

FIVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR JIM COMEY

Colleen Rowley has a great list of questions Jim Comey should be asked today in his confirmation hearing (I'll be live-tweeting it, so follow the twitter feed over there. >>>>>>)

Here are five questions I would add:

1. The May 10, 2005 torture authorization you signed off (as well as the Combined of the same date one you objected to) on was retrospective. What were the circumstances of the treatment of this detainee? Was that detainee water-boarded, in spite of CIA claims only Abu Zubaydah, Ibn Rahim al-Nashiri, and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed were?
2. Do you believe the High Value Interrogation Group (HIG) should be authorized to use "separation," including modified sleep deprivation, to coerce confessions?
3. Do you believe it legal or advisable to delay presentment for detainees interrogated by HIG so as to set up up to two weeks of unsupervised interrogation?
4. FBI has used the Section 215

authorization – the same law used to collect every American's phone data – to collect lists of common products that on very rare occasions have been used as precursors to explosives. They could and may well have used the same authority with pressure cookers. Is collecting such a broad sweep of innocent activity in pursuit of terrorists the best way to identify them? What do you believe the appropriate use of Section 215 authority is?

5. Through the entire financial crisis, it appears the FBI did not use all the investigative tools available, including (with two or three notable exceptions) wiretaps and phone and Internet tracking, when investigating large financial institutions. This appears to be true even when, as with your former employer HSBC, the institution had clear ties to terrorists and Transnational Criminal Organizations. What tools do you believe appropriate to investigate large financial institutions and do you plan

to change the approach to
investigating financial
crime?