

1 [Urging the American Psychological Association to End its Acquiescence in Regards to
2 Participation of Psychologists in Interrogation of Detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and
3 Guantanamo Bay]

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5 **Resolution requesting that the American Psychological Association reconsider its**
6 **stance regarding the participation of psychologists in interrogations of detainees by**
7 **restricting the use of psychologists to providing therapeutic benefits in all sites where**
8 **detainees are held without due process in violation of international human rights law.**

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10 WHEREAS, The people of San Francisco welcome to their city the annual convention
11 of the American Psychological Association, representing approximately 150,000 professional
12 psychologists nationwide; and

13 WHEREAS, There has been a history of commitment on the part of psychologists to
14 provide compassionate and thoughtful psychotherapeutic care, promoting honest and rigorous
15 scientific research, and participating in the public life of our nation; and,

16 WHEREAS, Psychologists have played in important role in providing mental health
17 services to our citizens; and,

18 WHEREAS, The recently declassified Department of Defense Office of the Inspector
19 General August 2006 report confirms that psychologists trained and consulted with Behavioral
20 Science Consultation Teams in methods of interrogation of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and
21 Guantanamo, including psychological torture; and,

22 WHEREAS, The current APA code of ethics is vague in its language allowing
23 psychologists to violate its principles in order to follow orders.

24 WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association has condemned the use of
25 torture, yet refuses to condemn the use of psychologists in training for programs that violate

1 International Human Rights Law, the Geneva Convention, and its own first principle of “Do No
2 Harm”; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That The American Psychological Association should return to its historic
4 commitment to “Do No Harm” and constructive public service by condemning the practice of
5 psychologists offering their expertise in any form that contributes to coercive interrogation and
6 torture practices in detention facilities anywhere; and,

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Psychological Association’s ambiguity in
8 this matter and the loophole in its code of ethics that permits potentially unethical behavior be
9 clarified.

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