



September 28, 2018

Amnesty International USA: Senate should not vote on Kavanaugh

Dear Senator,

The Senate should not hold a vote on Brett Kavanaugh for the Supreme Court unless and until there is full disclosure of information relevant to his possible involvement in US torture practices, and the allegations of sexual assault against him are fully investigated.

In a previous letter, we shared our view that Brett Kavanaugh's record on human rights has been insufficiently vetted and called for the vote on his nomination for Supreme Court of the United States to be postponed unless and until any information relevant to Kavanaugh's possible involvement in human rights violations—including in relation to the U.S. government's use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, such as during the CIA detention program—is declassified and made public.

Since then, the U.S. government has not declassified and made public any such information and the Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled a vote on Kavanaugh. Amnesty International has long called for declassification of any documents or other materials depicting or describing enforced disappearance, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or other human rights violations, including acts of abduction and rendition, by US or non-US personnel after the attacks in the USA on September 11, 2001.

Amnesty International also remains deeply concerned about Brett Kavanaugh's record on a range of other human rights issues, including sexual and reproductive rights, access to abortion, women's rights, LGBTI Rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights, environmental rights, gun violence, refugee rights, criminal justice, surveillance and detentions at Guantánamo.

Furthermore, the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing yesterday was wholly insufficient for investigating the allegations of sexual assault against Kavanaugh, including those by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, Deborah Ramirez and Julie Swetnick. States have an obligation under international human rights law to address gender-based violence and thus there must be a prompt, independent, impartial and thorough investigation into these allegations.

The politicization of these allegations at the highest levels of government and the failure to have the claims properly investigated is a blow to survivors. It sends a terrible message about the importance the U.S. government attaches to women's and girls' safety and rights.

In the context of the current process, we hereby underline your role in ensuring that US commitments under international human rights law are being upheld.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Huang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Margaret" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Huang".

Margaret Huang

Executive Director

Amnesty International USA