

NEW YORK  
CITY BAR

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November 14, 2007

Hon. Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. John Boehner  
Office of the House Republican Leader  
H-204, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Section 102 of H.R. 4156

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The Association of the Bar of the City of New York supports Section 102 of H.R. 4156, the Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act, 2008, that establishes the United States Army Field Manual FM2-22.3 Human Intelligence Collector Operations as the standard for interrogation by all government personnel.

Adoption of the Army Field Manual standards would provide clear guidance to all government officials and contractors as to the practices that are permissible and those that are forbidden and eliminate the ambiguities created by the Executive Order of July 20, 2007 and certain provisions of the Military Commissions Act. The Executive Order, issued pursuant to authority provided in the MCA, could be read to permit the CIA to undertake interrogation practices that have previously been considered torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by the United States and all civilized nations and that would violate United States treaty obligations under the Convention Against Torture and the Geneva Conventions. The current Army Field Manual would specifically forbid such practices.

This bill would help restore our Nation's reputation in the world, provide some protection for our own soldiers who might be detained in the future, and uphold the rule of law and the moral values for which our Nation stands.

Very truly yours,



Barry Kamins

cc: Hon. John Conyers  
Hon. Lamar S. Smith

NY Congressional Delegation