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STATEMENT ON PROSECUTION OF FORMER HIGH OFFICIALS

We urge Attorney General Eric Holder to appoint a non-partisan independent Special Counsel to immediately commence a prosecutorial investigation into the most serious alleged crimes of former President George W. Bush, former Vice President Richard B. Cheney, the attorneys formerly employed by the Department of Justice whose memos sought to justify torture, and other former top officials of the Bush Administration.

Our laws, and treaties that under Article VI of our Constitution are the supreme law of the land, require the prosecution of crimes that strong evidence suggests these individuals have committed. Both the former president and the former vice president have confessed to authorizing a torture procedure that is illegal under our law and treaty obligations.

The former president has confessed to violating the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

We see no need for these prosecutions to be extraordinarily lengthy or costly, and no need to wait for the recommendations of a panel or "truth" commission when substantial evidence of the crimes is already in the public domain. We believe the most effective investigation can be conducted by a prosecutor, and we believe such an investigation should begin immediately.

Since 1973, the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) has been an independent organization of law teachers, deans, law librarians, and legal education professionals working to make the profession more inclusive, to enhance the quality of legal education, and to extend the power of legal representation to under-served individuals and communities.

<http://saltlaw.org>

Drafted by The Robert Jackson Steering Committee

<http://afterdowningstreet.org/robertjackson>

Signed By:

Center for Constitutional Rights

<http://ccrjustice.org>

The National Lawyers Guild

<http://nlg.org>

American Freedom Campaign Action Fund

<http://americanfreedomcampaign.org>

High Road for Human Rights Advocacy Project

<http://www.highroadforhumanrights.org>

After Downing Street

<http://afterdowningstreet.org>

Democrats.com

<http://democrats.com>

Gold Star Families for Peace

<http://cindysheehansoapbox.com>

Ann Wright, retired US Army Reserve Colonel and US diplomat

<http://voicesofconscience.com>

Delaware Valley Veterans for America

<http://delvalvets4america.org>

Voters for Peace

<http://votersforpeace.us>

Wisconsin Impeachment / Bring Our Troops Home Coalition

<http://impeachwi.com>

Backbone Campaign

<http://backbonecampaign.org>

CODE PINK: Women for Peace

<http://codepink4peace.org>

Velvet Revolution

<http://velvetrevolution.us>

Justice Through Music

<http://jtmp.org>

Progressive Democrats of America

<http://pdamerica.org>

Brad Blog

<http://bradblog.com>

Cities for Peace

<http://citiesforpeace.org>

National Accountability Network

Northeast Impeachment Coalition

<http://neimpeach.org>

Republicans for Impeachment

<http://republicansforimpeachment.com>

Op Ed News

<http://opednews.com>

Marcus Raskin, cofounder of Institute for Policy Studies, member of editorial board of The Nation, member of the special staff of the National Security Council in Kennedy Administration

The Progressive

<http://progressive.org>

Peace Team

<http://peaceteam.net>

Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS)

<http://afterdowningstreet.org/vips>

Defending Dissent Foundation

<http://defendingdissent.org>

Grassroots America

<http://grassrootsamerica4us.org>

Media Freedom Foundation/Project Censored

<http://projectcensored.org>

Peace Action

<http://peace-action.org>

Grandmothers Against the War

<http://grandmothersagainsthewar.org>

World Can't Wait

<http://worldcantwait.net>

United for Peace and Justice

<http://unitedforpeace.org>

Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

<http://space4peace.org>

War Crimes Times

<http://warcrimestimes.org>

Veterans for Peace 099

<http://veteransforpeace.org>

Veterans for Peace 26

<http://veteransforpeace.org>

Veterans for Peace

<http://veteransforpeace.org>

Naomi Wolf, author of "End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot," and "Give Me Liberty: A Handbook for American Revolutionaries"

Iraq Veterans Against the War

<http://ivaw.org>

Daniel Ellsberg, Truth-Telling Project

<http://ellsberg.net>