

A WORLD OF HURT

We've known for some time that they tortured. What we knew was bad enough, and of course we expected it was worse. It was.

If nothing else, the report amounts to our national confession. To a degree we all allowed it to happen, though we're not all equally guilty. Should we all share the blame, or should we bring those who masterminded and carried out this perverted program to justice?

CIA torture report paints picture of agency out of control

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/cia-torture-report-paints-picture-of-agency-out-of-control-20141210-123qu0.html>

In the dark: US President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell were not fully briefed on the CIA's torture techniques and their lack of effectiveness, according to a Senate report.

The CIA lied to Congress about the number of detainees it was holding and the treatment they were subjected to, the report by the Democratic-dominated Senate intelligence committee found.

The report also concluded the CIA quickly overstepped the already broad guidelines for detention and interrogation set down by the Bush administration, and that its own senior ranks soon lost count of the number of detainees its operatives had captured and detained in secret sites around the world.

The released document is 7 per cent redacted, with the code names of CIA operatives blanked out, as well as the names of the countries that hosted the facilities.

The CIA was this year forced to apologize to the committee for illegally spying on its staff as they conducted their investigation.

The former vice-president, Dick Cheney, an architect of the war on terrorism and supporter of harsh interrogation has called the report's conclusions "a crock".

Notice that Dick Cheney is not listed as one of those who was lied to or not informed of the full extent of the torture. He seems proud of his role as a brutal commander of vicious thugs.

Shaming of the West... and the cover up of Britain's role

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2867736/Shaming-West-Devastating-report-reveals-horrific-extent-CIA-torture-covers-Britain-s-role.html>

From Thailand to Poland to Guantanamo Bay, the CIA established a network of secret prisons – known as 'black sites' – to torture terror suspects.

An intricate web of airports around the globe – including at least one in Prestwick, Scotland – was allegedly used for the illegal transfer of terror suspects to secret CIA jails in countries outside of US territory and legal protection. The most surprising location of a 'black site' is Poland, allegedly at Szymany, an international airport now disused. Secret prisons were also

established in Lithuania and Romania. The Council of Europe said there were further secret prisons in Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Algeria and Uzbekistan.

British QC Ben Emmerson, the UN rapporteur for counter-terrorism, demanded criminal prosecutions of the guilty – raising the prospect of high-profile trials. He said: 'The fact that the policies revealed in this report were authorized at a high level within the US government provides no excuse whatsoever.'

A 499-page report released by a US Senate committee did not include a single reference to MI5, MI6 or even Diego Garcia, a British territory known to have been used for rendition flights. But the summary contained heavy redactions – sparking fears that ministers had lobbied the US to 'censor' the alleged complicity of Labour ministers in ill-treatment or torture.

Andrew Tyrie, who led the all-party group on extraordinary rendition, said the UK was known to have been implicated in the CIA programme in a 'number of ways'. Last night he told the BBC the UK now had 'to get to the truth of all this' because 'sunlight acts as a disinfectant for doing such terrible things as kidnap and torture, for making such policy blunders'.

He added: 'It's impossible to tell how much the report has been redacted or reduced, cut, to take out the extent of the involvement of other countries, in particular America's closest ally the United Kingdom.'

Architects Of CIA Torture Program Raked In \$81 Million, Report Reveals

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/12/09/cia-torture-contractors_n_6296758.html

Published reports dating back to 2007, however, identify the two men as James Elmer Mitchell and Bruce Jessen, both former members of the military.

For six years, starting in 2002, the two psychologists operated what amounted to a feedback loop of torture, coming up with new ways to inflict pain on detainees and then convincing CIA brass that the harsh tactics had worked.

By the time the CIA terminated their contract in 2009, the consulting firm founded by the two men had collected \$81 million in taxpayer money. In May of that year, ProPublica reported, the firm abruptly gave up the lease on its Spokane, Washington, headquarters and disconnected the phone.

Still, according to the Senate report, the CIA will provide \$5 million in indemnity costs to the firm to cover all legal expenses for potential criminal prosecution and investigations through 2021. The firm has already received \$1.1 million from the CIA to cover legal expenses, much of that related to interviews with the Senate Intelligence Committee. In addition, Swigert and Dunbar received payments of \$1.5 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, as individuals.

Attempts to locate Jessen, Mitchell or their firm Mitchell, Jessen & Associates on Tuesday were unsuccessful.

Taylor's son sentenced in US for torture in Liberia

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jan/09/charles-taylor-jr-torture-liberia>

Charles 'Chuckie' Taylor Jr Son of ex-Liberian president Charles Taylor was sentenced to 97 years for leading attacks against those opposed to his father's rule

Friday 9 January 2009

Charles "Chuckie" Taylor Jr was convicted in October of leading a campaign of torture against people opposed to his father's rule. Although he wasn't charged with killing any of them, his indictment alleged that he killed at least one of seven victims.

Federal prosecutors had cited the murder allegation in recommending that US District Judge Cecilia Altonaga send the former Orlando, Florida, resident to prison for 147 years, stemming from his convictions on eight conspiracy, torture and firearm charges.

Assistant US Attorney Caroline Heck Miller called Taylor's violent conduct a "gross offence against the public," urging the judge to impose consecutive sentences. His defence lawyers countered that Taylor, 31, was not convicted of murder and therefore should be imprisoned for seven to 20 years.

Taylor Jr was tapped by his father to command an anti-terrorist unit called the 'Demon Forces' that beat, burned and beheaded Liberian civilians from 1999 to 2003, the jury concluded.

The Miami criminal case - which took place at the same time the father, Charles Taylor, faced a war-crimes tribunal in the Netherlands - marked the first US prosecution of torture committed in a foreign country. The son was charged under a 1994 law that permits the federal government to prosecute anyone suspected of carrying out torture outside the country as long as the suspect is a US citizen, legal resident or is present in this country, regardless of nationality.

Federal authorities, from Immigration and Customs Enforcement to the FBI, said they were proud of prosecuting the landmark case because it sends a powerful message to torturers who might try to evade justice by sneaking into the United States - as Taylor tried to do in March 2006 when he was arrested after flying from Trinidad to Miami on a false passport.

"We see this as a landmark investigation and conviction that provides a deterrent against those who want to use the United States as a safe haven," said ICE Acting Assistant Secretary John Torres. Federal officials said the torture investigation spanned three continents and involved dozens of legal attaches, agents and prosecutors travelling abroad to interview hundreds of witnesses - including five victims who were brought to Miami to testify against Taylor Jr.

At trial, witnesses accused him and his soldiers of horrific torture in the west African country. Among the techniques: electric shock, molten plastic, lit cigarettes, hot irons, bayonets and biting ants shovelled onto people's bodies. Prisoners were kept in water-filled pits covered by heavy iron gates and barbed wire.

The crimes of the CIA and of those who ordered and knew of them are so similar in nature to Taylor's, though greater in scope, that their trial and sentencing should have the same outcome.

--cosmicrat December 11, 2014