

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING AND DEPLORING TORTURE

adopted by the membership of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators
at the 2007 NAJIT Annual Meeting, May 19, 2007—Portland, Oregon

WHEREAS

the infliction of torture and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment is
abhorrent to all civilized societies and has been condemned by national
governments and international organizations, including the United Nations in its
Declaration and Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or
Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

WHEREAS

interpreters and translators strive to facilitate communication in the service
of humanity, to create understanding and respect between speakers of different
languages, and to break down linguistic and cultural barriers in order to ensure
equal rights to all regardless of language; and

WHEREAS,

the NAJIT Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities states in part:
"The function of court interpreters and translators is to remove the language
barrier to the extent possible, so that such persons' access to justice is the same
as that of similarly situated English speakers for whom no such barrier exists.
The degree of trust that is placed in court interpreters and the magnitude of their
responsibility necessitate high, uniform ethical standards that will both guide and
protect court interpreters in the course of their duties as well as uphold the
standards of the profession as a whole."

WHEREAS

the American Translators Association, at its 47th Annual Conference in New
Orleans adopted a resolution condemning and deploring torture in any form, anywhere;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

condemns and deplores torture in any form, anywhere;

explicitly defines knowing participation in, facilitation or countenancing of, cooperation with, or failure to
report torture or other mental or physical abuse or degradation of any human being as unethical behavior
that violates NAJIT's Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities;

requires that its members who become aware that torture has occurred, is occurring, or is intended, promptly
report those facts to a person or persons capable of taking preventive or corrective action;

expects governments and other national and international entities to refrain from retribution or other
punitive action against interpreters and translators when they refuse to participate in or cooperate with
the torture, abuse, or degradation of any human being; and

urges schools and programs responsible for the education and training of interpreters and translators to include
in their curricula training in ethical behavior and in internationally recognized codes of professional conduct.