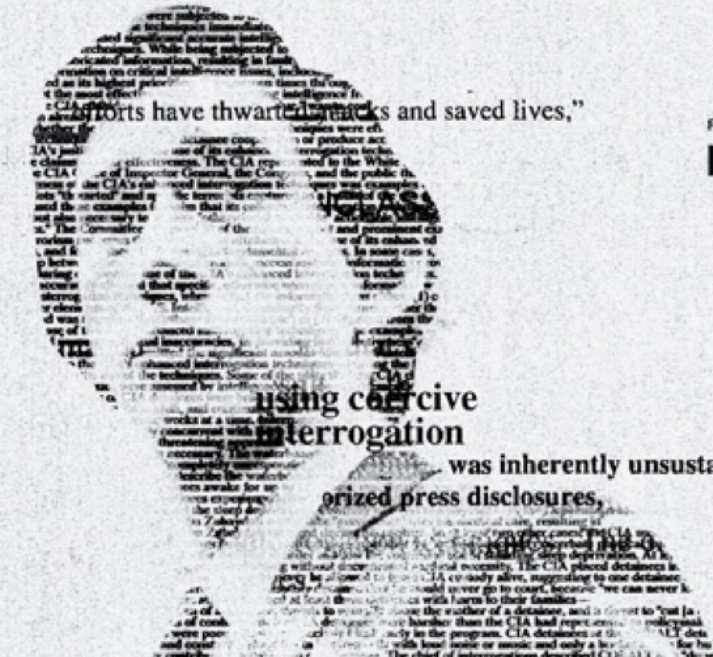




FROM PRODUCER STEVEN SODERBERGH WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SCOTT Z. BURNS

ADAM DRIVER ANNETTE BENING AND JON HAMM

AMAZON ORIGINAL THE REPORT

TRUTH MATTERS

IN SELECT THEATERS **NOVEMBER 15**
COMING SOON | prime video

TOOLKIT FOR CONGREGATIONAL SCREENINGS

Prepared by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture

We invite your faith community or community group to organize a screening of *The Report* and invite attendees to take action in support of making the Senate's full Torture Report public.

TOOLKIT CONTENTS:

- **Pages 1-2:** Synopsis of the film, how to view the film and next steps
- **Page 3:** Discussion questions
- **Pages 4-6:** Background information which can be printed and used as a handout

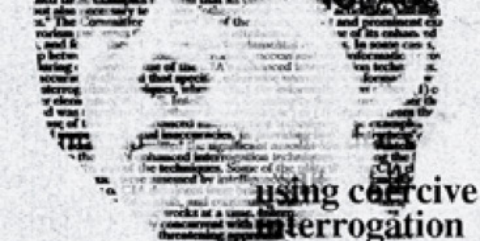
For more information or to request additional resources, please contact NRCAT's Program Associate Kristin Schol at 202-853-9012 or kschol@nrcat.org.

Synopsis of *The Report*

Senate staffer Daniel Jones is assigned the daunting task of leading an investigation into the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program. After analyzing extensive evidence, he learns about the "enhanced interrogation techniques"—proven to be brutal, immoral, and ineffective—that the CIA adopted after 9/11. When Jones and the Senate Intelligence Committee attempt to release the results from his investigation, however, the CIA and White House go to great lengths to prevent the truth from getting out.¹

This film is for anyone who wants to understand the CIA's torture program or its extensive efforts to cover up the truth about the program (that torture failed to produce useful information). *The Report* is also ideal for fans of political dramas. While the film is not a documentary, the facts about both the program and the cover up are accurate and are probably the best way to learn about the issue short of reading the full 500 page summary of the Senate Intelligence Committee Torture Report that the characters in the film fight to make public.

¹ <https://www.sundance.org/projects/the-report>



How you can see the film

The Report will come out in theaters in a limited number of cities during the weeks of November 15 and November 22. It will be available to stream on Amazon Prime beginning on November 29.

If you do not have Amazon Prime, you will be able to buy the film and stream it to your computer or TV (with the relevant equipment for streaming to TV).

WARNING: *The Report* contains graphic portrayals of torture. While the acts depicted are accurate representations of torture used by the CIA, the material presented may be disturbing to some viewers.

Organizing screenings

Getting people to see *The Report* is the single most important thing any of us can do to show people just how brutal, ineffective, and fundamentally wrong torture is. *The Report* dispels the myth that torture “worked” and its depiction of torture gives the lie to pop culture portrayal of torture as “heroic.” Please help us ensure that as many people as possible see the film by organizing a screening for your faith community, for a group of friends, or for another group.

From November 29 on, Amazon will make the film available for streaming to Amazon Prime customers and to people who pay to buy the film. It will also be possible to download the film to play later if your venue does not have internet.

Please let us know if you’d like to organize a screening: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TheReportMovie>

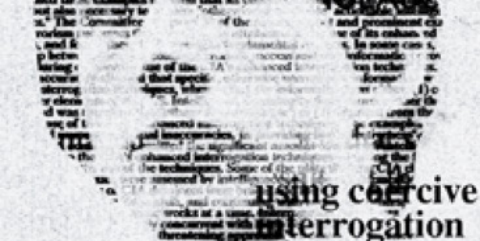
Also, NRCAT can cover the cost of streaming the film. For more information, contact NRCAT’s Program Associate Kristin Schol at 202-853-9012 or kschol@nrcat.org.

What to do after watching *The Report*

After watching the film at your screening, people may want to get involved. We have several options, arranged from easiest to hardest (but particularly impactful):

1. **Sign our petition** calling for the government to make the full Torture Report public (500 pages of the Report have been made public, but the large majority of the Report - 5,500 pages of it – remain classified).
2. **Share on social media.** We have sample posts you can customize.
3. **Send a page of the Torture Report** to your Members of Congress. Let them know that they should reveal the whole truth about this brutal program.
4. **Write an op-ed or blog post** about the CIA’s torture program. Please let us know you’d be willing to participate and we will send you talking points to help you draft the text.

For more details, please visit:
www.nrcat.org/TheReportMovie



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

You can use these questions as part of a two and a half hour educational event with the film (118 minutes), discussion (20 minutes) and opportunity for people to take action by signing a petition or writing to their Members of Congress (10 minutes).

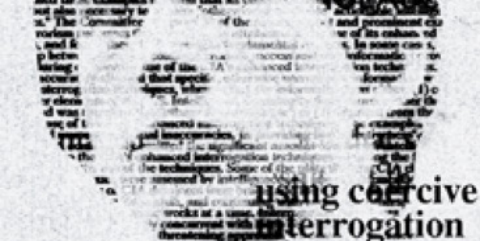
You can also use these questions in a one-time event or already formed film discussion group where people watch the film independently and then gather for discussion. Depending on the size of the group, you may want to have the participants discuss one or more of these questions in pairs or threes, rather than as a large group.

1. The attacks of 9/11 are still the defining moment of this century for many in the U.S. and the world. After seeing the film, what would you say to someone who believes the use of torture by the U.S. government was justified?
2. Senate staffer Dan Jones, who led the investigation of the Senate Intelligence Committee, showed incredible faith that justice would be served. When did that help him and when did that let him down? What does that say about your own faith that we can make things better?
3. The torture scenes in The Report are accurate, and sickening. Nearly every religious tradition has spoken forcefully that torture is a sin against God and humanity, and in this movie you see why. Why is torture so widespread? How do we stop it?
4. Politicians throw terms around like “waterboarding our enemies” with little thought to what it really looks like. Now you’ve seen it in the movie. What does your faith tradition teach about engaging your “enemies” and how does that match with that the U.S. did in this film.
5. Dr. David Gushee, Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer University, has said:

“Issues can simultaneously be policy issues, security issues, military issues, and moral issues. And I join the many others in this country that believe that it’s all of that, that torture is a moral issue. And it violates principles of basic justice and humanity. From a deeper religious perspective, or Christian perspective, it’s the most unloving thing you can do to a person. It’s hateful and contemptuous and therefore contemptible.”

Torture is most often discussed as a security issue, but Dr. Gushee argues that it is a moral issue on which faith should be brought to bear. What do you think about his statement in the context of your own faith commitments?

6. Though the role of the faith community was not explored in the film, we know people of faith were advocating all along supporting the development and release of the U.S. Senate’s Torture Report. What are some of the moral points of view or issues that came out in the film that can be used by faith advocates now in your own advocacy for ending torture?

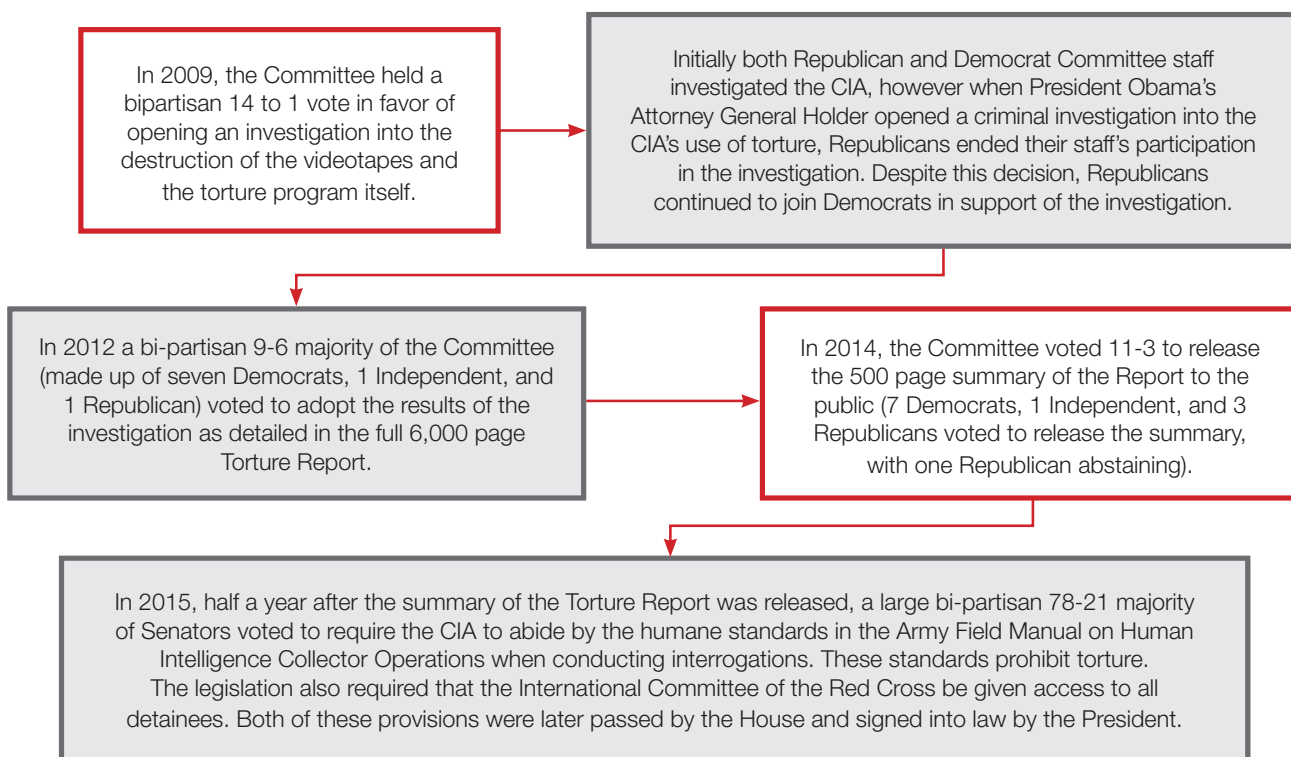


THE TORTURE REPORT

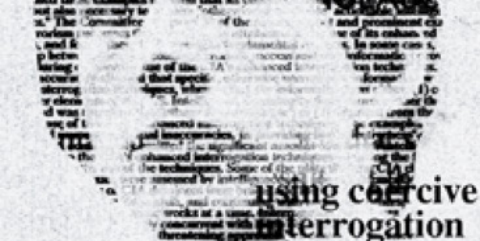
The story behind the film

The Report is named after the Torture Report – a 6,000 page report on the Senate Intelligence Committee’s investigation into the CIA’s torture program. At the end of the film, the Senate Intelligence Committee, led by Senator Feinstein, releases a 500 page summary of this longer report. The full 6,000 page Torture Report is still classified.

The Senate Intelligence Committee investigation was prompted by revelations that the CIA’s Director of the National Clandestine Service, Jose Rodriguez, and his top deputy, Gina Haspel, had ordered the destruction of videotapes the CIA had recorded of its torture sessions. The order to destroy the tapes went against specific instructions from the Bush White House, violated a federal court order, and was opposed by Members of Congress.



The summary of the Torture Report described acts of torture including waterboarding to the point of inducing convulsion and vomiting, as well as medically unnecessary rectal feedings. One detainee was chained, partly unclothed, to a concrete floor and left to die of hypothermia. Others were stripped, hooded, bound with Mylar tape, and dragged through corridors while being slapped and punched.



The CIA placed detainees in ice water “baths” to induce hypothermia and threatened to sexually abuse or otherwise harm the family members of detainees. The CIA also imprisoned an intellectually challenged family member of a detainee solely for the purpose of forcing the detainee to provide information and used his taped crying in an attempt to do so.

The summary also shows that torture failed to produce intelligence or produced false information. In a public response, former CIA Director Brennan himself admitted that the CIA did not know whether torture had produced any useful intelligence. Further, the Report shows that the CIA repeatedly misled Congress, the Administration, and the Department of Justice about the extent, severity, and outcomes of the torture program. The CIA publicly disputed the conclusions of the Report, however, Senate Intelligence Committee staff discovered an internal CIA memo describing the results of the CIA’s own review of the program—the “Panetta Review”—that corroborated the conclusions in the Report.

Role of the faith community in opposing torture

People of faith have been leaders in the fight to end torture. The National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) was founded in 2006 by leaders of the American faith community who were horrified by the Abu Ghraib photos and other evidence of torture committed during the Bush Administration. In 2007 NRCAT, in partnership with the Center for Victims of Torture, drafted principles for an executive order that would immediately end the torture program. Thanks in part to significant public support from the faith community—reflected in over 300 hundred anti-torture banners hung outside of churches and temples and other places of worship across the country—President Obama issued that order on the second full day of his presidency.



The faith community led the call for a congressional investigation of U.S. torture, and, when it appeared that the Senate Intelligence Committee might not release the results of its investigation, people of faith held vigils, organized rallies, signed petitions, and published op-eds calling for the results to be made public in newspapers in every state in the Union.

Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Sikh, Muslim, Buddhist, and people of many other faiths fought together to pass legislation banning the CIA from ever again re-starting its torture program. Senator McCain read portions of letters from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Association of Evangelicals in support of the legislation on the Senate floor in order to build bi-partisan support for legislating against CIA torture.



Today, thanks to the leadership of the American faith community and others who oppose torture, torture of the sort that occurred in the past is clearly prohibited by U.S. law, and the CIA has turned most of its role in interrogations over to the FBI and the military.

Americans of faith must continue to lead in calling for release of the full 6,000 page Senate Intelligence Committee Torture Report (not just the 500 page summary) and demanding that our government quit promoting those responsible for torture. Further, the prison at Guantanamo Bay should be closed and the people there should no longer be imprisoned without trial.

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Against Torture