

**Against Torture: Joint Resolution of the American Psychiatric Association
and the American Psychological Association**

1985 POSITION STATEMENT

WHEREAS American psychiatrists are bound by their *Principles of Medical Ethics with Annotations Especially Applicable to Psychiatry* to “provide competent medical service with compassion and respect for human dignity,” and

WHEREAS American psychologists are bound by their *Ethical Principles* to “respect the dignity and worth of the individual and strive for the preservation and protection of fundamental human rights,” and

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

WHEREAS psychological knowledge and techniques may be used to design and carry out torture, and

WHEREAS torture victims often suffer from multiple, long-term psychological and physical problems,

Be it resolved, that the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association condemn torture wherever it occurs, and

Be it further resolved, that the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association support the *UN Declaration and Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*; and the *UN Principles of Medical Ethics*, as well as the joint Congressional Resolution opposing torture that was signed into law by President Reagan on October 4, 1984.