

# OPT-IN USA

A Coalition of U.S.-based NGOs for the Optional Protocols of America's International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)

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September 15, 2015

The Honorable Senator Bob Corker, Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6225

**RE:** *Request for Committee Recommendation that America Sign and Ratify the Optional Protocols for its ICCPR and CAT*

Dear Chairman Corker:

**National Judicial Conduct and Disability Law Project, Inc. (NJCDLP)** is a nonprofit legal reform organization on the web at <http://www.njcdlp.org>. On June 1, 2015, NJCDLP's co-founders attempted to report to the U.N. Human Rights Committee (HRC) a persistent, national pattern of persecution and torture imposed through abuse of U.S. legal systems — an insidious human rights violation known as *The Third Degree*. Despite what the complainants thought were their reasonable efforts to confirm the viability of that communication, the U.N. Petitions and Inquiries Section subsequently advised them that neither the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) nor the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) has been signed, ratified, or acceded to by the U.S. Of course, as a result, the HRC “cannot examine” allegations of ICCPR and/or CAT violations by U.S. government officials, submitted by American citizens.

Targets of *The Third Degree* (usually government whistleblowers, judicial critics, and judicial reform advocates) are much more than people with legal difficulties. In fact their plight leaves them at varying levels of qualifying for political asylum outside of the United States. When the goal is persecution or torture and the instrument is U.S. legal systems, participants only appear to be part of adjudicatory processes.

The NGOs represented below are good government advocates and directly pursue or generally support appropriate judicial accountability as well as effective whistleblower protection in America. However, *The Third Degree* is unchecked judicial misconduct; the ineffectiveness of domestic remedies is an integral part of its pathology. Ironically to be

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secure in our privileges and immunities and republican form of government, Americans need the option of mediation as anticipated by the Optional Protocols of America's ICCPR and CAT. Countless Americans urgently need the benefit of that option.

For the foregoing reasons, the undersigned NGOs request that the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee promptly undertake appropriate steps to recommend that the U.S. sign and otherwise ratify the Optional Protocol to America's ICCPR and CAT. Earlier this millennium (but unknown to NJCDLP co-founders until recently) Kenneth Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch, noted that the "refusal to apply international human rights law to itself renders U.S. ratification of human rights treaties a purely cosmetic gesture." Denying targets of *The Third Degree* the benefit of the Optional Protocol to America's ICCPR and CAT renders them hostage to the whims of unethical, often ruthless U.S. state and federal officials who abuse power with impunity for all practical purposes.

To learn more about *The Third Degree*, please visit <http://www.thethirddegree.net> Your consideration and anticipated corrective action are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

**National Judicial Conduct and Disability Law Project, Inc.,**  
<http://www.njcdlp.org>

By: Rodney A. Logal, Executive Board Member

**OAK (Organizations Associating for the Kind of Change America Really Needs),**  
[www.oak4change.org](http://www.oak4change.org)

By: Z. Crenshaw-Logal, Co-Administrator

**National Forum On Judicial Accountability,**  
<http://50states.ning.com>

By: Dr. A. D. Jackson, Co-Administrator

**Theatre for Justice,**  
<http://www.t4j.co>

By: Sarah Roche, Creative Director

**POPULAR (Power Over Poverty Under Laws of America Restored),**  
<http://www.popular4people.org>

By: Maurice Morris, Volunteer

**Drum Majors for Truth,**  
<http://www.dm4t.org>

By: Dr. Sandra Nunn, Acting Director

**Marafa Watch,**  
<http://marafa-watch.tumblr.com/>

By: Gail Jefferson, A Coordinator

**Golden Badge,**  
<http://goldenbadge.tumblr.com/>

By: Mark Lipton, Co-Administrator

**On Eagle's Wings**

<http://www.oneagleswingsfearnoevil.com/>

By: Katherine B. Moore, Administrator

**American Fathers Liberation Army,**

<http://www.americanfathersliberationarmy.blogspot.com/>

Scott Adams, Managing Director

**Tennessee State Community Council - Sevier County Division**

<http://50states.ning.com/profile/TennStateCommunityCouncil>

By: Clark King, Co-Administrator

**Citizens Investigating the "Runaway Cabinet" of Kentucky,**

<https://www.facebook.com/runawaycabinetofky>

By: Robin Osborne, Founder

**Stop White Chalk Crime,**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stop-White-Chalk-Crime/148432072006126>

By: Peggy Johnson, Founder

**Fix the Washington State Bar,**

[www.fixthewsba.org](http://www.fixthewsba.org)

By: William Scheidler, Founder

**Vindicate Valerie Carlton,**

[www.ValerieCarlton.com](http://www.ValerieCarlton.com)

By: Valerie Carlton, Founder

**Physicians for Fairness,**

<http://www.physicianforfairness.com/>

By: Rehan Sheikh, Founder

**Pro Se America,**

<http://proseamerica.net/>

By: Janice Wolk Grenadier, Director

**Pennsylvania Court Watch,**

<http://www.pacourtwatch.com/>

By: Diane Gochin, Founder

**Midwest Center for Constitutional Rights,**

<http://midwestcenter.blogspot.com/>

By: Dr. Richard Olivito, Founder

**International Family Congress,**

<https://www.facebook.com/internationalfamilycongress>

By: Jan Smith, Founder

**Plea for Justice Program,**

[www.plea4justice.org](http://www.plea4justice.org)

By: Sharon Duttle, Volunteer

**Equal Access Advocates,**

<http://www.equalaccessadvocates.com/>

By: Dr. Karin Huffer, CEO

**Campaign for Judicial Integrity,**

<http://www.campaignforjudicialintegrity.org>

By: Richard I. Fine, Ph.D., Chairman

**Occupy Human Rights,**

<https://www.facebook.com/OccupyHumanRights>

By: Granny Ralls, Administrator

**Foundation For The Child Victims Of The Family Courts,**

<http://www.fcvfc.org/>

By: Dr. Jill Jones-Soderman, Founder

**Judicial Action Watch Society,**

<https://www.facebook.com/JudicialActionWatchSociety>

By: Judge DeAnn Salcido (ret), Founder

**Grandparents 4 Justice Worldwide,**  
<https://www.facebook.com/Grandparents4Justice>

By: David Inguanzo, Founder

**National Homeowners Justice Coalition,**  
<https://www.facebook.com/NationalHomeownersJusticeCoalition>

By: Howard Graber, Member

**Free Don Siegelman,**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/551066938261213/>

By: Pam Miles, Communications Director

**Endeavoring 2 Empower E2E,**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/appealinjustice777/>

By: Wess O. Little, President & Founder

**Mothers of Lost Children,**  
<http://mothersoflostchildren.org/>

By: Melissa Barnett, Administrator and Policy Director

**Actual Innocence,**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ActualInnocence/>

By: Annette E. Blankenship, civil rights advocate

**Truckers, Bikers & Veterans of the World Unite 4 Justice,**  
<https://www.facebook.com/TruckersUnite4Justice>

By: David W. Farmer, Coordinator

**Human Rights Demand,**  
<http://mljradio.blogspot.com/>

By: Mary Neal, Director

**Occupy Family Courts,**  
<https://www.facebook.com/OCCUPYFamilyCourts>

By: Donald Tenn, Co-Administrator

**We are the 47%,**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/the47percent/>

By: Jenni Siri, Co-Administrator

**Legal Deception,**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LegalDeception/>

By: Josie Perez, Co-Administrator

**Family Justice & Child Protection Worldwide Reform Committee,**  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Family-Justice-Child-Protection-Worldwide-Reform-Committee>

By: David W. Farmer, Coordinator

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