

## APA Official Actions

# Position Statement on the Use of Psychiatric Institutions for the Commitment of Political Dissenters

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“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

### Issue:

The detention of individuals in psychiatric facilities by governments and institutions for political purposes represents a misuse and abuse of psychiatry, as defined by the APA Position Statement on the Misuse and Abuse of Psychiatry. The mission of the American Psychiatric Association is to promote the highest ethical standards of professional conduct by psychiatrist as well as high quality patient care.

### APA Position:

**The American Psychiatric Association opposes the use of psychiatric facilities for the detention of persons on the basis of their political, religious and ideological dissent. This abuse of psychiatric facilities is a serious human rights violation which can have long-term consequences for mental health and well-being.**

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