

623 Concord Road
Sudbury MA 01776-1418
26 November 2004

United States Senate
Committee on the judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Senators of the Committee,

At our meeting of 15 November 2004, the Sudbury Democratic Town Committee stood opposed to the nomination of Alberto Gonzales for US Attorney General and adopted the following statement unanimously. We are now in the process of publicizing the statement. We hope that you will recommend against confirmation of Mr. Gonzales by the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Hollocher, Secretary, SDTC

Statement of the Sudbury (MA) Democratic Town Committee

November 15, 2004

President Bush is nominating Alberto Gonzales for Attorney General. Alberto Gonzales is the person who wrote the memo characterizing a treaty law of this land, the Geneva Conventions, as "obsolete". Precisely, the memo stated:

"...the war on terrorism is a new kind of war, a new paradigm [that] renders obsolete Geneva's strict limitation on questioning of enemy prisoners ..."

This phrasing is clearly meant to refer to the use of coercive questioning techniques, up to and including torture.

This memo was part of an attempt by the Bush administration to justify the illegal and outrageous operations at Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, and other military prisons that led to despicable and widely publicized atrocities, including acts of torture. These acts violate the values and principles on which our country was founded and cannot be tolerated. Failure to speak out against the nomination of Mr. Gonzales would be an evasion of civil and moral responsibility.

The Gonzales memo is sufficient reason to disqualify him from public office, especially from the position of chief law enforcement officer.

We view his nomination as a national disgrace and urge our Representatives and Senators, indeed, all public figures of good conscience, to oppose it publicly and forcefully. Although the nomination and confirmation of the next Attorney General are in the hands of the President and Senate, public protest over an inappropriate nomination could influence the outcome.