & Prevention of Conflict Goal of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) as well as AFSC's national representative to the Steering Committee of United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ). In 1980, as a student activist in the Philippines, Bal was arrested, tortured and detained by the Marcos dictatorship

**Eric Sears:** Project Manager for Amnesty International USA's Denounce Torture Initiative – responsible for overseeing the organization's day-to-day campaigning and policy work aimed at stopping the use of torture and inhuman treatment in the US-led "war on terror." Eric has held a variety of posts at Amnesty International including managing the organization's grassroots response to human rights violations in the Iraqi war. He holds degrees in peace and conflict studies and political science from Saint Louis University.

**The Short Sisters:** A group of three female singers: Kate Seeger, Fay Baird, and Kim Wallach. Together since 1979, they are a perfect example of folks being brought together by a joy of music making. Their individual voices blend in stunning and original harmonies as their songs convey optimism about tackling life's challenges at this difficult time in history.

**Dr. Robert Zuber:** Representative from the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT) to the United Nations headquarters, a post he has held for the last 15 years. Robert has also served as a consultant, educator and administrator on human rights, environment, education and human security for diverse local and international organizations.

## **Pre-Registered Participants**

**(For matters of privacy this section has been deleted from this website version)**

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QUIT was recently founded by a small group of members of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) working with the traditional Quaker values of peacemaking, speaking truth to power, and working for justice.

**Our intentions are simple,  
torture must be stopped...**

Especially when it's done with U.S. tax dollars in our name. We feel that educating ourselves is the first work and then choosing actions to oppose torture- both are spiritual responsibilities.

**To contact QUIT:**

**John Calvi**

**802-387-4789**

**[www.calvij@sover.net](http://www.calvij@sover.net)**

**[www.quit-torture-now.org](http://www.quit-torture-now.org)**

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