

FEINSTEIN AND LEVIN: HASSAN GHUL REVEALED ABU AHMED AL-KUWAITI'S ROLE, AND THEN WE TORTURED HIM

Dianne Feinstein and Carl Levin have released a statement that basically says Jose Rodriguez' Big Boy Pants are on fire for the lies he has told about the torture program.

The statement is interesting for two reasons. First, it gets closer and closer to saying that the torture program was successful primarily in eliciting false confessions.

Further, it's worth repeating, as discussed in the Senate Armed Services Committee's 2008 report, the SERE techniques used in the CIA's interrogation program were never intended to be used by U.S. interrogators. Rather, the techniques – which are based on Communist Chinese interrogation techniques used during the Korean War to elicit false confessions – were developed to expose U.S. soldiers to the abusive treatment they might be subjected to if captured by our enemies. An overwhelming number of experts agree, the SERE techniques are not an effective means to illicit accurate information.
[my emphasis]

It's really time for them to be as clear as their leaking aides are in saying, anonymously, that the torture program got—and was designed to get—false confessions.

Hopefully, as Jose Rodriguez' torture tour continues, they'll get over this reticence.

The statement also confirms what was described in this AP report: that the CIA detainee who provided the most important intelligence leading to Osama bin Laden—who has been reported as Hassan Ghul—did so before we tortured him.

The CIA detainee who provided the most significant information about the courier provided the information prior to being subjected to coercive interrogation techniques.

So we tortured Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and he gave up invented locations for OBL (while hiding the courier). But we got key evidence from Ghul that might have led to OBL and ... we tortured him anyway.

I wonder how many books Rodriguez is going to sell claiming that this program was effective?