



THE CENTER FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

Bringing Human Rights Abusers To Justice.

December 10, 2014

Eric Holder
Office of the Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

The Center for Justice and Accountability calls on the Department of Justice to open a criminal investigation to determine whether charges should be filed against any official who committed or authorized torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment based on the findings contained in the Senate Select Intelligence Committee's (SSCI) study of the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) interrogation and detention practices after 9/11, the executive summary of which was published on December 9, 2014. The study confirms that the CIA engaged in torture and other serious abuses, including waterboarding, mock executions, and death threats against detainees and their family members. These abuses were far more widespread and brutal than previously known.

Additionally, the study confirms that the CIA misrepresented its actions to the public, Congress, the White House, the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense and other executive branch agencies. A thorough investigation by the Department of Justice should determine whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant criminal charges.

Truth and transparency are essential for justice. So is accountability. The SSCI's report is of deep historic importance because it provides the most exhaustive review of CIA actions to date and provides an opportunity for Americans to confront how U.S officials strayed from the legacy of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, who rejected torture as a method of war. It is now the responsibility of the Department of Justice to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to prosecute U.S. officials for these crimes.

The Center for Justice and Accountability is an international human rights organization dedicated to deterring torture by advancing litigation on behalf of victims of torture from all over the world, including from El Salvador, Cambodia, Somalia, and Bosnia. Some of our clients were subjected to the same methods of torture enumerated by the SSCI report, including waterboarding, extended solitary confinement, stress positions, and mock executions. It is critical that the United States reclaim its moral leadership by thoroughly investigating the SSCI findings of criminal conduct committed by U.S. officials.

Sincerely,

Dixon Osburn
Executive Director
The Center for Justice & Accountability