# Tom Lantos

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
### RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

# Lantos Advocates Independent Investigation Into Military Prison Abuse Scandal

**Washington, D.C.** – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA), the ranking member of the House International Relations Committee and co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, today called on the Bush Administration to release important documents concerning the mistreatment of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay.

"An independent investigation into this ugly business appears to be the only route to accountability by the House of Representatives," Lantos said. "It is outrageous that the Republican House leadership and the relevant committee chairmen have largely refused our calls for bipartisan hearings. Their inaction represents an abandonment of our constitutional oversight responsibilities and our principles."

Lantos and the raking members of the House Armed Services, Judiciary, Government Reform, and Intelligence committees have sent a letter to President Bush, declaring their intention to investigate these developments, and asking for dozens of documents held by the White House, the Defense Department, the FB, the CIA and other agencies. These include reports by the International Committee on the Red Cross documenting abuses in Iraq and Afghanistan, interrogation guidelines and information relating to the actions at the Abu Ghraib prison. Copies of the letter were sent to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Attorney General John Ashcroft.

"The need to shed light on these documents should be self-evident, especially in the body commonly known as The People's House," Lantos said. "Senators from both parties have been living up to their responsibilities and calling the Administration to account for its policies. I fail to understand why my Republican colleagues in the House of Representatives do not see that this is the right thing to do."

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