



## The Center for Victims of Torture Army Field Manual as Interrogation Standard

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**The US must establish the Army Field Manual for Interrogations (FM 2-22.3) as the minimum standard of treatment for all detainees during interrogations conducted by U.S. personnel, including the CIA and contractors. The manual acknowledges that torture is an ineffective means to garner reliable, accurate information, and makes interrogation methods transparent.**

**BACKGROUND** A revised Army Field Manual for Interrogations (“Human Intelligence Collector Operations”) was released in September 2006 to replace a 1992 version. It prohibits cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment as defined by the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005, and states “all treatment of detainees must be consistent with the Geneva Conventions.” The manual goes on to say that “information obtained by these prohibited means is of questionable value” and that the use of torture discredits the US and its armed forces, and undermines domestic and international support for the war.

### ANALYSIS

#### **Torture does not yield reliable information.**

Nearly every torture survivor at the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), when subjected to torture, confessed to a crime they did not commit, gave up extraneous information, or supplied names of the innocent to their torturers. It is a source of great shame for them, who tell us they would have said anything to stop the pain. Such extraneous information distracts, rather than supports, valid investigations.

#### **Military interrogators know that torture does not work.**

Military interrogators know torture produces false information and wastes valuable resources. A [report commissioned by the Intelligence Science Board](#)<sup>1</sup> concludes that painful and coercive interrogation techniques hinder the ability to get solid, factual information. Coercive techniques have been abandoned by the military because evidence suggests that intelligence successes are a result of the verbal acumen of our field interrogators, not the use of torture.

#### **Torture is not used only against the guilty.**

The torture survivors CVT serves are living testimony that once used, torture becomes a fishing expedition to find information. It perverts the system which, seeking shortcuts to the hard work of investigation, relies increasingly on torture. Whenever a democratic government has allowed torture for rare instances, torture has become widespread and routine.

### SUMMATION

- **Criminalize** the use of abusive interrogation techniques by military personnel and CIA interrogators;
- **Prohibit** the use of all evidence obtained through techniques that run afoul of the Army Field Manual for Interrogations.

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<sup>1</sup> Educating Information: Interrogation: Science and Art—Foundations for the Future, Intelligence Science Board. December 2006. Accessed July 31, 2007 at: <http://www.fas.org/irp/dni/educing.pdf>.