

Why we stand against torture

Today we represent the views and the hearts of many more tens of millions of people who know that torture is a war crime, and a crime against humanity. International and UN law both prohibit torture, under any and all circumstances, without exception.

John Yoo, a key player in the criminal enterprise of the Bush-now-Obama Regime, codified specific torture tactics used on wrongfully captured human beings, many of whom were sold to the U.S. government by bounty hunters.

Real people became victims of Yoo's misapprehension of presidential power. Yoo's rulings for the 'Justice' Department caused immeasurable suffering: thousands have been subjected to torture, tens of thousands incarcerated, tens of millions spied upon, and over 600,000 deaths have been attributed to the 2003 invasion of Iraq (Yoo argued in his legal opinion that the president was not bound by the War Crimes Act).

The Torture Memos: Giving the green light for torture

After capturing alleged high-ranking al Qaeda members, the CIA requested legal advice from the Bush administration as to what was allowable during interrogation to see how far they could go in torturing prisoners without the fear of being prosecuted. Alberto Gonzales directed the Office of Legal Council (OLC) to provide an answer. John Yoo drafted a response that was signed by his boss Jay Bybee, who was subsequently awarded a position on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The OLC *Interrogation of al Qaeda Operative* document is the first known one to utilize Yoo's definition that says physical pain "must be equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even death."

It went on to state that even if an act is "cruel, inhuman, or degrading," it does not necessarily inflict the level of pain that federal legal standards prohibit, and thus does not subject an interrogator to criminal prosecution. It further asserted that a defense of "necessity or self-defense may justify interrogation methods". In essence the memo gave the green light for the use of torture and the CIA then proceeded to use torture in its interrogations, including extensive use of waterboarding.

Join us in challenging Torture Professor John Yoo, author of the now infamous Torture Memos ... take some of the flyers we are handing out here and spread the word that if we are ever to return to a rule of law, that recognizes and protects the human rights that we value, we must hold the War Criminals in our midst accountable.

Viewing the Boalt Hall Museum of Torture

The display in front of you here itemizes 10 "techniques" approved for use. Take the time to check these out and consider what kind of mind came up with these ideas.

Let Yoo know that people of conscience insist on speaking up and speaking out, and that his crimes will be known everywhere he goes.

Let judges who accept a torturer as a colleague see orange jumpsuits everywhere they go.

And let Boalt Hall administrators know that there is a movement of people living in this country who will not allow torture judges, torture professors, torture lawyers, torture ex-presidents and vice-presidents, et al to waltz back into comfortable civilian lives as if their hands aren't covered in blood.

"A disturbing recent trend in American academia is the awarding of prestigious positions and honors to those whose conduct has been truly reprehensible," wrote Danny Colligan, Stanford Says No to War. "Most notably, the senior political officials of the previous administration have been embraced with open arms by the nation's top universities. These are the same individuals who were responsible for instituting a lawless torture regime, implementing a dragnet domestic surveillance apparatus, and starting two aggressive wars in Afghanistan and Iraq."

What you can do

If you refuse to accept the U.S. Torture State and you won't stand for torture in your name . . .

If you do not think that the lives and purported "safety" of Americans is more valuable than the lives of others . . .

If you look at the brutal destruction of lives of thousands – the detainees who've been disappeared, renditioned, tortured, and murdered – and you insist that war criminals must face justice . . .

And if you know that many Americans still do not really know or understand what the torture state has done in their names – and you're willing to go public with the truth, to resist the lies with your actions, to help open their eyes and shake their consciences awake . . .

Join us today in witness of the Torture Professor who provided the legal cover to the Bush administration for its crimes, the crimes that continue to be done in our names. The world really can't wait to stop the crimes of our government.