

Fact Sheet:

Torture and Osama bin Laden

U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION HAVE SAID ON THE RECORD ~~THAT TORTURE DID NOT HELP FIND OSAMA BIN LADEN.~~

MORE IMPORTANTLY, ~~TORTURE IS IMMORAL, UNLAWFUL--AND CAN NEVER, EVER BE JUSTIFIED.~~

~~“IT WAS NOT TORTURE~~ or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of detainees that got us the major leads that ultimately enabled our intelligence community to find Osama bin Laden.”

Senator John McCain (R-AZ)¹

~~“CIA did NOT first learn about the existence of the UBL courier from detainees subjected to coercive interrogation techniques. Nor did the agency discover the courier’s identity FROM DETAINEES SUBJECTED TO COERCIVE TECHNIQUES.”~~

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

Chairman, Senate Intelligence Committee and
Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) Chairman,
Senate Armed Services Committee²

~~“No detainee in CIA custody revealed the facilitator/courier’s full true name or specific whereabouts. This INFORMATION WAS DISCOVERED THROUGH OTHER INTELLIGENCE MEANS.”~~

Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta
(former CIA Director)³

~~“I’m willing to concede the point that NO ONE GAVE US valuable or ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE while they were, for example, being WATERBOARDED.”~~

Former CIA Director (under former
President George W. Bush)
Michael Hayden⁴

~~TORTURE IS UNEQUIVOCALLY PROHIBITED~~ under the U.S. Constitution and under international law, including under the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Geneva Conventions, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and a number of regional instruments. No derogation or exceptional circumstances can be invoked as justification for torture. International law also requires a full investigation of credible allegations of torture.

~~TAKE ACTION:~~ Declassification and public release, with as few redactions as possible, of the Senate Intelligence Committee report on CIA torture would be an important step toward countering pro-torture claims and toward the U.S. meeting its international human rights obligations against torture, including ensuring that no person is ever again subjected to torture or ill-treatment by or on behalf of the U.S. government.

- Call Senator Feinstein and urge public release of the Senate Intelligence Committee report on CIA torture: 1.202.224.3841.

~~“The issue isn’t does torture work or not. The issue is, is torture right, or is torture wrong? And the answer to that is TORTURE IS WRONG.”~~

Senator Jim Risch (Republican – ID)⁵

¹http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressOffice.FloorStatements&ContentRecord_id=e496acf5-a37f-1136-f1be-f15d5e3d93e9

²http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=026a329b-d4c0-4ab3-9f7e-fad5671917cc

³http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/post/exclusive-private-letter-from-cia-chief-undercuts-claim-torture-was-key-to-killing-bin-laden/2011/03/03/AFLFF04G_blog.html#pagebreak

⁴<http://www.weku.fm/post/did-harsh-interrogation-tactics-lead-bin-laden>

⁵http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/13/zero-dark-thirty-torture_n_2288471.html?utm_hp_ref=email_share



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