

PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Responding to the Senate CIA Torture Report

Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR) condemns the use of torture in the strongest possible terms and urgently demands that all those responsible for the development, support, and implementation of post-9/11 US torture be held fully accountable. We've known for years that the "enhanced" interrogation program was brutal, but the redacted executive summary of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence report released today shows that it was far more brutal than we knew. The American public should be shocked at what was done in our name.

The summary of the report also provides new information on the important roles of health care professionals in conducting these brutal interrogations. The CIA torture program relied heavily on the use of licensed psychologists in particular, both directly and indirectly. These psychologists have shown clear contempt for the "do no harm" imperative of our profession.

The history of post-9/11 US torture amounts to a complete and utter failure of psychological ethics on the largest possible scale. For justice to be served we will need greater transparency, official inquiry, accountability, and reform not only in government, but also within the field of psychology.

--Yosef Brody, President, PsySR
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