



January, 21 2005

**HARMAN: CONGRESS MUST ACT TO SHAPE POLICY ON
INTERROGATIONS AND DETAINEES**
*-Gonzales's written testimony exposes gaps in U.S.
law*

WASHINGTON D.C- U.S. Rep. Jane Harman (D-Venice), Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and a Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, released the following statement regarding the issue of U.S. interrogation and detainee policy:

"President Bush's inaugural address rightly focused on the importance of promoting liberty and respect for human dignity. Yet those principles will be undermined unless the United States addresses the serious matter of how we detain and interrogate individuals in our custody.

"Numerous cases over the past year have underscored the lack of clear policy on detainees and interrogations. This week, in his written answers to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Attorney General-nominee Alberto R. Gonzales stated that intelligence officials acting abroad were not required to abide by Constitutional provisions banning cruel, unusual, and inhumane treatment. If his interpretation is correct, it is evidence of a major gap in U.S. law.

"The abuses at Abu Ghraib and reported abuses at Guantanamo and elsewhere, along with Gonzales's confusing positions, all point to the urgent need for Congress to act. Under the U.S. Constitution, Congress has the responsibility to 'make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water.' (Art. I, Sec. 8).

"In the coming days, Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will explore legislation to address U.S. policy on interrogation and detainees. This bipartisan task is urgent if we are truly going to champion human dignity throughout the world."

###