

# ***RECLAIMING THE PROPHETIC VOICE***

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**October 16, 2006**

**Statement from the Rev. Kathleen McTigue  
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Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice is a state-wide network of clergy and other religious leaders. We come from Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Christian traditions, but across all our differences we are united in the belief that all human beings are sacred.

It is this religious truth that compels us to be here today. We are here to speak out, as publicly as we can, against the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which our Congress passed two and a half weeks ago and which will become law tomorrow, with the signature of President Bush.

This is a shameful law. It grants extraordinary power to the President to interpret the Geneva Conventions, including which methods of interrogation will be considered torture. It allows our government to arrest any individual, anywhere in the world, and imprison that person as an 'enemy combatant'. It permits those who are not US citizens to be held in prison without charges, without representation and without a fair trial. It permits secret evidence to be used against these prisoners, including evidence obtained through torture.

Three Connecticut Representatives and one of our Senators voted to allow these things: Chris Shays, Nancy Johnson, Rob Simmons and Joe Lieberman. We hope that people of faith all across this nation will follow our example and speak out loud the names of their Senators and Representatives who passed this terrible law. It makes of our proud nation a leader, not in the defense of human rights, but in their blatant violation.

Today we stand in the prophetic tradition of Abraham Joshua Heschel, when he declared: "The one symbol of God is humanity, every person...Reverence for God is shown in our reverence for humanity....An act of violence is an act of desecration."

May we be mindful of this truth, and may we have the courage to stand up and speak it, again and again.

