

Torture, Enhanced Interrogations, and the Role of Psychologists

The Hoffman Report has raised great concern and consternation in APA, and in psychology as a profession. Most prominent was that of ethical violations committed by individuals and APA in the name of policy and decisions. This summary was put together as a resource for educating students about ethics and human rights with citations of the actual report, the APA actions and resolutions, and the media coverage.

Jean Lau Chin, EdD, ABPP

Summary

The APA Council of Representatives almost unanimously passed a landmark resolution in August 2015 to prohibit psychologists from participating in national security interrogations. Why is this so important? Almost a decade ago in 2005, the APA Council approved the PENS Report permitting psychologists to work in these settings. While uniformly opposed to torture, this policy defined the term “cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” in accordance with the 1994 US definition used by the Bush administration to justify harsh interrogation techniques rather than the UN Convention Against Torture to ensure protection to everyone; it permitted psychologists to work in US military and security settings to ensure that interrogations were “safe, legal, ethical, and effective. The time was post Sept 11, 2001 when two planes hijacked by Islamic supporters were intentionally flown into the NY World Trade Center setting off a national crisis and fear of terrorism. Patriotism in the US was high to ensure the safety of all US citizens.

Following the PENS report, there followed a decade of controversy as dissident views (primarily from the Psychologists for Social Responsibility and the Coalition for an Ethical Psychology) criticized the PENS report and the APA as supporting torture while APA and its leaders maintained its position that it did not. James Risen’s book in 2014 *Pay any Price: Greed, Power, and Endless War* made this a national issue in his conclusion that APA colluded with the CIA and the Department of Defense to support torture enacted by the Bush administration. The APA Board of Directors and CEO commissioned an independent review by David Hoffman, an investigative lawyer, to do what it takes to answer these allegations. In a 522 page report together with thousands of pages of appendices, the report concluded that while APA did NOT collude with the CIA and DoD to support torture, it did collude with the DoD to curry favor to promote psychology. Many psychologists were named in the report. Specifically, the report cited that APA senior staff and leaders had violated ethical principles of *Do no Harm, did not disclose or intentionally ignored conflicts of interest, and psychologists to remain in dual roles*. It cited that some had assumed positions of *willful blindness* by not asking questions so as not to know that torture was, in fact, occurring at the detention centers of Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib. It also cited that APA had allowed the interests of the profession take precedence over its ethical principle of *Do no Harm*.

While the Hoffman Report indicates that the APA, staff and governance members, do not endorse torture, many interpret the report as articulating that while

there was not explicit support for torture, there was complicit support via collusion that enabled the Department of Defense to continue enhanced interrogations which amounted to torture.

The release of this Independent Review led to intense scrutiny, renewed criticism, self-reflection, anger and dismay among psychologists on both sides of the controversy. Some viewed APA's role as unwittingly complicit. Others viewed this as continued denial and failure to be accountable. Some sought retribution and apology; others were in disbelief and anger that information had been withheld and of the lack of transparency about the complexity of language in the PENS report which led to unwitting complicity in a policy that facilitated and enabled the DoD to engage in enhanced interrogation techniques. There was little agreement among the dissidents who had been vigilant for a decade in calling attention to these egregious behaviors vs. those who believed that APA was not supporting torture in its policy and actions. There was a divergence of opinion about what to do and what was done. While personnel decisions were made, some felt this was not enough and that APA need to clean house of its leadership, both of the board and staff. The image of the profession and APA as a helping profession with high standards of quality had been tarnished. While all agreed with the need for healing and change, some called for retribution immediately and first while others cautioned against a rush to judgment and called for a focus on transformation and change. There was clear agreement across all groups that NOONE supported torture. This led to the almost unanimous vote to approve the resolution reflecting the agreement that APA needed to reset its moral compass.

Release of the Hoffman Report led to a firestorm of media coverage. Some sensationalized and overreached the conclusions of the Hoffman Report; others aligned the conclusions with confirming APA's complicity in torture and the Bush administration policy. A few provided a balanced coverage.

At issue are several important for APA and psychologists going forward. First and foremost, APA had violated its own Ethical Code, and needs to reset its moral compass to ensure that ethics are central to its policies and actions. Second, the need for transparency, accountability, and a set of checks and balance is paramount to ensure that APA Council does exercise its fiduciary role and responsibility to its members on moral and ethical grounds in its commitment to human rights, and protection of the public. Thirdly, there had been a failure of leadership. APA favored advancing the profession of psychology (i.e., what is good for psychology) over its ethical principles of Do No Harm and maintained a "willful blindness". We need to ensure that our governance structure attends to this. Fourthly, we are now living in a global society and APA policy should be consistent with international law on human rights violations. Lastly, psychologists are human beings and subject to issues of social influence. To prevent future occurrence, how do we attend to the:

- Implicit biases held by all including the fact that the targets of these enhanced interrogation methods were all Muslim
- Counterintelligence and manipulation methods made prominent by APA's relationship with the Department of Defense
- Attitudes and feelings which may drive us to bad decisions and justifying actions inconsistent with our ethical and moral principles, e.g., fear of terrorism, anger and need for retribution, Lucifer effect of how good people can do bad things, reliving of past trauma, scapegoating.

- Avoidance and silencing of dissident views

Issues: Torture and National Security Interrogations

- National Security Interrogations at US Detention Centers raised concerns about human rights violations and torture in the early 2000s
 - Guantanamo Bay Detention Center
 - Abu Ghirab Detention Center
 - Bush policy on interrogations
 - Terrorism: 9/11 openly perpetrated by Islam (fear and anger)
 - US Patriotism (safety and protection)
- Should psychologists be present in military enhanced interrogations of detainees?
 - APA PENS report 2005: psychologists can be present to ensure that interrogations would be safe, legal, ethical and effective
 - Coalition for Humane Psychologists criticized
 - Report rescinded 2013
 - APA Resolution 2015
- APA Ethical Code
 - Do no Harm
 - Avoid Conflict of Interests
 - Avoid Dual Roles
- What is Torture?
 - Enhanced Interrogations
 - APA PENS: Safe, Legal, Ethical, Effective interrogations
 - UN definition
 - Geneva Convention on Human Rights
 - US definition was narrow
- The Hoffman Report
 - Investigative Independent Review with conclusions
 - Did APA collude with the Department of Defense and the CIA to support torture?
 - APA takes strong action in response to independent review – APA Monitor, Sept 2015
 - Media Coverage
 - Conclusions of the Hoffman Report:
 - collusion to support torture - No
 - collusion to curry favor with the Dept of Defense – Yes
 - violation of ethical code - Yes
- Issues for Psychology and Social Psychology: Social Psychology and Action

Hoffman Report raises questions for every area of social psychology

- Ethical Dilemma: Do no harm; different social cognition and perception of same situation; enhanced interrogations for the protection and good of all citizens vs. protection of single individual

- Group Conformity and Processes – Social influence
- Ethical Dilemma: Dual Roles – can psychologist serve to ensure interrogations are safe and ethical (safety monitors) while also participating to ensure that they are effective?
- Avoiding and silencing of Dissident Views
- Lucifer Effect: Can good people do bad things?
- Fundamental Attribution Error – it is the person not the situation
- Attitudes and Attitude Change - Coping: terrorism and fear; anger and retribution; remembrance of Nazi war crimes and influence on present; scapegoating;
- Human and Civil Rights violations consistent with international law
- Counterintelligence manipulation by CIA methods
- Prejudice – targets of interrogations were Muslim

Results of APA Council of Representatives Aug 2015 on policies to address psychologists' role in national security interrogations.



AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

August 14, 2015

We are resending the message to clarify that psychologists may not participate in any national security interrogations and to expand on the resolution's other provisions.

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to report on the results of the American Psychological Association's (APA) Council of Representatives' (Council) deliberations on policies to address the major findings of the **Independent Review** that was conducted by David Hoffman and his colleagues. The Hoffman **Report** was commissioned by APA's Board of Directors and found there was undisclosed coordination between some APA officials and Department of Defense psychologists that resulted in less restrictive ethical guidance for military psychologists in national security settings. The findings were extremely troubling and required action.

During our annual convention in Toronto last week, the Council voted overwhelmingly to prohibit psychologists from participating in national security interrogations. The measure passed by a vote of 157-1, with 6 abstentions and 1 recusal. The resolution:

- states that psychologists "shall not conduct, supervise, be in the presence of, or otherwise assist any national security interrogations for any military or intelligence entities, including private contractors working on their behalf, nor advise on conditions of confinement insofar as these might facilitate such an interrogation";
- redefines the term "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" (CIDTP) in the 2006 and 2013 Council resolutions in accordance with the UN Convention Against Torture (rather than with the 1994 U.S. Reservations to this treaty, which were co-opted by the Bush administration to justify harsh interrogation techniques) to ensure it provides protections to everyone, everywhere, including foreign detainees held outside of the United States;
- continues to offer APA as a supportive resource for the ethical practice of psychologists in organizational settings (including those in military and national security roles), while

recognizing that they strive to achieve and are responsible to uphold the highest levels of competence and ethics in their professional work;

- urges the U.S. government to withdraw its understandings of and reservations to the UN Convention Against Torture in keeping with the recent recommendation of the UN Committee Against Torture;
- clarifies that the UN Committee Against Torture and the UN Special Rapporteur Against Torture would serve as the authorities for determining whether certain detention settings would fall under the purview of the 2008 petition resolution as operating in violation of international law; and
- ensures that federal officials will be informed of the expanded APA human rights policy, while stipulating prohibited detention settings and requesting that psychologists at these sites be offered deployment elsewhere.

The prohibition does not apply to domestic law enforcement interrogations or domestic detention settings where detainees are under the protection of the U.S. Constitution. The policy adopted by the Council clarifies that psychologists can only provide mental health services to military personnel or work for an independent third party to protect human rights at national security detention facilities deemed by the United Nations to be in violation of international law, such as the U.N. Convention Against Torture and the Geneva Conventions.

While this new Council resolution invokes Ethical Principle A to “take care to do no harm,” it does not amend the Ethics Code and is not enforceable as a result. However, Council’s implementation plan for the new policy requests that the Ethics Committee consider a course of action to render the prohibition against national security interrogations enforceable under the Ethics Code.

The Council also voted to create a blue-ribbon panel of psychologists and non-psychologist experts to review APA’s Ethics Office and ethics policies and procedures and issue recommendations to ensure our policies are clear and aligned with the very best practices in the field. In addition, we will institute clearer conflict-of-interest policies going forward.

These positive and momentous actions by APA’s Council and Board of Directors are significant and concrete steps toward rectifying past organizational shortcomings. While we are pleased with and humbled by the steps we have taken, we must be deeply reflective about the ways in which we must continue to put front and center protecting human rights and ethically serving the public through our science, practice, education and advocacy efforts.

We are moving forward in a spirit of reform and reconciliation. We have much work ahead to change the culture of APA to be more transparent and clearly focused on human rights and our core values as psychologists. The steps we are taking are aimed at resetting our moral compass and ensuring that APA regains the trust of its members

and the public.

We hope you will be part of this change. We appreciated the opportunity to hear from the convention participants who were able to attend the town hall meeting about these matters. For those who could not attend or who were not able to speak, know that we greatly value your honest feedback and suggestions on next steps for APA as we move forward. Please send your ideas and recommendations to IRfeedback@apa.org or visit the Independent Review page on www.apa.org, where there is a section to provide feedback.

Together, we can foster change and build a stronger association.

Sincerely,



Susan McDaniel, PhD
APA President-Elect



Nadine Kaslow, PhD, ABPP
APA Past President

Members of the Special Committee for the Independent Review

Source Reports (see folder)

- Hoffman Report conclusions
 - Collusion:
 - critics maintained that American Psychological Association [colluded](#) with the CIA, the Pentagon, and the White House in support of the Bush Administration's torturous "enhanced interrogation program; report concludes they did NOT. Rather, it was: to curry favor with the Dept of Defense because its view was this would promote psychology.
 - Conflict of interest existed for some individuals named and for APA as an organization named; it was not disclosed and Intentionally ignored
 - Failure of leadership: Dilemma over conforming to ethical principles vs. advancing the profession of psychology or what is ethical vs. what is good for psychology. Some APA leaders, staff and governance members maintained a "willful blindness", i.e. they turned the other way, did not ask questions, and failed to act.
 - Definition of Do no harm: Environment of 9/12 led to a focus on us (U.S.) as potential victims needing protection vs. detainees as human beings and their right to humane interrogation
 - Changed the definition of Do no harm or ignored it in the name of national security
 - Willful insertion of "unlawful", and allowing psychologists to engage in interrogations to make it "safe, legal, ethical, and effective" gave carte blanche to continue enhanced interrogation
 - Ethical Failures
 - Failure to follow up on ethics complaints or acting in dual role
 - Acted to protect psychologists rather than the public
 - Acted on interest of psychology rather than ethical principle
 - Casebook never published
- PENS Task Force Report
 - In July 2013, APA's governing Council of Representatives adopted the "Policy Related to Psychologists' Work in National Security Settings and Reaffirmation of the APA Position Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment." This policy unifies into a single document prior APA policies dating to 1986 related to detainee welfare and interrogation. As part of the policy reconciliation process, the council also voted to rescind the 2005 Report of the APA Presidential Task Force on Psychological Ethics and National Security (PENS) and two other APA policies dated 2007 and 2008. These policies had become outdated or rendered inaccurate with the passage of subsequent policies, most notably a 2010 revision of the APA Ethics Code and the 2013 policy
 - 7. Psychologists may serve in various national security-related roles, such as a consultant to an interrogation, in a manner that is consistent with the Ethics Code, and when doing so psychologists are mindful of factors unique to these roles and contexts that require special ethical consideration
 - safe, legal, ethical, and effective

- The role of human rights standards in an ethics code. While all Task Force members felt that respect for human rights is critical, some task force members felt strongly that international standards of human rights should be built into the ethics code and others felt that the laws of the United States should be the touchstone.
- APA Council of Representatives Meeting and Resolution – Aug 2015
- APA Ethics Code
- APA Human Rights Activities – list from Gwen Keita
- Reisner and Soldz vs. APA board recommendations
 - Recommended Board Actions Related to the Report of the Independent Review Relating To APA Ethics Guidelines, National Security Interrogations And Torture
 - Tension between recommendations proposing different solutions:
 - call for punishment and retribution vs. transformation and change
 - call for punitive and repentance actions toward individuals named in report to make them accountable, i.e. apology, remove from office or governance, stripping of awards
 - call for action to prevent this in future; looking forward to change policy and practice towards ethics as central, checks and balances, transparency, accountability
 - need for healing
 - anger at how APA ignored dissident views for 10+ years vs. dismay and anger at how many were unwittingly complicit
 - Worries:
 - minimizing the extent of those involved
 - taking responsibility for what has occurred in the name of American psychology
 - moving too quickly from the hard work of looking more deeply into what these horrors really reflect about us as a profession or as a culture
 - Need for Due Process for those named in report vs. forgetting the plight of the detainees who have been tortured
 - Direct vs. indirect culpability and complicity: do we indict, condemn those who were indirectly involved and how far do we go? analogous to racism, sexism, violence
- Dissidents over the last 10 years
 - Psychologists for Social Responsibility www.psysr.org
 - Coalition for an Ethical Psychology www.ethicalpsychology.org

Media Coverage

Pre APA Resolution following release of Hoffman Report

- Psychologists Shielded U.S. Torture Program, Report Finds - http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/11/us/psychologists-shielded-us-torture-program-report-finds.html?emc=edit_na_20150710&nid=53601746&ref=cta&r=0
- U.S. Justice Department Must Investigate American Psychological Association's Role in U.S. Torture Program New Report Confirms Health Professionals Violated Core Ethics -

<http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/press/press-releases/us-justice-department-must-investigate-american-psychological-associations-role-in-us-torture-program.html?referrer=http://www.physiciansforhumanrights.org/?referrer=http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2015/07/10/us-justice-department-must-investigate-american-psychological-associations-role>

- Hoffman Report Coverage Summary: July 20, 2015
Since the New York Times broke the story on the Hoffman report on the afternoon of Friday, July 10, 2015, we have identified approximately 250 articles relating to the issue. While there was an initial flurry of activity from various major media outlets including the Washington Post, USA Today, The Guardian and The Chronicle of Higher Education we were surprised that many major media (Associated Press and Reuters among them) failed to cover the story at all. When it appeared in the Washington Post, it was relegated to page 5 of the Saturday edition.

The bulk of the coverage (over 200 articles) concerned the initial release of the Hoffman report. While there were a few stories on the personnel actions announced the following week, there was essentially little interest in the mainstream media.

It is important to note that when preparing for the media onslaught we had expected thousands of news articles. To have less than 250 at this point is a good thing. It means the mainstream media, and hence the general public don't consider this to be important (by their standards). It is of vital importance by APA standards and we can now go about doing what needs to be done to right the ship for our members without the distraction of a media circus.

Below is a sampling of some of the more high-profile media outlets and their coverage.

- [Outside Psychologists Shielded U.S. Torture Program, Report Finds - The New York Times](#)
New York Times - July 10, 2015
The 542-page report, which examines the involvement of the nation's psychologists and their largest professional organization, the American Psychological Association, with the harsh interrogation programs of the Bush era, raises repeated questions ...
- [Psychologists Who Greenlighted Torture - The New York Times](#)
New York Times - July 10, 2015
It found that top members of the American Psychological Association, the largest professional organization of psychologists, colluded with officials at the Pentagon and the C.I.A. to keep the group's ethics policies in line with tactics that ...
- [Inquiry: Psychologists group colluded with Pentagon, CIA on interrogations ...](#)
Washington Post - July 10, 2015
Leaders of the American Psychological Association secretly collaborated with officials at the Pentagon and CIA to weaken the association's ethical guidelines and allow psychologists to take part in coercive interrogation programs after the Sept. 11 ...
- [Report: Top psychologists bolstered CIA, Pentagon torture - USA Today](#)
USA TODAY - July 10, 2015
WASHINGTON — The American Psychological Association's board Friday urged a ban on psychologists participating in prisoner interrogations in the wake of a scathing report that some of its members persuaded the Defense Department to engage in harsh ...
- [Psychologists authorize CIA, DOD torture, says report. Does torture work? \(+ ...](#)
Christian Science Monitor - July 11, 2015

A new report detailing how the APA helped authorize 'enhanced interrogations' has prompted renewed questions about torture's effectiveness in intelligence-gathering.

- [Psychologists Group Apologizes For Backing Post-Sept. 11 Interrogation Tactics ...](#)
NPR - July 10, 2015
The American Psychological Association has apologized for actions that may have enabled brutal interrogation techniques used by the U.S. government after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. NPR's Jon Hamilton, who is reporting on the story for our Newscast ...
- [US psychologists linked to CIA torture - FT.com](#)
Financial Times - July 10, 2015
The leading industry association for US psychologists colluded with the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon to allow its members to take part in controversial interrogations at Guantánamo Bay and at other sites around the world, according to a ...
- [US torture doctors could face charges after report alleges post-9/11 - The ...](#)
The Guardian - July 11, 2015
For more than a decade, the American Psychological Association (APA) has maintained that a strict code of ethics prohibits its more than 130,000 members to aid in the torture of detainees while simultaneously permitting involvement in military and ...
- [Psychologists 'protected CIA torture programme' - Telegraph](#)
Telegraph.co.uk - July 11, 2015
The American Psychological Association (APA) colluded with Bush administration officials, weakening ethical guidelines, to allow psychologists to take part in enhanced interrogation techniques – including torture – after 9/11, according to a blistering ...
- [American Psychological Association helped cover up CIA torture | Daily Mail ...](#)
Daily Mail - July 11, 2015
Some of America's leading psychologists took part in and covered up the CIA's forceful interrogation techniques - including torture - in the wake of 9/11, according to a scathing internal review. The ethics director at the American Psychological ...
- [What a Bombshell Report Tells Us About the APA's Abetting of Torture ...](#)
Chronicle of Higher Education - July 13, 2015
The American Psychological Association gave psychologists involved in the often-brutal interrogation of detainees at Guantánamo Bay and elsewhere a free pass. The association tweaked its ethics code for the convenience of the U.S. military. For years ...
- [3 Leave Jobs Over Psychologists' Involvement in Terrorism Interrogations - The ...](#)
New York Times - July 14, 2015
The board of the organization, the American Psychological Association, said that three top officials, including the chief executive, Norman Anderson, were leaving the group. Another senior official was forced out last week, just before the report on ...
- [Three senior officials lose their jobs at APA after US torture scandal - The ...](#)
The Guardian - July 14, 2015
As the American Psychological Association copes with the damage reaped by an independent investigation that found it complicit in US torture, the group announced on Tuesday that its chief executive officer, its deputy CEO and its communications chief ...
- [Justice Matters: Holding People Who Torture to Account | Widney Brown](#)
Huffington Post - July 14, 2015
As a new report on the role of the American Psychological Association (APA) in justifying and defending the U.S. government's torture program provides yet more evidence of the crimes committed in the name of national security, justice remains elusive.

- [The One Email That Explains Why Three APA Officials Had to Go - Research ...](#)
Chronicle of Higher Education - July 15, 2015
The American Psychological Association announced on Tuesday that three top officials — including its chief executive officer — would leave the troubled organization. This was no surprise: After an independent investigation found that the APA had ...
- [APA overhauling policies and leadership after torture report | Science/AAAS ...](#)
Science /AAAS - July 14, 2015
After years of denying that it had given scientific and ethical legitimacy to torture by the U.S. government, the American Psychological Association (APA) last week accepted the finding of an external investigation that concluded it had done just that ...
- [Torture, American-Style: The Role of Money in Interrogations | Vanity Fair](#)
Vanity Fair - July 14, 2015
The American Psychological Association, roughly the equivalent of the American Medical Association for psychologists, played a crucial, long-hidden role in the story of American torture. James Elmer Mitchell, who created the C.I.A.'s torture program ...
- [Lessons must be learned after psychology torture inquiry : Nature News ...](#)
Nature.com - July 14, 2015
In 1917, when the field of psychology was young and struggling to gain acceptance in science, the American Psychological Association (APA) needed a friend. Like many at the time, it decided to assist the war effort by working with the US military.
- [Don't Cut Research Ties With the Military - Commentary - The ...](#)
Chronicle of Higher Education – July 17, 2015
The new, 542-page independent review commissioned by the ethics committee of the American Psychological Association has generated considerable attention ...
- [Psychology association worked with defense officials on loose interrogation ...](#)
Boston Globe - July 20, 2015
WASHINGTON — Since its founding in Worcester 123 years ago, the American Psychological Association has been the preeminent voice promoting, as it says in its mission statement, the power of psychology to “benefit society and improve people's lives.”
- Why Ethics Codes fail: Historical view of APA ethics policies.
<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/07/21/essay-why-scholarly-ethics-codes-may-be-likely-fail>
- Psychology Is In Crisis Over Role In Bush Era Torture: <http://www.buzzfeed.com/peteraldhous/psychologists-grapple-with-torture>
- Vasquez on The Hoffman Report: Resetting APA’s Moral Compass” focuses on lessons learned, and is online at: <http://melbavasquezphd.com/HoffmanReport.pdf>
- **Video interview with James Risen, NY Times Reporter before APA vote**
http://www.democracynow.org/2015/8/7/james_risen_in_sharp_break_from
- Levant apology
- Guardian story about Jean Maria Arrigo, the psychologist who stood up against the torture collusion and was derided and smeared by APA officials, including Gerald Koocher. Dr. Koocher was president-elect of APA when he took part in the PENS Task Force.
<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2015/jul/13/psychologist-torture-doctors-collusion-jean-maria-arrigo> “But the acrimony intensified after Arrigo took her concerns public at APA conventions. One of those meetings, in 2007 in San Francisco, attracted the attention of

journalist Amy Goodman, who used it for a story on her Democracy Now broadcast. In response, Koocher told Goodman in an open letter that Arrigo was improperly influenced by the supposed “suicide” of her father – a former operative for the CIA’s second world war predecessor, who was actually alive when Koocher wrote his letter – and her “troubled upbringing”.

APA Monitor: APA takes strong action in response to independent review

September 2015

Counterpunch: Colluding With Torturers

Fugitive Facts Escape from APA Headquarters

by ROY EIDELSON

“Breaking News”

According to unconfirmed reports, the American Psychological Association is frantically searching for facts that have escaped from the Association’s headquarters in Washington, DC. All of the fugitive facts apparently share one characteristic in common: they support claims that the APA colluded with the CIA and the White House in the Bush Administration’s abusive detention and interrogation operations.

Post-APA Resolution

APA News Release: APA’s Council Bans Psychologist Participation In National Security Interrogations

1. [Psychologists Approve Ban on Role in National Security Interrogations](#)

New York Times - August 7, 2015

TORONTO — The **American Psychological Association** on Friday overwhelmingly approved a new ban on any involvement by psychologists in national security interrogations conducted by the United States government, even noncoercive interrogations now ...

2. [Your Friday Evening Briefing](#)

New York Times – August 7, 2015

The **American Psychological Association** voted to bar psychologists from involvement in all national security interrogations. The move was aimed at restoring ...

3. [Friday's Mini-Report, 8.7.15](#)

MSNBC – August 7, 2015

APA: “The **American Psychological Association** on Friday overwhelmingly approved a new ban on any involvement by psychologists in national security ...

4. [Psychology Group Votes To Ban Members From Taking Part In Interrogations](#)

NPR - August 7, 2015

The **American Psychological Association** voted Friday in favor of a resolution that would bar its members from participating in national security interrogations. The resolution by the country's largest professional organization of psychologists passed ...

5. [These Six Rebel Psychologists Just Won A Long War Against Torture](#)

BuzzFeed – August 7, 2015

They were ridiculed and sidelined by the leadership of the **American Psychological Association**, which they accused of complicity in human rights abuses. When the association voted to ban psychologists from these activities on Friday, the rebels scored an improbable — and emotional — victory.

6. [Psychologists' Group Bans Participation in Some Interrogations](#)

TIME - ýAugust 7, 2015

The **American Psychological Association** barred psychologists Friday from participating in national security interrogations at sites violating international law. A panel of the group's leaders passed a resolution enacting the ban by an overwhelming 156-1 ...

7. [American Psychological Association Bans Members From Military Interrogations](#)

Chronicle of Higher Education - ýAugust 7, 2015

The **American Psychological Association** approved a resolution on Friday to bar its members from involvement in national-security interrogations, a move meant to resolve a longstanding controversy over the role of psychologists in the harsh questioning ...

8. [Psychologists vote not to participate in US torture](#)

Al Jazeera America - ýAugust 7, 2015 ý

The **American Psychological Association** (APA) voted overwhelmingly on Friday to prohibit members from participating in interrogations conducted by United States intelligence agencies at locations deemed illegal under international law. The decision ...

9. [Doctors who colluded in US torture vote to crawl 'out of the dark side'](#)

The Guardian - ýAugust 7, 2015

The largest association of psychologists in the United States voted to begin reversing its policy of collusion in torture on Friday by prohibiting members of the **American Psychological Association** from participating in the interrogation of US prisoners ...

10. [Lead the Way Out of the Interrogation Room: Will American Psychological Assoc ...](#)

Democracy Now! - ýAugust 7, 2015ý

We broadcast from Toronto, Canada, where the largest group of psychologists in the world, the **American Psychological Association**, is holding its first meeting since the release of a stunning report confirming the APA leadership actively colluded with ...

11. [James Risen: In Sharp Break from Past, APA Set to Vote on Barring ...](#)

Democracy Now! - ýAugust 7, 2015ý

We speak with Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporter James Risen, who has extensively reported on the APA's ties to the CIA and Pentagon's torture program and is in Toronto to cover the **American Psychological Association's** annual meeting.

12. [Gitmo is a "Rights-Free Zone": Dissident Psychologists Speak Out on APA Role ...](#)

Democracy Now! - ýAugust 7, 2015ý

We broadcast from Toronto, Canada, site of the annual convention of the largest group of psychologists in the world, the **American Psychological Association**. Ahead of a vote on a resolution to bar psychologists from participating in national security ...

[13. Psychologists ban interrogation role](#)

Arkansas Online - 5 hours ago

TORONTO -- The **American Psychological Association** on Friday overwhelmingly approved a ban on any involvement by psychologists in national security interrogations conducted by the U.S. government, even noncoercive interrogations that are now U.S. ...

[14. US Psychologists' Association Bans Members from Colluding in US Torture](#)

Sputnik International - 7 August 7, 2015

In what may seem like a no brainer, the **American Psychological Association** has voted to ban any member from participating in government torture programs. The decision follows a report which details the organization's role in justifying "enhanced ...

[15. Major psychological association bans cooperation with CIA following torture ...](#)

The Verge - 7 August 7, 2015

The **American Psychological Association** made a nearly unanimous decision today to bar psychologists from participating in national security interrogations, The New York Times reports. The decision was a response to an independent report that came out ...

[16. Psychology Society Bans Work With Government Interrogators](#)

Wired - 7 August 7, 2015

Today, the **American Psychological Association** voted to ban any collaboration between psychologists and national military and intelligence interrogators. The vote came in the wake of an independent report, released by the APA in July, that revealed that ...

[17. The American Psychological Association Comes Out Belatedly Against 'Enhanced ...](#)

Inverse - 7 August 7, 2015

The **American Psychological Association** has announced a ban preventing its members from participating in government interrogations. APA members were implicated in the "Hoffman Report" last week that detailed the excesses of the CIA torture program ...

[18. Psychologists To Vote On Torture Rules](#)

2paragraphs.com - 7 August 7, 2015

After seeing some of its own deeply implicated in controversial interrogation practices used by the US government, the **American Psychological Association** (APA) is voting on a policy that would prohibit its members from participating in this kind of ...

Quotes

- Psychologists on the Dark Side
- Shame, Beyond Shame, and Beyond
- APA colludes with the CIA
- What a Bombshell Report Tells Us About the APAs Abetting of Torture (Chronicle of Higher Education)

UN Declaration of Human Rights

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. Universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the forms of treaties, customary international law, general principles and other sources of international law. International human rights law lays down obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.

The international human rights movement was strengthened when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on 10 December 1948. Drafted as 'a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations', the Declaration for the first time in human history spells out basic civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all human beings should enjoy. It has over time been widely accepted as the fundamental norms of human rights that everyone should respect and protect. The UDHR, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, form the so - called [International Bill of Human Rights](#).

Human rights entail both rights and obligations. States assume obligations and duties under international law to respect, to protect and to fulfil human rights. The obligation to respect means that States must refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect requires States to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. The obligation to fulfil means that States must take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights. At the individual level, while we are entitled to our human rights, we should also respect the human rights of others.

The International Standards Organization published guidance for organizations on social responsibility in 2010 that is relevant to APA as an organization. Human rights is one aspect of the International Standards of Social Responsibility (ISO 26000).

Geneva Convention

The **Geneva Conventions** comprise four [treaties](#), and three additional [protocols](#), that establish the standards of [international law](#) for the [humanitarian](#) treatment of [war](#). The singular term *Geneva Convention* usually denotes the agreements of 1949, negotiated in the aftermath of the [Second World War](#) (1939–45), which updated the terms of the first three treaties (1864, 1906, 1929), and added a fourth. The Geneva Conventions extensively defined the basic rights of wartime prisoners ([civilians](#) and [military personnel](#)); established protections for the wounded; and established protections for the civilians in and around a war-zone. The treaties of 1949 were ratified, in whole or with [reservations](#), [by 196 countries](#).^[1] Moreover, the Geneva Convention also defines the rights and protections afforded to [non-combatants](#), yet, because the Geneva Conventions are about people in war, the articles do not address [warfare](#) proper—the use of [weapons](#) of war—which is the subject of the [Hague Conventions](#) (First Hague Conference, 1899; Second Hague Conference 1907), and the [bio-](#)

[chemical warfare Geneva Protocol](#) (Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, 1925).

Ethics Code

<http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/>

Principle A: Beneficence and Nonmaleficence (i.e., Do no harm)

Psychologists strive to benefit those with whom they work and take care to do no harm. In their professional actions, psychologists seek to safeguard the welfare and rights of those with whom they interact professionally and other affected persons and the welfare of animal subjects of research. When conflicts occur among psychologists' obligations or concerns, they attempt to resolve these conflicts in a responsible fashion that avoids or minimizes harm. Because psychologists' scientific and professional judgments and actions may affect the lives of others, they are alert to and guard against personal, financial, social, organizational or political factors that might lead to misuse of their influence. Psychologists strive to be aware of the possible effect of their own physical and mental health on their ability to help those with whom they work.

3.04 Avoiding Harm

Psychologists take reasonable steps to avoid harming their clients/patients, students, supervisees, research participants, organizational clients and others with whom they work, and to minimize harm where it is foreseeable and unavoidable.

"3.06 Conflict of Interest

Psychologists refrain from taking on a professional role when personal, scientific, professional, legal, financial, or other interests or relationships could reasonably be expected to (1) impair their objectivity, competence, or effectiveness in performing their functions as psychologists or (2) expose the person or organization with whom the professional relationship exists to harm or exploitation."

"5.01 Avoidance of False or Deceptive Statements

(a) Public statements include but are not limited to paid or unpaid advertising, product endorsements, grant applications, licensing applications, other credentialing applications, brochures, printed matter, directory listings, personal resumes or curricula vitae, or comments for use in media such as print or electronic transmission, statements in legal proceedings, lectures and public oral presentations, and published materials. Psychologists do not knowingly make public statements that are false, deceptive, or fraudulent concerning their research, practice, or other work activities or those of persons or organizations with which they are affiliated."