

# **WE OPPOSE THE OLYMPICS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CHICAGO, USA**

On May 19, 2006, the United Nations Committee Against Torture concluded that the United States Government and the City of Chicago were in violation of the Convention Against Torture and Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment (CAT) because of the wide-spread torture of African-American men by Chicago Police officers.

From 1972 to 1991, over 100 African American men were tortured by former Police Commander Jon Burge and detectives under his command at Area 2 and 3 Police Headquarters in Chicago, Illinois.

No less than seven independent investigations and numerous courts have concluded that the detectives under Burge's command committed acts of torture, which included electrically shocking men's genitals, ears and lips with a cattle prod or an electric shock box, suffocating individuals with plastic bags, mock executions, and beatings with telephone books and rubber hoses to extract confessions.

*Yet not a single officer has ever been prosecuted* for these acts, which violate criminal laws, the victims' Constitutional rights, and international treaties banning the use of torture. Meanwhile, at least 24 people continue to languish behind bars based on confessions beaten and tortured out of them. Many more have served long sentences and continue to suffer the lasting effects of the torture, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

In May 2006, the UN Committee Against Torture sharply criticized the US for failing to bring the officers responsible for torture in Chicago to justice and called for a criminal prosecution in these cases.

It is clear that Chicago's local and state officials, some of whom, namely Mayor Richard M. Daley and Cook County States Attorney Richard Devine, served as state's attorneys during the time the torture took place, are unwilling to take action. It is outrageous that the Tax Payers are, to this day, paying millions of dollars to defend and pay the pensions of Burge and his cohorts.

That police officers can systematically beat, shock and suffocate confessions out of approximately 100 Black men and get away with it puts the US government's stated commitment to prosecuting police misconduct wherever it takes place into serious question. It also sends a clear message to law enforcement officers, at home and abroad, that they can engage in torture and brutality with impunity, and to African Americans that even the most egregious violations of our rights will go unpunished.

Recently, on March 7, 2008, The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended the United States to end racial profiling, to avoid racial discrimination in its fight against terrorism, to impose a death penalty moratorium, to stop sentencing young offenders to life in prison, and to eliminate structural racial discrimination in its criminal justice system, among other recommendations.

**We hope you will join us in Chicago in urging the Olympics Committee to say NO to Chicago/USA as the site of the 2016 Olympics** because it has failed to prosecute the police officers and officials who committed acts of torture, and the United States has engaged in numerous human rights violations as documented in the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee Against Torture, and the UN Committee On the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

## **THINGS YOU CAN DO:**

1. Write Jacques Rogge, President, International Olympic Committee, Chateau de Vidy, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland.
2. Organize Petition Drives in your home communities;
3. Organize inter-net drives;
4. Urge municipalities, counties, and state bodies to pass resolutions against the 2016 Olympics coming to the United States.

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