



Amnesty International USA: Senate should not vote on Kavanaugh nomination

October 4, 2018

Dear Senator,

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

In our previous letters highlighting concerns with the process of confirming Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, we shared our view that his 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—the vote should be postponed unless and until that changes.

We also noted in our previous letter that 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 the allegations of sexual assault by Kavanaugh, including those by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, Deborah Ramirez and Julie Swetnick.

Available information—including public communications by those who came forward with apparently relevant information, their legal representatives, and media investigations—indicates that the investigation ordered by President Trump on September 28th and carried out by the FBI has not been thorough. Among other shortcomings, reports indicate that Ford, Swetnick and Kavanaugh have not been interviewed by the FBI during this investigation, nor have a number of others who may have relevant information. There is inadequate information publicly available in relation to the scope of the investigation, as well as whether the FBI is permitted and has the time to pursue all leads. It thus remains crucial that the vote on Kavanaugh should

not proceed unless and until an investigation has been carried out that meet the standards required by international human rights law. Sufficient information about the investigation must be made public so that its independence, impartiality and thoroughness can be assessed.

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—and Kavanaugh's record on these issues must be fully assessed by the Senate in its deliberations.

We again urge you to ensure that US commitments under international human rights law are being upheld.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Huang', written in a cursive style.

Margaret Huang

Executive Director

Amnesty International USA