

Sara Goldblatt

Naked Eye Productions Ltd.

130 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10001

Dear Sara,

May 16, 2012

I have read the NEH development proposal for *Seeking Refuge* as well as the professional resumés of Tina DiFelicianantonio and Jane C. Wagner and looked at a piece of the film they have on the web. I find the proposal clear, very effective, and persuasive. You have asked me to serve as an advisor on the project, and I am happy to agree.

My expertise in the subject of torture began as that of a legal historian who wanted to set a historical record straight, from the first centuries of the Common Era to around 1800, but I found myself working into the late twentieth century as the complex history seemed to fade and then to reassert a strong presence of torture well into the modern world. When I published the slightly expanded edition of *Torture* in 1996 I added a few modern documents. I have since found that, much to my own dismay, that torture has acquired a new and deadly presence throughout parts of the world that had not used the practice in this century.

Your invitation appealed to me particularly because you focus on individuals rather than statistics, the continuing consequences of torture for the victims and their families, through the lens of the quite new medical specialty of torture rehabilitation. In 1984 and 1985 when I was writing *Torture* I was in contact with the Torture Rehabilitation Center in Copenhagen, Denmark, the first of the centers in the world. The lessons I learned from the RCT revealed a substantial amount of evidence concerning the effects of torture on individuals and their families, evidence that must be circulated among those who have decision-making powers about the use of torture (however euphemistically they may designate it), and also evidence of the kind of work (physical and psychological therapy primarily) that the unique procedures of rehabilitating torture victims entail – that is the real range of the consequences of torture, often well beyond the individual experience of the individual victim and the particular somatic or psychological effects he or she may suffer.

Therefore, I am very happy to serve on the advisory committee for the production of *Seeking Refuge*. It is a valuable project, one that deserves all the support it can get.

Sincerely,

Edward Peters, 1 Ruth Lane, Guilford, CT 06437