

# What About a TICKING BOMB????

1. "The 'ticking bomb' argument for torture, however, is itself a red herring. First, torture rarely leads to accurate information. Second, torture generates enormous resentment among victims and their communities – resentment that may prompt the planting of far more bombs and hence the killing of far more people than might be saved in the first place. And third, as we have seen at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo, once a government sanctions torture, the slope into what even the heartiest advocates of torture would find morally reprehensible is a fast and slippery one. Once torture is sanctioned, there are no clear limits to its application..."

*"What Torture Has Taught Me,"* William F. Schulz, UU World, Winter, 2006, p.31.

2. "...the disinformation to be given during the first period of torture would doubtless have been planned and agreed upon far in advance of any activities...." "...it would be known within an hour or less that the operative was missing. With the first missed check-in, the explosive would be moved, all apartments or places of operation abandoned, all files destroyed or relocated, and all participants rushed out of the city."

Truth, Torture, and the American Way. Jennifer Harbury. p. 165.

3. "In the real world, the probability that one terrorist would be captured, in possession of key information about a nuclear bomb in Times Square, is so slender that the scenario seems an improbable foundation for law, diplomacy, and national security."

This fanciful scenario assumes an impossible, cluster of variables:

- a) The FBI or CIA captures a terrorist.
- b) The capture takes place at the precise moment between plot's launch and bomb's burst.
- c) Interrogators have sufficiently detailed knowledge of the plot to know they must interrogate this very person and do it now, right now.
- d) These same officers who have sufficient intelligence to know all about this specific terrorist and his ticking bomb are, for some unexplained reason, missing just a few critical details that only torture can divulge.

A Question of Torture: CIA Interrogation, from the Cold War to the War on Terror. Alfred W. McCoy, p. 192.

4. "Any polity that endorses torture has incorporated into its own DNA a totalitarian mutation. If the point of the U.S. Constitution is the preservation of liberty, the formal incorporation into U.S. law of the state's right to torture...would effectively end the American experiment of a political society based on inalienable human freedom protected not by the good graces of the executive, but by the rule of law."

*"The Abolition of Torture,"* Andrew Sullivan in Torture: A Collection, p.320.