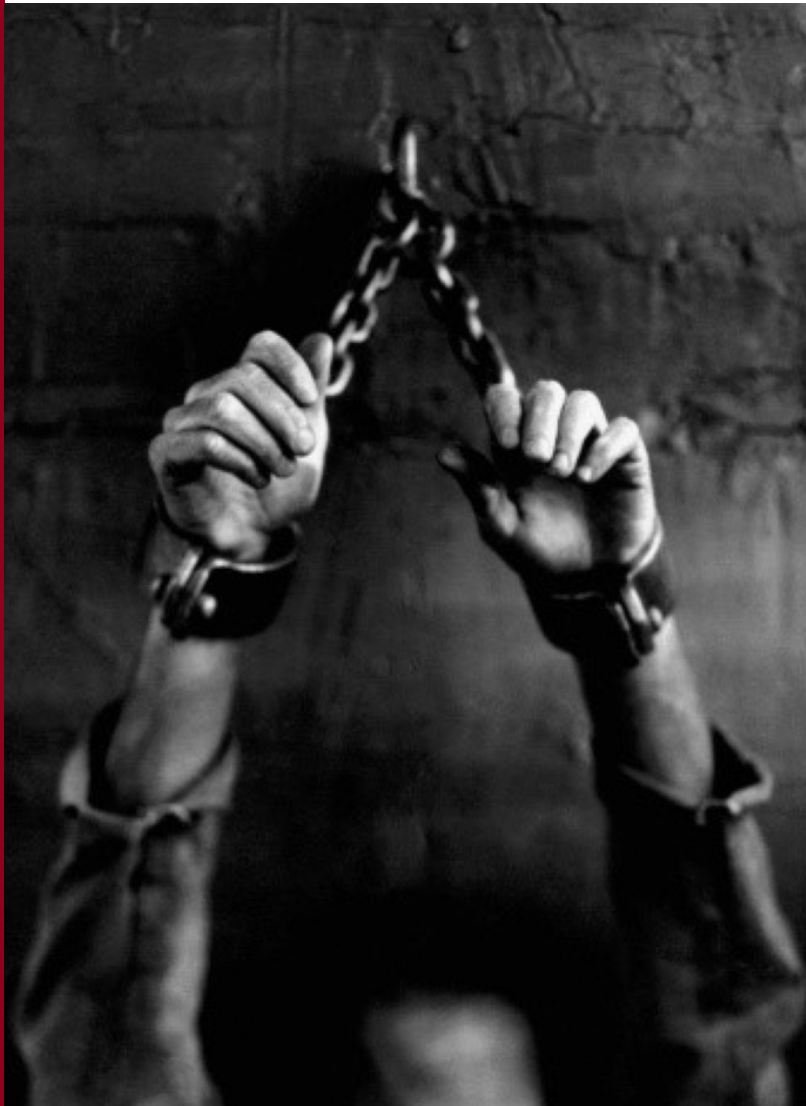


NC No Torture

NORTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



Torture and North Carolina



Governor Roy Cooper faces many important challenges in making North Carolina a just, prosperous state. We commend his support for expanding health coverage, ending gun violence, and preserving voting rights. **One challenge he has yet to acknowledge, however, is North Carolina's role as the nation's #1 state for CIA renditions to torture.** Gov. Cooper first learned about this issue over a decade ago when he was N.C. Attorney General, and has since refused to publicly condemn our state's participation in rendering victims to torture. **We urge the Governor to act to ensure our state is never again used as a launchpad for torture.**

Faith and Torture

- “So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” – Genesis 1:27
- He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” – Luke 10:27
- Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. – Hebrews 13:3

The CIA Torture Program



Following 9/11, the U.S. government launched a **clandestine program to seize, abduct, and torture dozens of individuals overseas**. All were Muslims. After their abduction and forced disappearance, detainees were either held and tortured at CIA "black sites" or handed over to foreign proxy forces known for torturing prisoners. The CIA tortured **at least 119 prisoners** in its own custody. They **flew dozens more to be tortured** by allied security agents in Egypt, Morocco, and other countries.

Prisoners were subjected to prolonged painful stress positions, water tortures, sexual abuse and anal rape, extremes of heat and cold, continuous loud noises, prolonged isolation, and threats to rape and murder their family members.



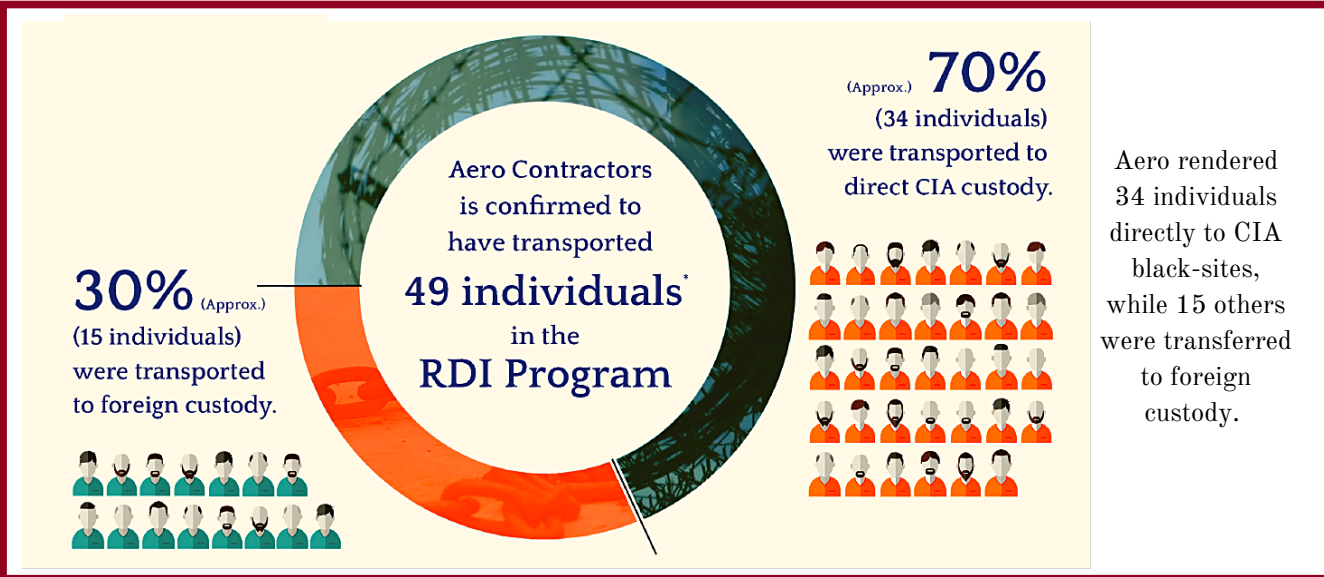
In 2014, a Senate report revealed that:

- Torture was **ineffective** at gathering intelligence.
- The CIA **mised policy makers** on the effectiveness of the program and concealed the brutality of methods used.
- The CIA **impeded oversight** from other branches of government.



North Carolina and CIA Torture

North Carolina's **Aero Contractors**, a CIA-affiliated aviation company in Johnston County, has been vital to the CIA's torture program. Aero has used public infrastructure at the Johnston County Airport and the Global TransPark in Kinston, N.C., to conduct rendition flights. **During the first stage of the program, 2001-2004, Aero conducted over 80% of the identified rendition flights.** In total, Aero rendered at least **49 individuals**.

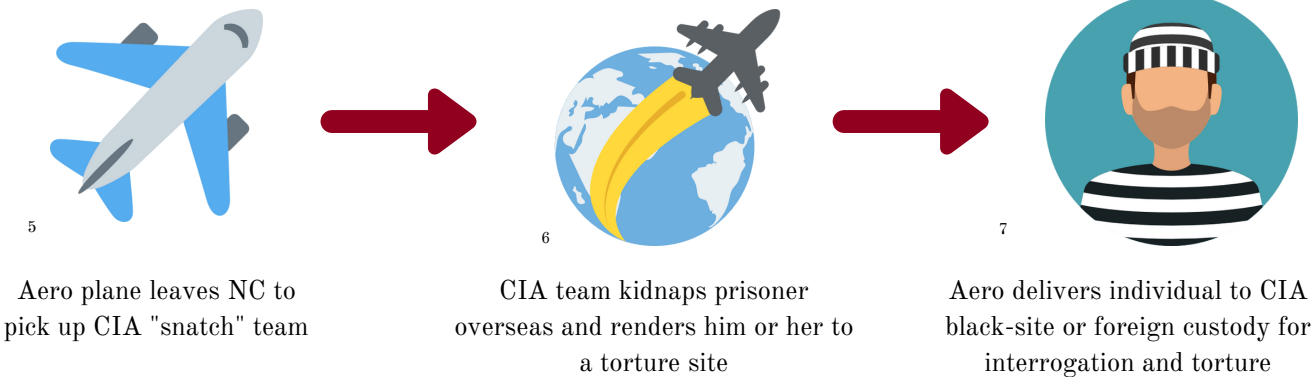


Findings from the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture and the Rendition Project reveal that:

- Renditions themselves **constitute a form of torture** and enforced disappearance.
- **Individuals were tortured onboard Aero aircraft**, including shackling in stress positions, beatings, and electric shocks.
- Since Aero's torture taxis became public, **local and state authorities have continued to support Aero** through the continued lease of public facilities and grants to enhance security at the company's airport headquarters.



Aero's role as a "torture taxi"

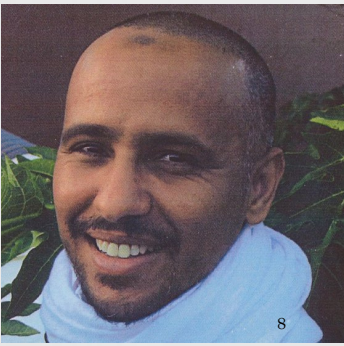


"We are the bus drivers in the war on terror. I didn't used to check who was in the back." - Former pilot for Aero Contractors

NORTH CAROLINA'S ROLE IN THE CIA TORTURE PROGRAM

No Accountability

To date, no acknowledgment or redress has been provided to victims of the CIA's rendition and torture program, and those who are responsible have not been held to account. This puts the U.S. and North Carolina in violation of federal and international law. It also prolongs the suffering of victims and makes torture more likely to be used again.



Mohamedou Salahi was rendered in an Aero-operated plane and tortured by the US at Guantanamo. After 15 years of captivity, he was released to Mauritania without criminal charges. Due to U.S. pressure, Mauritania has not granted him a passport. As a result, Salahi is unable to travel to Europe for surgery needed to correct a botched operation at Guantanamo. Thus, even after his release, the U.S. keeps him in "chains."

What Citizens Can Do

- Organize and participate in gatherings by people of faith and conscience who oppose North Carolina's involvement in the US rendition and torture program. Engage with friends and neighbors.
- Invite a speaker to talk to your community group, church, temple, mosque, or social concerns committee (contact NC No Torture for a guest speaker).
- Write your elected officials and encourage them to acknowledge officially North Carolina's participation in the US torture program and offer a formal apology to those our state has harmed.
- Read the findings and recommendations in *Torture Flights*, the report from the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (www.NCTorturereport.org)

For additional resources visit:



NC Commission of Inquiry on
Torture
www.nccit.org



National Religious Campaign
Against Torture
www.nrcat.org



NC Stop Torture Now
www.ncstoptorturennow.org



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1,2,3 by Human Rights Watch.
4 by Patrick Chappatte, in the NY Times.
5,6,7 by Freepik.com.
8 by the NY Times.

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