



***WAPR Athens Declaration:
On Torture and Abuse of Prisoners***

The World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, being an International NGO in Consultative status with the United Nations and the World Health Organisation and representing the views of the psychosocially disabled, their families, and mental health practitioners world wide, wish to state the following:

1) WAPR unreservedly condemns the use of torture of prisoners, in any context and at any time, in order to obtain information or as punishment. In particular, we, as a mental health organisation, deplore the use all methods of extreme intimidation such as prolonged sleep deprivation, isolation and interrogation or the use of degrading or painful procedures such as sexual abuse, electric shocks abuse of psychotropic drugs and other inducement of terror by physical or sexual abuse, noise, electric shocks and other cruel and inhumane means.

2) We consider these acts to be gross violations of human rights, and will result in serious and permanent damage to the individual's mental and physical health as well as adverse effects on their families and communities.

3) WAPR recommends most strongly that mental health workers should take no part, however marginally in any interrogations of this kind.

4) Any member of WAPR who did so take part would be liable to expulsion from WAPR membership by their national organisation or the WAPR Board.

5) WAPR therefore calls on the United Nations and regional and national governments to take all necessary legal and administrative steps to prevent such abuses of human rights.

By the WAPR Assembly.
Athens, October, 12th. 2006.
