



Exposing the Truth of U.S. Torture: **Restoring Human Dignity**

THE TORTURE REPORT

What it is

Why it matters

What you can do

WHAT THE REPORT DESCRIBES: The Torture Report is a more than 6,000 page document that details the CIA's use of morally abhorrent and horrific acts of torture. Acts of torture described in the report include waterboarding to the point of inducing convulsion and vomiting and medically unnecessary rectal feedings. One detainee was chained, partly unclothed, to a concrete floor and left to die of hypothermia. Others were stripped, hooded, bound with Mylar tape, and dragged through corridors while being slapped and punched.

The CIA placed detainees in ice water "baths" to induce hypothermia and threatened to sexually abuse or otherwise harm the family members of detainees. The CIA also imprisoned an intellectually challenged family member of a detainee solely for the purpose of forcing the detainee to provide information and used his taped crying in an attempt to do so.

The Report is the product of a multi-year investigation the Senate Intelligence Committee conducted into the CIA's torture program. In addition to describing the immoral brutality of the program, it also shows that torture often failed to produce intelligence or produced false information. In a public response to the Report, CIA Director Brennan himself admitted that the CIA did not know whether torture had produced any useful intelligence. Further, the Report shows that the CIA repeatedly misled Congress, the President, and the Department of Justice about the extent, severity, and outcomes of the torture program.

Most of the 6,000 page Torture Report is classified and has never been shared with the American people. Instead a 500 page summary of the Torture Report was declassified and shared with the public in 2014.

*Read the declassified summary of the
Torture Report at*

<https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CRPT-113srpt288.pdf>

The investigation into CIA torture had bipartisan support from the time it began through the release of the declassified summary. Republicans and Democrats alike were horrified by the brutality the CIA inflicted upon its prisoners.

WHY THE REPORT MATTERS – THE MORAL VIEW: The Torture Report describes acts of brutality that don't have any place in a decent society. Our democracy depends upon the truth about the torture program being made public. Our values depend on us acting to ensure that it is never repeated. As people of faith, we believe that torture is a sin against humanity and against God.

The 500 page summary of the Torture Report has been made public, however the full Torture Report remains classified. Further, President Trump has expressed an interest in torturing prisoners, in his words, "even if it doesn't work." We have a responsibility to ensure that our fellow citizens hear about both the brutality and ineffectiveness of the torture program, and that we make clear to our politicians that it was wrong. We will lose something irrecoverable if we allow torture to become accepted by our society.

WHY THE REPORT MATTERS – THE LEGAL VIEW:

Torture was clearly against the law even while the CIA was conducting its torture program. Unfortunately though, unethical lawyers in the CIA, the Department of Justice, and the White House twisted the law to claim that hurting people wasn't torture so long as they had information the U.S. wanted and so long as the pain that was inflicted upon them fell short of imminent organ failure or death (the CIA did in fact torture at least one detainee to death - but no CIA employee faced justice for it).



After the Senate Intelligence Committee finished investigating the torture program, Senators John McCain and Dianne Feinstein led a bipartisan coalition of Senators to pass a law mandating that all CIA interrogations adhere to the humane standards in the Army Field Manual on Human Intelligence Collector Operations. The same law also provides the International Committee of the Red Cross access to all detainees.

The McCain-Feinstein law provides an important bulwark against the return of CIA torture. That being said, the current President supports the use of torture and CIA Director, Gina Haspel personally supervised torture earlier in her career. Congress should act to ensure that unethical lawyers don't again skew the law to allow for torture by releasing the full 6,000 page Torture Report, requiring that all interrogations be videotaped, and banning the use of contractors in interrogations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: We have a responsibility to ensure that these crimes are never repeated. Those who are answerable to the U.S. public – the President, the CIA, Congress, and the Justice Department must work with us to make clear that torture will never be used again. You can make a difference by taking action now:

- Contact Congress and the President and tell them to release the full Torture Report: www.nrcat.org/torture
- Organize a screening of *The Report* – A political drama scheduled to be released in November 2019 about the CIA torture program and the battle to fight its coverup: www.nrcat.org/TheReport
- Use social media to share anti-torture messages. We have samples at www.nrcat.org/GetInvolved
- Join NRCAT's e-mail list to be sure you are contacted with opportunities to ask your legislators to put into law new anti-torture safeguards or write an op-ed or letter to the editor. www.nrcat.org/supporter

For more information and links to all these activities, go to:
www.nrcat.org/GetInvolved

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 **National Religious Campaign
Against Torture**