

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1417

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for those who, under color of Government authority, teach or distribute materials encouraging the use of torture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for those who, under color of Government authority, teach or distribute materials encouraging the use of torture.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Humanitarian Policy
5 Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. TEACHING OR DISTRIBUTING MATERIALS ENCOUR-**
2 **AGING THE USE OF TORTURE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 45 (relating to foreign
4 relations) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by
5 adding at the end the following:

6 **“§ 971. Teaching or distributing materials encourag-**
7 **ing the use of torture**

8 “It is unlawful for any entity within, or agency of,
9 the Federal Government to use, or encourage the use of,
10 torture, whether to achieve the foreign policy goals of the
11 United States, or otherwise. Whoever, whether inside or
12 outside the United States, under color of the authority of
13 the United States Government teaches, or distributes ma-
14 terials encouraging the use of, torture (as defined in sec-
15 tion 2340) shall be fined under this title or imprisoned
16 not more than one year, or both.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
18 at the beginning of chapter 45 of title 18, United States
19 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
20 item:

“971. Teaching or distributing materials encouraging the use of torture.”.

○