

Teaching about Torture: A Few Key Facts Answer Key

1. **FALSE.** 132 countries, close to two-thirds, practice torture.
William Schulz, *What Torture Has Taught Me*. UU World, Winter 2006.
2. **TRUE.** In fact many immigrants came to the U.S. to escape torture and oppressive regimes. However, the CIA operates almost exclusively outside our borders and has escaped the moral and legal confines of the constitution in utilizing torture.
Jennifer K. Harbury, *Truth, Torture, and the American Way*, p.108.
3. **FALSE.** Alfred W. McCoy documents how CIA torture methods have developed inside the U.S. intelligence community over the past half century including extensive funding for university research on psychological interrogation methods.
A Question of Torture: CIA Interrogation, from the Cold War to the War on Terror, 2006.
4. **TRUE.** See documentation in *The Prison Inside the Prison: Control Units, Supermax Prisons, and Devices of Torture*, R. Kamel and B. Kerness, American Friends Service Committee, 2003.
See also, H. Bruce Franklin, *The American Prison and the Normalization of Torture in Torture, American Style, American Historians Against War*, 2006.
5. **TRUE.** McCoy, p. 118 ff. Also, John McCain, "...mistreatment of prisoners is not productive...You don't get information that's usable from people under torture, because they tell you what you want to hear." Quoted in *The Torture Debate in America*, p. 253.
6. **FALSE.** Recent research - reported in the Archives of General Psychiatry by Metin Bosoglu at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, London, found that humiliating treatment, verbal abuse, isolation, threats against family etc. produce the same long-term mental trauma as physical torture.
7. **TRUE.** In fact there has been frequent conflict between the CIA's use of extralegal methods and the FBI's insistence on methods using effective non-coercive questioning. McCoy, p.118; 196.
8. **FALSE.** Over 400,000 torture survivors from around the world currently live in the U.S. Karen Hansom, Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma.
9. **TRUE.** The film "*Hidden in Plain Sight*" documents the abuses by soldiers trained by at the school as well as the annual protest against the school by about 20,000 thousand U.S. citizens annually. See also Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, *School of the Assassins: Guns, Greed, and Globalization*, 2001.
10. **FALSE.** A number of U.S. documents have exonerated potential torturers. See for example, self-defense argument of Assistant Attorney General Jay S. Bybee: "If a government defendant were to harm an enemy combatant during an interrogation...he would be doing so in order to prevent further attacks on the United States by the al Qaeda terrorist network. *The Terrorist Debate in America*, p. 357.

11. **TRUE.** In fact the Red Cross visits found that between 2002 and 2004 the psychological techniques had grown "more refined and repressive" involving 'humiliating acts, solitary confinement, temperature extremes and use of forced positions." McCoy, p 156-7.
12. **FALSE.** (Trick question!) The pentagon estimated that up to 90% were not guilty.
13. **TRUE.** However, the United States has refused to join the court, fearing prosecutions of its soldiers and political officials including 350,000 U.S. troops in 130 countries. *Great Decisions* 2007 edition, Foreign Policy Association, p.67.
14. **TRUE.** But the 2006 Military Commissions Act virtually authorizes the tribunals the Court had outlawed several months earlier. There is pressure on both the courts and on congress to invalidate the act. *Great Decisions* p. 73.
15. **TRUE.** In addition two-thirds of Marines and half the Army troops surveyed said they would not report a team member for mistreating a civilian. Less than half believed that non-combatants should be treated with dignity and respect. About 10 percents reported that they had mistreated civilians in Iraq. Thomas E. Ricks and Ann Scott Tyson, *The Washington Post*, May 5, 2007.
16. **FALSE.** According to Jane Mayer, *New Yorker*, February 19, 2007, West Point Dean Dan Patrick Finnigan (accompanied by former interrogator and current anti-torture activist Tony Lagouranis) told the show's producers that "24" undermines the West Point curriculum that teaches torture is illegal and furthermore, doesn't work.
17. **TRUE.** In spite of codes of ethics by the American Medical Association and other professional groups, U.S. medical personnel collaborate with torturers by monitoring and treating persons during interrogations, concealing evidence of abuse, and keeping silent as their imprisoned patients are abused. Steven H. Miles, *Oath Betrayed: Torture, Medical Complicity, and the War on Terror*, reported in *Tikkun*, May/June, 2007, p.40ff.