

THE TORTURE MEMOS AND THE FBI-CIA DISPUTE

David Johnston wrote an article shortly after Bush brought the High Value Detainees to Gitmo. It helps elucidate a lot of the details we're seeing in the torture memos. And the torture memos serve to explain why the FBI-CIA dispute he portrayed took the form it did.

KHALID SHEIKH MOHAMMED WAS WATERBOARDED 183 TIMES IN ONE MONTH

According to one of the OLC memos, KSM was waterboarded 183 times in one month.

THE CIA IG REPORT AND THE BRADBURY MEMOS

One of the most troubling aspects of the Bradbury memos is the way they admit the CIA program had not been safe—particularly with respect to the way waterboarding and sleep-deprivation had been practiced—even while declaring those programs legal.

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.

THE OLC MEMOS, "ERRONEOUS AND INFLAMMATORY ASSUMPTIONS," AND JOHN RIZZO'S LIES

Obama says the OLC memos will correct our "erroneous and inflammatory assumptions" about detainee treatment. On the contrary, the memos make it clear the degree to which John Rizzo was lying to OLC lawyers about detainee treatment.

THE TORTURE MEMOS

ACLU has them posted:

August 1, 2002 John Yoo memo

First May 10, 2005 Steven Bradbury memo

Second May 10, 2005 Steven Bradbury memo

May 30, 2005 Steven Bradbury memo

And while you're over at ACLU, consider showing them some love for all their great work prying these out of the government.

Consider this a working thread.

OBAMA ON THE OLC MEMO RELEASE

My thoughts on Obama's statement on the release of the torture memos.

IT'S NOT THE WATER- BOARDING, IT'S THE BLOWS TO THE HEAD

The CIA doesn't want the Bradbury OLC memos made public. Given the details of the ICRC report, it's clear that it's not because its news. Rather, if the OLC memos are made public, it'll make it clear Bradbury gave legal cover for these actions even after they had already done physical and mental damage with them.

PANETTA:

CONTRACTORS NOT ALLOWED TO INTERROGATE (ANYMORE)

Leon Panetta just reassured Congress that contractors will no longer be used for interrogations.

DOUBLE-DIPPING AT GITMO?

The ICRC reveals that four high value detainees may have been hidden at Gitmo around the time the Abu Ghraib scandal broke.