

OMNI NEWSLETTER, FIRST SPECIAL NUMBER ON TORTURE,
OCTOBER 5, 2007, BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE, Compiled by Dick
Bennett

Transform this information into action. Let Bushclone Cong. Boozman know you expect him to decry torture, as the moral person he represents himself to be.

FACTS OF TORTURE

by digby

[Read this amazing piece](#) by Jane Mayer in *The New Yorker*. But gird yourself. It's one of the worst things you'll ever read about your government, and that's saying something: "The C.I.A.'s interrogation program is remarkable for its mechanistic aura. 'It's one of the most sophisticated, refined programs of torture ever,' an outside expert familiar with the protocol said. 'At every stage, there was a rigid attention to detail. Procedure was adhered to almost to the letter. There was top-down quality control, and such a set routine that you get to the point where you know what each detainee is going to say, because you've heard it before. It was almost automated. People were utterly dehumanized. People fell apart. It was the intentional and systematic infliction of great suffering masquerading as a legal process. It is just chilling.'" <http://digbysblog.blogspot.com/2007/08/banality-of-dick-cheneys-evil-by-digby.html>

SAMI AL HAJ in GUANTANAMO

Global Coordination for Sami Al Haj, www.samisolidarity.net, contact@samisolidarity.net : Amil Al Haj, Adel Hamad, Abdullah Al Matrafi are 3 innocent people among the hundreds locked up at Guantanamo. Guantanamo epitomizes the most despotic trends of our time. It flouts the rule of law. Its prisoners' suffering shocks us all.

NEW FILM: "From death of a taxi driver to Bush"

Oscar-nominated filmmaker Alex Gibney's documentary about the U.S. torture practices in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, which recently won Best Documentary Feature prize at the Tribeca Film Festival, examines the death of an Afghan taxi driver at Bagram Air Base from injuries inflicted by U.S. soldiers. In an unflinching look at the Bush administration's policy on torture, from a village in Afghanistan to Guantanamo and straight to the White House.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES 2007 SUPPORT TORTURE

Hello Folks, A grim commentary on the state of political culture in America. Ken Simonsen

From: kenmayers@vfp-santafe.org **To:** vfpsf-general@vfp-santafe.net

Sent: Friday, May 18, 2007 9:12 PM **Subject:** FW: Republican Candidates on Torture

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Excepting John McCain, Republican candidates for president seem to favor it.

Thursday, May 17, 2007; A16

THE REPUBLICAN presidential candidates were asked at their debate in South Carolina on Tuesday about "a million-to-one scenario" involving the interrogation of suspected foreign terrorists. Only one in 10 got it right.

That one would be Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), the only presidential candidate who has experienced torture. "Torture" is Mr. McCain's correct description of the "enhanced interrogation techniques" that President Bush authorized the CIA to use on captured members

of al-Qaeda -- methods that soon spread to the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, and then to Afghanistan and Iraq. Until Mr. McCain succeeded in passing a legislative restriction two years ago, the methods included "waterboarding," or simulated drowning, an ancient torture technique that every U.S. government before the Bush administration considered illegal and immoral.

The scenario posited by questioner Brit Hume supposed that, after suicide attacks in several U.S. cities, a group of attackers believed to know about further strikes was captured off the coast of Florida and taken to Guantanamo. "How aggressively would you interrogate . . . ?" Mr. Hume asked. Mr. McCain answered that in that extreme and most unlikely situation, "I, as the president of the United States, would take that responsibility" for determining interrogation methods. But, he added, "We could never gain as much from that torture as we lose in world opinion."

The senator's words carried the weight not only of his own experience but that of the Bush administration, which has all but destroyed U.S. standing in many parts of the world because of the human rights abuses at Guantanamo, at Iraq's Abu Ghraib and in the CIA's secret prisons. Yet Mr. McCain's rivals seem to have learned nothing from this history. Rudy Giuliani said he would tell interrogators to use "every method they could think of," including waterboarding. Nonsensically, he added, "I've seen what can happen when you make a mistake about this," though prisoner interrogations had nothing to do with the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Mitt Romney, noting that "some people" have said we ought to close Guantanamo, boasted that "we ought to double Guantanamo," presumably doubling the international damage. He added that he liked to have suspects in Guantanamo because "they don't get the access to lawyers they get when they're on our soil." In fact, even President Bush has said he'd like to close Guantanamo; and his administration recently retreated from an attempt to curtail lawyers' access to the Guantanamo prisoners.

Does Mr. Romney think the president has gone soft on terrorism? More likely, he and most of the other GOP candidates are calculating that they can curry favor with voters by promising that torture will be a tool of their presidential administrations. Let's hope they are wrong. As Mr. McCain put it, "It's not about the terrorists, it's about us. It's about what kind of country we are."

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OPPOSING TORTURE



Amnesty International USA

Dear Robert (McAfee)

You can make Guantanamo Bay disappear -- and help tear down detention

camps that have become synonymous with torture, injustice, and an utter betrayal of human rights. Tearitdown.org is a powerful new Amnesty International project dramatically visualizing the commitment of 500,000 people to tear down Guantanamo Bay.



See for yourself. [Act right now to tear down a piece of Guantanamo Bay!](#)

[Tearitdown.org](#) builds on Amnesty's long history of showing how one individual can make a difference. You have the power to tear down Guantanamo Bay one pixel at a time. Once 500,000 people have expressed their determination to end this human rights disgrace -- our image of Guantanamo-style injustice will disappear.

And, more importantly, we'll have the power and strength needed to tear down the real Guantanamo Bay.


One person, one pixel is all it takes. [Get your pixel and express your power to end this human rights abomination.](#)

From across the political spectrum, across the globe, calls are mounting to shut down Guantanamo Bay and either charge and try those imprisoned or release them.

Join Amnesty International in this powerful display of commitment to human rights. Strike the final blow to the Administration's failed policies at Guantanamo Bay. [Get your pixel today.](#)

Thank you,

Larry Cox
Executive Director

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SGT. SAM PROVANCE

From Ray McGovern:

For Colleagues of Sam Adams Associates for Integrity in Intelligence AND other friends interested in Iraq, Iran, Intelligence, and truth:

It has been exactly three years since (with the help of Prof. Peter Kuznick of American University, Dan Ellsberg, and supportive friends) we held that wonderful gathering of truth-tellers (and hundreds of their closest friends, as well as students) in that cavernous auditorium at American University. It's a morale boost just to recall all those folks sitting/standing in the aisles—and truth tellers Dan Ellsberg, Coleen Rowley (then still with the FBI), Katharine Gunn (from UK intelligence), Col. Frank Grevil (from Danish intelligence), Ann Wright and John H.

Brown (two of the three Foreign Service Officers who quit because of the invasion of Iraq, David MacMichael, et al.

It was a memorable evening. But there was a hidden blessing.

Not many there were aware that then-Sgt. Sam Provance, from Army Intelligence, was also there, lurking in the back. No, not to monitor the proceedings but to check out my assurances to him that there were indeed a whole bunch of people left who were interested in, and willing to stick their necks out for, the truth. Sam was at Abu Ghraib during the worst of the worst; did his best to bring it all to attn of his superiors; was immediately sent back to Germany, deprived of his clearances, threatened with court martial, and ordered to do guard duty and stack blankets, before the Army tried, unsuccessfully, to send him back to Iraq. Sam did a very gutsy thing; he went public.

Three years ago, it was one of those nice coincidences; Sam had just flown in from Germany the afternoon of that event at AU. The Army reluctantly let him come to Washington to confer the next day with congressional staff looking into Abu Ghraib. (Those who were there may remember my cryptic reference to, and appeal for a round of applause for, those patriotic truth tellers who could not be named openly, one of whom was very close by.)

You haven't heard of Sam? Surprise, surprise. Chalk it up to our corporate-owned media. If you have interest in learning more, here are URLs for pieces by Sam, which I believe are well worth your time, including his Feb. 14, 06 sworn testimony to the Shays subcommittee.

<http://www.commondrhttp://wwhttp://www.cohttp://www.>

Army Adds Farce to Shame of Abu Ghraib

by Sam Provance, Aug. 28, 07

<http://consortiumnehttp://consorhttp://consorhttp>

The American Ghosts of Abu Ghraib

by Sam Provance, Mar 27, 07

www.humanrightsfirswwww.humanriwww.humanriwww.humanwww.humanwww

Testimony of Sam Provance

Feb 14, 2006

Well, we're at it again. But this time we can and will give Sam Provance the attention he deserves. The nominating committee of Sam Adams Professionals for Integrity in Intelligence has chosen Sam to receive the 2006 award for Integrity in Intelligence. Previous recipients include: Coleen Rowley (FBI), Katharine Gun (British Intelligence), Sibel Edmonds (FBI), and former UK Ambassador Craig Murray..

That brief award ceremony will cap an evening in the tradition of the teach-ins that did so much to educate and sensitize Americans to what was going on in Vietnam some 40 years ago.

>In Protest of APA Torture Stance, Author Returns Award

>by Stephen Soldz

>

>Published on Sunday, August 26, 2007 by

>CommonDreams.org

><http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/08/26/3414/>

>

>For several years, psychologist members of the American

>Psychological Association (APA) have been fighting to

>change the APA's policies allowing psychologists to

>participate in interrogations widely reported to be

>abusive. As the association's 2007 Convention opened

>last week, the American Civil Liberties Union called

>upon the APA to stop psychologists' participating in

>abusive interrogations:

>

>"The history of torture is inexorably linked to the
>misuse of scientific and medical knowledge. As we move
>fully into the 21st century, it is no longer enough to
>denounce or to speak out against torture; rather, we
>must sever the connection between healers and
>tormentors once and for all. As guardians of the mind,
>psychologists are duty bound to promote the humane
>treatment of all people. We strongly urge the APA to
>adopt the strongest possible stance and issue a
>moratorium on the participation of its members in
>abusive treatment."

>

>At the convention the APA decisively rejected this
>call, as well as that of hundreds of APA members at a
>rally and in numerous debates on the issue. The APA's
>Council of Representatives rejected, by an
>approximately 85% to 15% vote, the simple statement
>that:

>

>"Be it resolved that. the roles of psychologists in
>settings in which detainees are deprived of adequate
>protection of their human rights, should be limited as
>health personnel to the provision of psychological
>treatment."

>

>As an alternative, the association passed a resolution,
>proposed initially by the Board of Directors, declaring
>use of some of the most egregious techniques to be
>unethical. While the Board resolution constituted
>progress for the APA, the resolution unfortunately
>contained enough caveats and loopholes, many added at
>the last minute without discussion with moratorium
>supporters, that observers were uncertain whether it
>condemned the CIA's "enhanced interrogation"
>techniques, as Physicians for Human Rights has argued,
>or whether, in fact, it continued abetting the CIA's
>torture, as Salon's Mark Benjamin wondered.

>

>While the APA had undoubtedly hoped for a major public
>relations boost from their resolution, putting the
>controversy behind them, the reverse seems to have
>occurred. Democracy Now! went to San Francisco and
>provided detailed coverage before and after the
>convention, including the electrifying claim by
>association member Jean Maria Arrigo that a key APA
>ethics taskforce on which she served had been covertly
>controlled by the military-intelligence establishment,

>while Agence France-Presse, perhaps tongue in cheek,
>entitled their report "US psychologists limit roles in
>torture of military prisoners" and Salon entitled Mark
>Benjamin's convention report "Will psychologists still
>abet torture?"
>
>In the days since the convention ended, the APA has
>taken another hit as the first editorial in mainstream
>paper, the Houston Chronicle, stated quite clearly:
>"Psychologists have no place assisting interrogations
>at places such as Guantanamo Bay."
>
>"The worst argument for psychologists' presence at
>interrogations comes from U.S. Army Col. Larry James,
>director of the psychology department of a military
>medical center" the Chronicle went on to explain.
>
>" "â€"If we lose psychologists from these facilities,
>people are going to die," he said at the APA meeting.
>Psychologists, James suggested, can rein or report
>overzealous violators.
>
>Any interrogation system that teeters so close to
>atrocities needs more than a psychologist. It requires
>thorough overhaul and specific bans of the most extreme
>methods. The Department of Defense has listed such
>prohibitions. The CIA has not.
>
>Torturing prisoners doesn't produce reliable data. It
>does, however, violate human rights and strip Americans
>of the right to protest torture of its own men and
>women. Above all, it blurs our credibility as a
>democracy worth defending.
>
>No American psychologist should have a part in an
>interrogation system with the potential to devolve into
>murder. No American should."
>
>An even more dramatic development in the struggle
>occurred this week when psychologist and New York Times
>bestselling author Mary Pipher (author of Reviving
>Ophelia among many other books) decided to return her
>Presidential Citation award from the American
>Psychological Association in protest. Here is her
>letter to APA President Brehm explaining her decision:
>
>August 21, 2007
>
>American Psychological Association, 750 First Street,

>NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242

>

>President Brehm:

>

>I am writing to inform you that I am returning my
>Presidential Citation dated 2/02/06 and awarded to me
>by then President of the American Psychological
>Association, Dr. Gerald Koocher. I have struggled for
>many months with this decision, and I make it with pain
>and sorrow. I was honored to receive this award and
>proud to be a member of APA. Over the years I have
>spoken at national conventions many times and had
>enjoyed an excellent relationship with the APA and its
>staff. With this letter, I feel as if I am ostracizing
>a good friend.

>

>I do not want an award from an organization that
>sanctions its members' participation in the enhanced
>interrogations at CIA Black Sites and at Guantanamo.
>The presence of psychologists has both educated the
>interrogation teams in more skillful methods of
>breaking people down and legitimized the process of
>torture in defiance of the Geneva Conventions.

>

>The behavior of psychologists on these enhanced
>interrogation teams violates our own Code of Ethics
>(2002) in which we pledge to respect the dignity and
>worth of all people, with special responsibility
>towards the most vulnerable. I consider prisoners in
>secret CIA-run facilities with no right of habeas
>corpus or access to attorneys, family or media to be
>highly vulnerable. I also believe that when any of us
>are degraded, all of human life is degraded. This
>letter is as much about us as it is about prisoners.

>

>In our Ethics Code we agree to promote honesty and
>accuracy. Our involvement in these projects has been
>secretive and dishonest. Finally, as psychologists we
>vow to do no harm. Without question, we violate this
>oath when we allow people in our care to be deprived of
>sleep or subjected to sensory over-stimulation or
>deprivation.

>

>I cannot accept the August 19, 2007 Reaffirmation of
>APA's Position Against Torture (Substitute Motion
>Three.) Under this motion, psychologists will be
>allowed to continue working on interrogation teams that
>are not subject to the Geneva Conventions. This motion
>places our organization on the side of the CIA and

>Department of Defense and at odds with the United
>Nations, The Red Cross, the American Psychiatric
>Association and the American Medical Association. With
>this reaffirmation we have made a terrible mistake.
>
>I know that the return of my Presidential Citation from
>Dr. Koocher will be of small import, but it is what I
>can do to disassociate myself from what I consider to
>be a heinous policy. All of my life I have tried my
>best to stand up for those with no voices and no power.
>The prisoners our government labels as enemy combatants
>are in this category.

>
>I return my citation as a matter of conscience and in
>the hopes that the APA will reconsider its current
>unethical position. We have long been a wonderful
>organization that respected human rights and promoted
>tolerance, kindness, and peace. Nothing is more
>fundamental to our core orientation and professional
>service to others than our commitment to all people's
>inherent dignity, safety and welfare. I hope my letter
>may be useful in restoring the APA to its long-
>respected and important stance as a beacon of integrity
>and kindness for all human beings.

Respectfully, Dr. Mary Pipher

>
>*The Lincoln Journal Star* has an article on Pipher's
>action: Pipher returns award in protest in which she
>explains the origins of the Letter:

>
>"A report on Monday, by "Democracy Now," a national,
>daily, independent news program heard in Lincoln on
>radio station KZUM, set Pipher in motion.

>
>The report said the American Psychological
>Association's policymaking council had voted to reject
>a resolution at its annual convention Sunday that would
>have banned members from participating in
>interrogations at Guantanamo Bay and other U.S.
>detention centers around the world often referred to as
>"black sites." In its place, the council had approved a
>resolution prohibiting psychologists from direct or
>indirect participation in 19 "unethical" interrogation
>techniques and called on the U.S. government to ban
>their use.

>
>The list includes mock executions, simulated drowning
>or suffocation, sexual humiliation, exploitation of
>phobias, exposure to extreme heat or cold and isolation
>or sleep deprivation "that represents significant pain
>or suffering, or in a manner that a reasonable person
>would judge to cause lasting harm." The resolution left
>what Pipher sees as loopholes on such techniques as
>sensory and sleep deprivation, which cause people to
>fall apart very quickly. And it stopped far short of

>banning psychologists from participating in the
>interrogations of prisoners at the military sites, she
>said.
>
>The vote upset Pipher, who has worked with victims of
>torture and has seen the lifelong harm it can inflict."
>
>It is to be hoped that other prominent psychologists
>will join Dr. Pipher and hundreds of other
>psychologists in thier efforts to restore ethics and
>integrity to the profession of psychology, and to end
>the US regime of abuse and torture of detainees.
>
>Stephen Soldz is a psychoanalyst, psychologist, public
>health researcher, and faculty member at the Boston
>Graduate School of Psychoanalysis. He is one of the
>founders of the Coalition for an Ethical APA. He
>maintains the Psyche, Science, and Society blog,
>providing extensive coverage of the issue of
>psychologist involvement in interrogations.

Religious Leaders Rally Against Torture

In late June, FCNL's Senior Fellow for Civil Liberties and Human Rights, Jeanne Herrick Stare, played a key role in organizing and briefing delegations of Catholic, Muslim, evangelical Christian, and Jewish religious leaders that lobbied Congress to abolish torture. [Read a press report](#) about the lobbying effort, which was led by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE, JUNE 26

[Victims of Torture](#)

50 Human Rights logo, **International day for Victims of Torture**, UN logo ... "This is a **day** on which we pay our respects to those who have endured the ...

www.un.org/events/torture/ - 3k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[PROHIBITION OF TORTURE 'ABSOLUTE', BINDING ON ALL STATES, IN ALL ...](#)

The **International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** is an occasion for the world to reaffirm that **torture** and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment ...

www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2004/sgsm9373.doc.htm - 8k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[[More results from www.un.org](#)]

[Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture - Type of assistance](#)

25 Years - Rebuilding lives - United Nations Voluntary Fund for **Victims of Torture** This year's observance of the **International Day in Support of Victims of ...**

www.ohchr.org/english/about/funds/torture/day.htm - 25k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture](#)

25th Anniversary of the Fund. Launch of "Rebuilding lives" 26th of June **International day in support of Victims of Torture ...**

www.ohchr.org/english/about/funds/torture/ - 18k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[International Day in Support of Victims of Torture](#)

Proposed by Denmark, the UN General Assembly in December 1997 marked the historic date - 26 June - as **International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. ...**

www.acpp.org/sevents/0626.html - 37k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[International Day in support of victims of torture](#)

IN 1997, the United Nations General Assembly decided to mark this historic date and designated 26 June each year as **International Day in Support of Victims ...**

fiacat.org/en/spip.php?rubrique21 - 13k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[International Day in Support of Victims of Torture - www.manitham.net](#)

'**International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**' Mrs. Muthu Lakshmi Veerappan in the dias - Click to enlarge the image ...

www.tamilinfoservice.com/manitham/event/2006/2.htm - 48k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

International Day in support of Victims of Torture (26 June 2006)

International Day in support of Victims of Torture (Image: Octavio Roth) On 26 June 1987 the Convention against **Torture** came into force. ...

www.hrea.org/feature-events/torture-victims-day.php - 23k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture - Amnesty ...

Amnesty **International** is a worldwide voluntary human rights movement that campaigns for the release of prisoners of conscience, fair trials for political ...

www.web.amnesty.org/mavp/av.nsf/pages/tortureday - 30k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Statement by the President

Today, on the United Nations **International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**, the United States declares its strong solidarity with **torture victims** ...

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/06/20030626-3.html - 18k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Presidential Scholar Confronts the President; Gives Bush Letter Decrying Torture

<http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/06/30/2209/>

Foster, Gregory. "America's Strategically Debilitating Torture Posture." *The Humanist* (July-Aug. 2007) 10-12.

ACLU

Anthony Romero | "Stopping the Torture Flights"

<http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/06/02/1619/>

BLOWBACK

Letter to Editor, *ADG 6-5-07*, "Torture Haunting Troops" by Frank Newman, Huntington: US soldiers captured and tortured by Iraqi insurgents are the result of the torture policy promulgated by Alberto Gonzales, and he should be impeached for it

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

--Senator Blanche Lincoln: Web Site (they have contact links): www.lincoln.senate.gov;

<http://www.lincoln.senate.gov/index.cfm>; <http://www.lincoln.senate.gov/webform.html>

Washington Office: 355 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-0404

Phone: (202) 224-4843 Fax: (202) 228-1371.

Fayetteville office: 251-1380. Lincoln's staff is better informed than Boozman's (see below), but obviously (her vote to join Bush in appropriating \$95 billion more to keep the occupation going) they need a lot of education.

Northwestern Regional Office

4 South College Avenue, Suite 205,

Google Maps puts the marker 308 feet south of Meadow Street.

Fayetteville, AR 72701
(479) 251-1224; FAX (479) 251-1410

--Senator Mark Pryor: Web Site (see contact link): www.pryor.senate.gov ;
<http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/> Pryor has no office in NWA, so call or write him and his
staff in DC: **Washington Office: 217 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C.
20510-0403. Phone: (202) 224-2353 Fax: (202) 228-0908**
Main District Office: 500 Pres. Clinton Ave., Suite 401, Little Rock, AR 72201.
Phone: (501) 324-6336 Fax: (501) 324-5320.

--Congressman John Boozman, District 3, 12 counties from Benton to Washington
Lowell office: 479-725-0400. 213 W. Monroe, Suite K, 72745. Boozman's new office in
Lowell is located at 213 West Monroe in Lowell between I 540 and Business 71. Go there,
talk to Boozman's staff members. They are all polite young people, but now, made blind
and deaf by the US Corporate/War complex, they need your peaceful explanation of
reality and values. To reach that office take Exit 78 off I - 540 and go east. You will be
on Hwy 264 which is also West Monroe. The office is in the Puppy Creek Plaza, past the
McDonald's on the right. His suite is in the back of the complex to the left. Or write or
call. **Ms. Stacey McClure** is Assistant Chief of Staff for the Lowell office.

STACEY.McCLURE@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

**DC address: 1708 Longworth House Office Bldng., Washington, DC 20515;
202-225-4301. Leslie Parker, appointments secretary: 202-225-4301.** (Or she
was, let me know if it's now someone else.)\