

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)
The General Board of Church and Society of the
United Methodist Church
The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
Human Rights Watch
Rabbis for Human Rights- North America

Physicians for Human Rights
Metro New York Religious Campaign Against Torture
The Mennonite Central Committee UN Office
Unitarian Universalist Association United Nations Office
Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations
Amnesty International USA

INVITE YOU

to attend a briefing and panel discussion on

The Dangerous Over-Use of Solitary Confinement:

Pervasive Human Rights Violations in Prisons, Jails
& Other Places of Detention

WHEN:

Tuesday, October 18, 2011
6:00 PM- 7:30 PM

WHERE:

Church Center for the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York
(44th Street Entrance –
Second Floor Conference Room)

Each day tens of thousands of prisoners and detainees in the U.S. and abroad are held in solitary confinement. Usually in isolation for at least 23 hours a day and denied all meaningful human contact, these prisoners and detainees are frequently held for months, years, and sometimes decades in conditions that amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and even torture. This briefing will examine the detrimental impacts of solitary confinement, the science that supports its finding as a human rights violation, and the disproportionate impact of its use on mentally ill persons and youth. Panelists will also explore the legal framework for protecting prisoners and detainees from solitary confinement and strategies advocates and others are currently using to end its abusive use.

KEYNOTE BY:

Juan E. Mendez,

U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture and other
Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

PANEL DISCUSSION BY:

Rev. Richard Killmer, Executive Director,
National Religious Campaign Against Torture

David Fathi, Director,
National Prison Project, American Civil Liberties Union

Jamie Fellner, Senior Advisor,
U.S. Program, Human Rights Watch

Dr. Homer Venters, MD MS,
Center for Health and Human Rights, NYU Medical School

Prof. Craig Haney,
Department of Psychology, University of California, Santa Cruz