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Sonoma County Democratic Party

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1 **SONOMA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**
2 **SUPPORTING US RATIFICATION OF THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION**
3 **AGAINST TORTURE**

4 **WHEREAS**, the existence of state-sponsored torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading
5 treatment or punishment has been documented in many nations around the world; and

6 **WHEREAS**, torture violates the U.S. Constitution, statutes, and core American beliefs in the
7 dignity and integrity of each person that have been essential to our system of government and
8 way of life; and torture also violates a fundamental prohibition of current international law and
9 specifically the Geneva Conventions, and its breach is considered a crime of universal
10 jurisdiction;

11 **WHEREAS**, rejecting torture re-affirms fundamental American beliefs in the essential dignity of
12 each human being, provides common ground with current and aspiring democracies around the
13 world, and undercuts terrorist recruitment by reaffirming American commitment to human rights;
14 and a failure to take a stand against torture and its practice by any agent or agency of our
15 United States of America can be seen to jeopardize our system of values and governance;

16 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee
17 urges the United States to reaffirm the importance of making human rights and the rule of law
18 guiding forces for conduct by all agents and agencies of the government of the United States,
19 and exhorts the President to sign and the Senate to ratify the Optional Protocol to the
20 Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
21 and support the Protocol's continuing goals; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee
23 distribute copies of this resolution to Senators Feinstein and Boxer, members of the US House
24 of Representatives, California Senate, and California Assembly representing Sonoma County,
25 to such media outlets as the Public Relations Committee may deem appropriate; and to all other
26 California county Democratic central committees and to the California Democratic Party for
27 consideration and support; and that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee
28 transmit such correspondence as may advance the principles of this resolution.

29 Sponsored by Thomas Gangale
30 Chair, Issues and Legislation Committee, Sonoma County Democratic Party

31 Adapted from Michael A. Ceurvorst, Chair, Democrats Abroad,
32 <http://www.democratsabroad.org/hot-topics/2006/08/004097.php>;
33 American Psychological Association, <http://www.apa.org/governance/resolutions/notortureres.html>

Common Sense, Common Good, Common Destiny