

American Psychological Association Policies and Actions Related to Detainee Welfare and Professional Ethics in the Context of Interrogation and National Security

SUMMARY OF APA POLICY

NEW

[Summary of APA policy on psychologists' involvement in national security interrogations](#)

The American Psychological Association's (APA) position on torture is clear and unequivocal: Any direct or indirect participation in any act of torture or other forms of cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment or punishment by psychologists is strictly prohibited. There are no exceptions. Such acts as waterboarding, sexual humiliation, stress positions and exploitation of phobias are clear violations of APA's no torture/no abuse policy.

NEW

[More information on APA's policies and actions to implement Council resolutions against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment](#)

APPROVED APA COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

[Amendment to the Reaffirmation of the American Psychological Association Position Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Its Application to Individuals Defined in the United States Code as "Enemy Combatants"](#) (February 22, 2008)

[Reaffirmation of the American Psychological Association Position Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Its Application to Individuals Defined in the United States Code as "Enemy Combatants"](#) (Adopted August 19, 2007)

[Resolution against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#) (Adopted August 9, 2006)

[1986 Council resolution supporting the U.N. Declaration and](#)

[Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#)

PRESS RELEASES

NEW

[APA statement on interrogation](#) (August 16, 2008)

[American Psychological Association calls on U.S. government to prohibit the use of unethical interrogation techniques](#) (August 20, 2007)

[American Psychological Association Reaffirms Unequivocal Position against Torture and Abuse](#) (August 10, 2006)

[Report of the APA Presidential Task Force on Psychological Ethics and National Security](#) (July 5, 2005)

LETTERS

NEW

[APA Response to Stephen Soldz in the *Boston Globe*](#) (August 17, 2008)

NEW

[APA response to Ken Pope and Tim Gutheil in the *Psychiatric Times*](#) (July 29, 2008)

[Letter from APA in response to online *Mother Jones* article “The Enablers”](#) (March 4, 2008)

[APA calls on U.S. government to ban waterboarding and other abusive interrogation techniques](#) (November 1, 2007)

[Letter from 2007 APA President Sharon Stephens Brehm, PhD, in response to *Washington Monthly* article](#)  (January 9, 2007)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[Frequently asked questions regarding APA's policies and positions on the use of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during interrogations](#)


MONITOR ARTICLES

[President's Column: Varied and valued roles](#) (July/August 2006)

[Ethics and interrogations: Comparing and contrasting the American Psychological, American Medical and American Psychiatric Association positions](#) (July/August 2006)

[Ethics and National Security](#) (April 2006)

TASK FORCE REPORT

[Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Psychological Ethics and National Security](#) 
(June 2005)

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