

Justice Department Investigation: Is Golf Torture?

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While health care has dominated headlines in recent months, the debate on interrogation practices among the CIA was reignited last week when a heavily redacted 2002 Department of Defense memo (below) was released by the Obama administration.

TOP SECRET



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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301

MEMO: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] enhanced interrogation technique

[REDACTED] golf

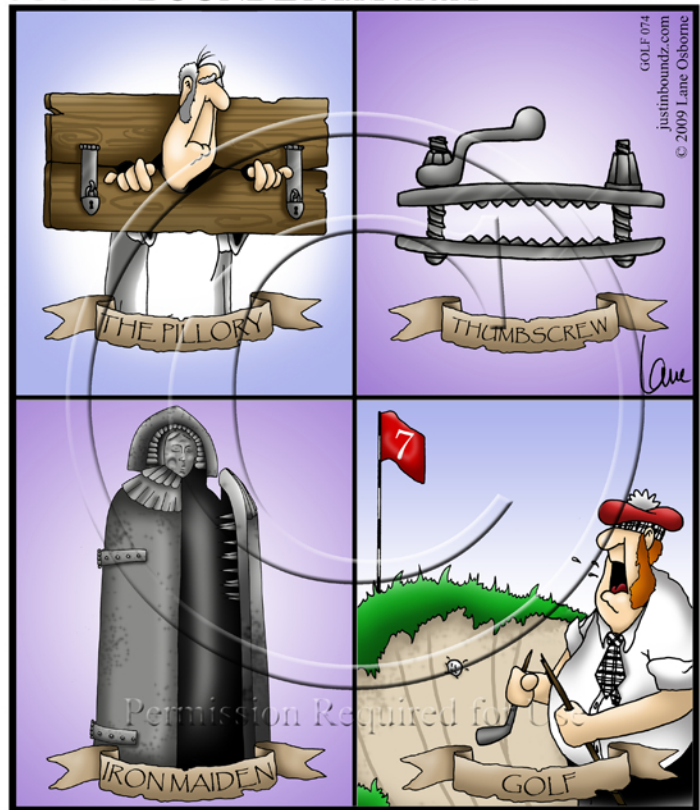
A full scale investigation by the Justice Department seeks to determine to what extent golf was used in the interrogation of detainees. Officials have conceded that golf was indeed sanctioned by the Bush administration and used by the CIA, but would not go so far as to qualify it as torture.

While the Geneva Conventions, which were created to establish the standards in international law for the humanitarian treatment of victims of war, does not specifically cite golf as torture, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), has already made their position clear on the matter.

"We are finally beginning to learn the full scope of the Bush administration's torture program," said an ACLU spokesperson. "Government documents show that hundreds of prisoners were tortured in the custody of the CIA and Department of Defense, some even subjected to the game of golf."

The Bush Administration defended the use, claiming that Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the chief conspirator in the September 11, 2001 attacks, would never have talked were it not for the game of golf. "We tried waterboarding, but he [Mohammed] treated it like it was a day at the pool," said one former intelligence official. "But it only took nine holes of golf to finally break him and get him to talk." However, that official admitted that not all of the intel was "accurate or reliable."

Many feel that President Obama has reneged on a campaign promise in not issuing an executive revocation of the use of techniques like golf in interrogations. He defends the practice in the same manner as his predecessor. "I fundamentally do not believe that golf is torture," said Obama. "Millions of people willing play the game of golf each day. I love the game of golf," Obama confessed as he concluded, "It's bowling that's torturous."



Torture throughout the ages.

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