

Research Report GA3
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Issue 2: Eliminating Torture Methods for Interrogations and Intelligence
Gathering Grounds
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Committee:

General Assembly 3, also known as SOCHUM or GA3, is one of the main GA committees and was established in 1947. It follows the directions of the General Assembly, as indicated by the UN Charter. All current member states are included in GA3, as well as other entities recognized by the UN as permanent observer states (those, however, are prohibited from voting).

GA3 deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues. It also settles questions regarding human rights. In the past, it has dealt with a broad variety of topics, including the advancement of women's rights, the treatment of refugees, the elimination of racism or humanitarian crises.

Key terms:

Torture

- Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental
Universal Declaration of Rights
- Historic document which states the rights and freedoms of humans, practiced by the general assembly of the United Nations since 1948

Amnesty International

- Global movement of over 7 million individuals acting in over 150 countries, non-governmental organisation focused on HR
- Reports of ill-treatment or torture by government to extract information in 150 countries, recurring incidents in more than 70 and deaths in more than 80
- Does not utilise the United Nations Convention Against Torture definition of torture

United Nations Convention Against Torture

- Convention against torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is the international human rights treaty created by the United Nations
- Aims to prevent torture (many a time unsuccessfully)

Intelligence gathering

- Collecting information from an entity, usually gathered by military intelligence, government intelligence or commercial intelligence networks

General Overview:

The world is currently experiencing a global epidemic regarding torture used in interrogations and intelligence gathering grounds. Amnesty International reports torture in 150 countries, and has been trying to expose governments who have been practicing torture as well as helping members of torture reach justice.

Despite the ruling of the United Nations, torture is still practiced in many countries, namely those in the 3rd world (however not exclusively).

The ongoing issue of torture has been an issue for eternity, dating back to the stone age. The United Nations among several others peacekeeping and human rights promoting organisations are constantly fighting for justice regarding their disgust with torture.

Major Countries Involved:

1. China

- *Torture in China is illegal since 1996, however investigation conducted by the United Nations in 2005 discovered it was still practiced*

2. Afghanistan

- *There have been incidents of reported torture in Afghanistan under each of their recent governments.*
- *This has been an ongoing issue since the mujahideen victory, where torture of civilian households arose as a national problem*
- *In 2008 the UK Ministry of Defence discovered a Torture chamber where numerous people were beaten*

3. Iran

- *The constitution of Islamic Republic forbids all forms of torture for intelligence gathering, and the state denies existence of torture by government*
- *Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and United Nations all have reported incidents of political prisoners*
- *Several Iranians have been tortured and imprisoned by the Iranian religious police*
- *In 2003 when reformist ran the government they claimed to join the international convention on banning torture, but were rejected*

4. Cuba

- *People whom are imprisoned by Cuba's regime are tortured*

5. Israel

- *In 1999 the Supreme Court ruled that all torture is illegal, however Amnesty International reported several incidences of torture being practings notably in 2002*
- *The human rights group B'Tselem estimates that 85% of Palestinian detainees are routinely tortured and have their rights violated*

6. Iraq

- *After October 2004 Investigations, the Human Rights Watch concluded that torture was very widespread and common*
- *When lead by Baathist Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi government practiced torture extensively*
- *No proof of a complete halt to torture for gathering information*

7. Russia

- *Constitution of Russia prohibits all forms of detention torture and ill-treatment*
- *Russian police were witnessed several times practicing torture*
- *Dedovshchina (Torture and Humiliation) is commonly practiced in the Russian Military*
- *Several occurrences of torture in Chechnya, Blagoveschensk, Bezhetsk and and Nefteyugansk*

8. USA

- *CIA held a controversial interrogation and detention program from 2002 to 2007*

Previous attempts to solve the conflict:

- *A/RES/39/46 UNCAT*
- *07/17 Peacekeeping Intelligence Policy*
- *A/RES/43/173 Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment*
- *OHCHR several attempts at stopping torture*
- *Amnesty International's efforts as well as several other peacekeeping agencies*
- *General Assembly resolution 40/128*

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