

The Senate Report on CIA Torture

This week, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence will release a declassified 500-plus-page executive summary of its long-awaited report on the CIA's interrogation and detention program in the years after September 11.

Here are some basic facts about the report:

- This is the first independent assessment of the CIA's interrogation and detention program and its claims of success based on the actual classified records of the CIA.
- The review has been hailed as among the most important oversight reviews in the history of the Senate.
- The SSCI staff reportedly reviewed more than 6 million pages of documents. The report itself is approximately 6,700 pages long with over 38,000 footnotes citing CIA documents.
- There have been three bipartisan votes to create, approve, and declassify the report. In 2009, the committee voted 14 to 1 to begin the investigation. In 2012, the committee voted 9 to 6 to approve the report. In 2014, the committee voted 11 to 3 to declassify the report's executive summary.
- In 2012, Senator John McCain wrote that, "[T]orture of the kind described in this report is unworthy of our national honor and should no longer be a matter for discussion."
- Earlier this year, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the SSCI chairman, has said the report shows that CIA abuse of detainees was "chilling" and "far more systematic and widespread than we thought."
- According to past and recent news reports, the Senate report on CIA torture proves that the CIA repeatedly misled the Justice Department, the White House, and the Congress about the program, making false claims about its scope, nature, successes, and necessity.
- The report also concludes that no significant intelligence was obtained through torture that was not already available to the intelligence community through other sources.
- In voting to release the Executive Summary to the public, Republican Senator Susan Collins and Independent Senator Angus King wrote jointly that CIA actions "constituted torture" and that, "[We] must make sure that the misconduct and the grave errors made in the CIA's detention and interrogation program never happen again."
- According to Sen. Feinstein, the CIA's own internal review (the "Panetta Review") confirms many of the conclusions of the Senate Torture Report.
- The Senate Report on CIA Torture shows that the CIA used torture and other brutal interrogation techniques and demonstrates why this must never be allowed to happen again.

