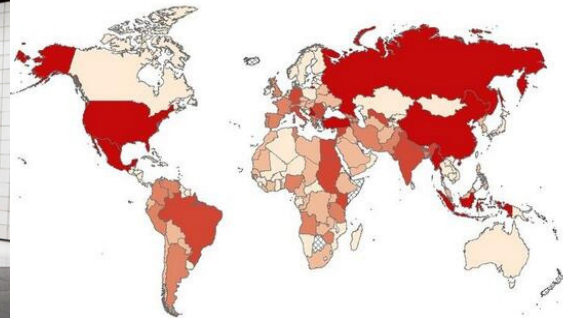
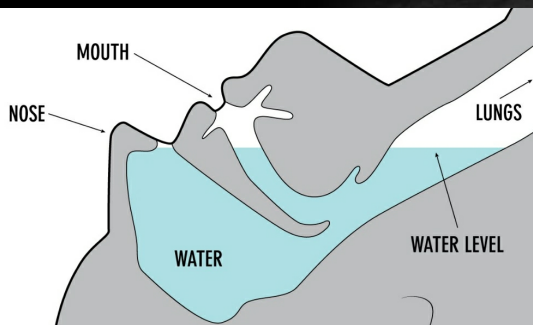


IS TORTURE EFFECTIVE?

JULIE WOHALA | APRIL 2019

DO WE TREAT TERRORISTS MORALLY? IS THERE EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT TORTURE "WORKS"? DOES IT EXTRACT INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE UNATTAINABLE OTHERWISE?



TECHNIQUES OF TORTURE

- Attention Grasp
- Facial Slap and Facial Hold
- Walling
- Cramped Confinement
- Confinement with insects
- Stress Positions
- Sleep Deprivation
- Waterboarding

COERCIVE INTERROGATION

"Coercive interrogation, involves (1) the application of force, physical or mental (2) in order to extract information (3) necessary to save others". (Posner and Vermeule, 2005)

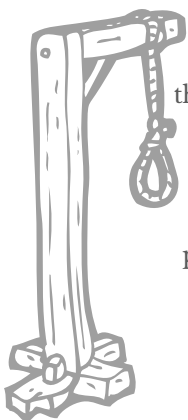
Coercive interrogation can range from the mild to the severe.

At some point of severity, it is considered a "torture," which is flatly prohibited by domestic and international law.

COUNTRIES PRACTICING TORTURE

Roughly 160 countries practice torture today, according to human rights groups and the U.S. State Department (CIRI Humans Rights Data Set). The more torture allegations a country has, the deeper red it appears.

WHO USES TORTURE?



Countries around the world use interrogation techniques that can be coercive enough to the point that some may call them torture. Despite the fact that there are international laws in place that ban this practice like the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), authoritarian nations have exercised coercive interrogation against prisoners and dissidents who oppose their policy, and as of recent, a handful of democracies including the United States have used torture against what they considered imminent threats within the last few decades.





TICKING BOMB SCENARIO

In this case, can torture be justified?

In this scenario, it is assumed that a terrorist in question has valuable information about where a bomb is located, and they have been captured.

The terrorist is unwilling to give up the necessary information to detain the bomb, which could cause the death of millions if it is not found in time.

In this scenario, would it be morally acceptable to torture the terrorist in order to extract information? Is that considered choosing the lesser evil?

The answer is no. "Torture should remain illegal and interrogators faced with the time-bomb scenario should be in the same legal position as someone who commits civil disobedience." (Shue)

IMPLICATIONS OF TORTURE

from the Senate Intelligence Committee Report

- One major problem with torture, besides that it is not significantly effective, is that it is often wrong
- The Senate report says that Mr. Saidi, one of the C.I.A.'s detainees, "was subjected to ice water baths and 66 hours of standing sleep deprivation before being released because the C.I.A. discovered he was not the person he was believed to be."
- "C.I.A. records provide insufficient information to justify the detention of many other detainees."

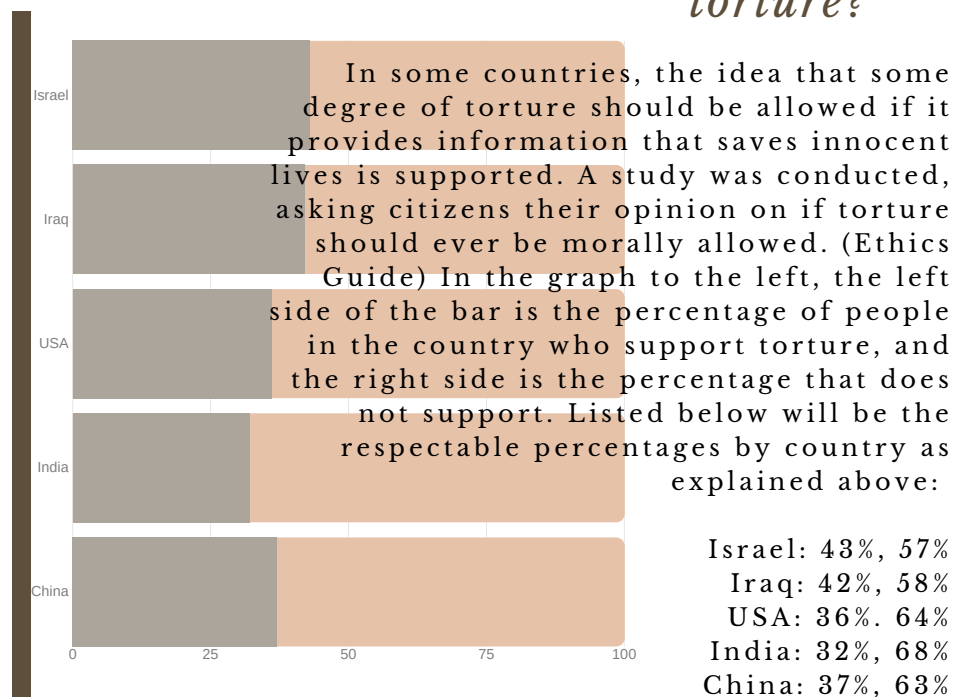
CONCERNS AND SOLUTIONS

Human rights advocates are concerned about this issue because they worry the use of torture by the United States would be legitimizing its use globally and therefore America's moral basis to speak out against establishments that abuse prisoners even more harshly would be destroyed and lack legitimacy for the future.

It is vital to create a lawful interrogation regime that enables balancing legitimate civil and political rights of the individual with the equally legitimate national security considerations of the state. Ultimately, the information received in accordance with that balancing requirement is the most accurate and reliable.

Completely outlawing any use of torture or coercive interrogation would be required if the United States wants to hold up their own moral and ethical standard in the view of the international community. (Guiora)

Who supports torture?



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