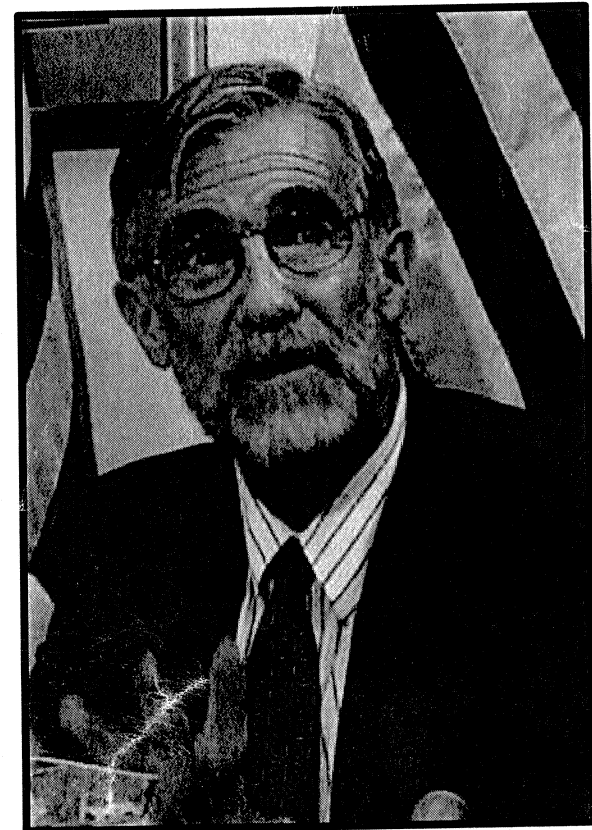


Ray McGovern's visit to the Puget Sound area has been organized by the Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture, with the cooperation and generous support of our co-sponsors:

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American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) - Pacific NW
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Veterans for Peace Chapter 92 Greater Seattle
Veterans for Peace Chapter 134 Tacoma
Washington Association of Churches
Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation

Special thanks to Tom Gross-Shader for the sculpture outside the lecture hall.

Ray McGovern on
"Why Accountability for Torture
Is Crucial for Human Rights,
Our Security and Our Souls"



November 12, 2009
University of Washington, Seattle



WSRCAT, Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture, works to end torture through education and lobbying. We are affiliated with NRCAT, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, and have worked with congregations of many faiths to make a public witness against torture.

Since our formation two years ago, WSRCAT has worked locally on the NRCAT banner project in which over 20 Washington State congregations hung **anti-torture banners**. In June 2008, we held a **press conference** marking Torture Awareness Month. WSRCAT members have made **presentations** and led **discussions** about torture in congregations throughout the Puget Sound area. We have held **workshops** on Martin Luther King Day. Our **program** in November 2008 included a torture victim and a Guantanamo defense lawyer.

We have **met with members of Congress** and their staff; we worked along with NRCAT in a **call for a presidential executive order** banning torture; we have **written letters** to Attorney General Holder calling for real **accountability** and to Congress members calling for justice for the **Guantanamo** prisoners. We recently collected a thousand signatures on a petition to the state Congressional delegation calling for a Commission of Inquiry to **hold accountable** those responsible for authorizing torture.

We believe that the call for accountability for past acts of torture is the most important act of conscience we can take to prevent future torture.

See <http://www.wsrcat.org> and <http://www.nrcat.org>

Ray McGovern was a CIA analyst for 27 years. He is active in Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) and has been an outspoken critic of the flawed intelligence used to justify the Iraq war and of the use of torture. He has written:

On April 16, President Barack Obama released ... documents [which] reveal that top CIA officials solicited and obtained from handpicked Department of Justice lawyers legal opinions based on an extraordinary premise; namely, that so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques" did not amount to torture unless they caused "pain equivalent to organ failure or death." With that very high threshold, the CIA was given free rein to use harsh techniques like waterboarding and sleep deprivation, to name just two of the torture techniques that find antecedents in the Spanish Inquisition. Several detainees died in CIA custody; the murders appear to qualify as capital offenses under ... the War Crimes Act passed into law in 1996 by a Republican-controlled Congress. <http://www.counterpunch.org/mcgovern09162009.html>

Other Articles: "'Justifying' Torture: Two Big Lies" By Coleen Rowley and Ray McGovern July 19, 2008, <http://www.consortiumnews.com/2008/071808e.html>

"Christians Largely Mum on Torture" By Ray McGovern July 31, 2009 <http://www.consortiumnews.com/2009/073109b.html>

Welcome

by Jamie Mayerfeld

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Introduction of Speaker

by Ellen Finkelstein

~

Ray McGovern

~

Statement from

Washington State

Religious Campaign

Against Torture

by Rob Crawford

~

Statement by

Congressman Jim McDermott

~

Questions & Answers