

United States Senate

December 9, 2004

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

I am writing to express my deep concern over issues related to detainees being held in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Recent reports indicate that not only were detainees mishandled and interrogated in a manner inconsistent with the Geneva Conventions, but that subsequent internal reports of abuse appear to have been suppressed. In late June, Vice Admiral Lowell Jacoby, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, sent a report to Undersecretary of Defense Steven Cambone that raised some concerns regarding the treatment of detainees; specifically, that members of special mission units intimidated Department of Defense civilian employees and confiscated photographs in an effort to cover-up alleged abuses.

While the abuse of detainees is unacceptable under any circumstance, reports of the suppression of evidence regarding abuse are extremely disturbing. It is for this reason that I urge you to expeditiously investigate the allegations of suppression and take immediate action to make public all documents related to cases of detainee abuse not critical to national security and hold accountable those that have attempted to cover up reports of detainee abuse. It is imperative that we know the extent of these abuses and determine whether there are policies and practices in place that foster a culture that encourages or condones such behavior.

I would appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Please inform me of the actions you intend to take.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator