

# **WHEN DID JOHN YOO START THE BYBEE MEMO?**

When did John Yoo start writing the Bybee Memo?  
In March, 2002, after Abu Zubaydah was captured?  
Or just a few months after 9/11?

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# **TORTURE TIMELINE AND IRAQ-AL QAEDA TIES**

At the same time as the Bush Administration was devising a plan to torture Abu Zubaydah, the the DIA was raising doubts about the intelligence collected by torturing Ibn Sheikh al-Libi.

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# **LIZ CHENEY: I'M PROUD MY DADDY IS THE PRIME MOVER OF TORTURE**

The biggest piece of news from this exchange?  
Liz Cheney's assertion that (only) two of the three detainees who were waterboarded (speaking of Abu Zubaydah and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed) provided valuable intelligence. Or, to put it another way, Rahin al-Nashiri did not provide valuable intelligence.

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# **IS THERE A 2003 WATERBOARDING MEMO WE'RE MISSING?**

We know the August 1, 2002 memo directly pertained to Abu Zubaydah. We know the 2005 memos were, in part, addressed to Hassan Ghul. Is there a 2003 memo addressing whether KSM could be waterboarded?

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# **THE BYBEE MEMO CAN'T BE USED FOR GOOD FAITH DEFENSE ON WATER-BOARDING**

The May 10, 2005 "Techniques" memo makes it clear that the torturers who claim the Bybee memo legalized their water-boarding of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Abu Zubaydah are wrong.

That's because the torturers didn't do what the memo authorized.

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# **THEY SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO NOOR AL- DEEN**

The same night they captured Abu Zubaydah, the US got a young associate of his, Noor al-Deen, who warned them Abu Zubaydah was not who they thought he was. But the US ignored that information and tortured Abu Zubaydah anyway.

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## **POLAND'S TORTURE PALACES**

My supposition that one reasons Dana Priest's black site article precipitated the torture tape destruction is because the tapes were dangerous to the country on whose territory the CIA tortured Abu Zubaydah led to me to read something I should have already read—the COE report on European participation in the US HVD program. This post lays out what it says about Poland.

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## **RECYCLING TORTURE TIMELINES**

Per Jeff's suggestion, I took a closer look at Zelikow's memo on how the CIA stiffed the 9/11 Commission on evidence relating to interrogations of Abu Zubaydah and al-Nashiri. I'll come back and comment on it in more detail—but I was struck by how closely the requests coincided with the beginnings of the Abu Ghraib scandal and Tenet's resignation.

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## **IN WHICH COUNTRY WERE THE TAPES STORED?**

The NYT's article has one more detail of note—again, reporting something that is

intuitive, but not something that had been confirmed before AFAIK. That's that the torture tapes were stored in the country—singular—where the interrogations of Abu Zubaydah and al-Nashiri took place.

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## THE TORTURE DEBATE

Dan Eggen and Walter Pincus have an interesting article describing the debate between CIA and FBI over whether waterboarding worked with Abu Zubaydah. If the timeline they describe is accurate, then it means that Abu Zubaydah gave up his most important intelligence before they started torturing him. As to the information he gave up under torture, the CIA and FBI dispute whether it was useful or not. The implication of the article is that the CIA may have destroyed the torture tapes to hide the fact that the water-boarding was ineffective.

The article explains that Abu