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Oakland Tribune, The (CA)

Discussion on counterterrorism, human rights at UC Berkeley

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Section: My Town

Cassie Harwood Oakland Tribune

Amnesty International USA will host a discussion on counterterrorism and human rights Wednesday at UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. The "Counter Terror with Justice Discussion Panel," the first in a series of talks across the nation this fall and spring, will give the public an opportunity to discuss with experts such issues as U.S. accountability for torture, closure of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the indefinite detention of prisoners at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan.

Tom Parker, policy director for terrorism and counterterrorism at Amnesty International, said in a statement: "Too often, the debate on counterterrorism issues spirals into political mudslinging. The public deserves better. These are issues of life and death. They affect real people and are central to our concepts of law, democracy, security — and who we are as a people."

Parker said the talk will promote "thoughtful, reasoned discussion," which will be enhanced by representatives of the military community, lawyers and counterterrorism experts.

Panelists will include professor Laurel Fletcher, director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic at Boalt; former U.S. military interrogator Matthew Alexander; and Tom Parker, Amnesty International's policy director on terrorism, counterterrorism and human rights.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at 215 Boalt Hall, Room 105 on the Berkeley campus. For more information, visit www.amnestyusa.org/ctwj.

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