



# BLOG OF RIGHTS

BECAUSE FREEDOM CAN'T BLOG ITSELF

[RSS 2.0 feed](#)  
[ATOM 1.0 feed](#)

« [Sentencing Children to Die in Prison](#)  
[Florida Law Punishes Poor People for Being Poor](#) »

May 18th, 2011



Posted by [Josh Bell, ACLU](#) at 5:09pm

TORTURE

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

CRIMINAL LAW REFORM

FREE SPEECH

HIV / AIDS

HUMAN RIGHTS

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

LGBT RIGHTS

NATIONAL SECURITY

PRISONERS' RIGHTS

RACIAL JUSTICE

RELIGION & BELIEF

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

TECHNOLOGY AND LIBERTY

VOTING RIGHTS

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- [Military Commissions Act](#)
- [ACLU v. NSA: The Challenge to Illegal Spying](#)
- [Torture: Seeking Truth & Accountability](#)

## THE CIA WEIGHS IN: TORTURE DID NOT HELP FIND BIN LADEN

Since the killing of Osama bin Laden, there has much debate over whether the of detainees in U.S. custody helped American intelligence find the terror leader would be hard to find a better authority on where the truth lies than CIA Director Leon Panetta. Now the *Washington Post's* Greg Sargent has [released part of a](#) from Panetta to torture opponent Sen. John McCain — and the contents leave no doubt that torture played no role in locating the courier who eventually led to bin Laden. Panetta wrote:

In the end, no detainee in CIA custody revealed the facilitator/courier's full true name or specific whereabouts. This information was discovered through other intelligence means.

The most high-profile back-and-forth over the issue has been between Sen. McCain and former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, who has been doing some [backpeddling](#) on his [initial claim](#) that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed put U.S. intel on the courier's trail after being waterboarded. Sen. McCain wrote in a [Washington Post op-ed last week](#) about how torture does not work because it only gets victims to say *something* — not necessarily the truth.

That point is backed up by former military interrogators such as Matthew Alex who helped track down al-Qaeda in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Alex wrote [the Huffington Post last week](#):

I think that without a doubt, torture and enhanced interrogation techniques slowed down the hunt for bin Laden... they gave us the bare minimum amount of information they could get away with to get the pain to stop, or to mislead us.

Torture supporters like former senator and current presidential candidate Rick Santorum (who made some [ludicrous statements](#) Tuesday about Sen. McCain's argument) have argued that lies from detainees helped in the bin Laden hunt but

- [Women's Health and Reproductive Freedom](#)
- [Latest Supreme Court News](#)

Join Us At:



it showed that they were protecting important information. But of course, the s holds true whether the prisoners were tortured or not.

It's not surprising that the proponents of torture would try to use the killing of Laden to support these illegal methods — unfortunately for them, their argume torture works is false. But even if some shred of evidence were gained through it would prove nothing, because the same or better information could have bee obtained humanely. What we can do now is [hold those responsible for this cou use of torture accountable](#).

*Learn more about torture: [Subscribe to our newsletter](#), [follow us on Twitter](#), [us on Facebook](#).*



[PERMALINK](#) |

[TORTURE](#)

We intend the comments portion of this blog to be a forum where you can freely express your views or postings and on comments made by other people. Given that, please understand that you are respons the material you post on the comments portion of this blog. The only postings that we ask that you refr posting and that we cannot permit on our website are requests for legal assistance and postings that c cause ACLU to incur legal liability.

One important law in that regard is the prohibition on politically partisan activity. Given our nonprofit st may not endorse or oppose candidates for elective office. That means we cannot host comments on o that show a preference for one candidate or party. Although we in no way wish to discourage you from activity elsewhere, we ask that you not engage in that activity on our website (or include links to other that do so). Additionally, given that we are subject to very specific rules concerning the collection of pe identifying information through our website (names, email addresses, home address, financial informa we ask that you not use the comments portion of this blog to solicit this information from users of our v We also ask that you not use the comments portion for advertising or requests for legal assistance, ar add to your comment links to other websites, as we cannot be responsible for the content on other we

We are not able to respond to unsolicited inquiries, complaints or requests for assistance sent to this t Please direct your complaint or request for assistance to the [ACLU affiliate in your state](#). Requests for assistance left in the blog comments will not receive a response or be published.

Finally, the ACLU cannot guarantee the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any information in th comment section and expressly disclaims any liability for any information in this section.

## 2 RESPONSES TO "THE CIA WEIGHS IN: TORTURE DID NOT HELP FI BIN LADEN"

1. *Anonymous* Says:

May 19th, 2011 at 10:10pm

Ideology is not centered to one person...He is not the first and not the ei

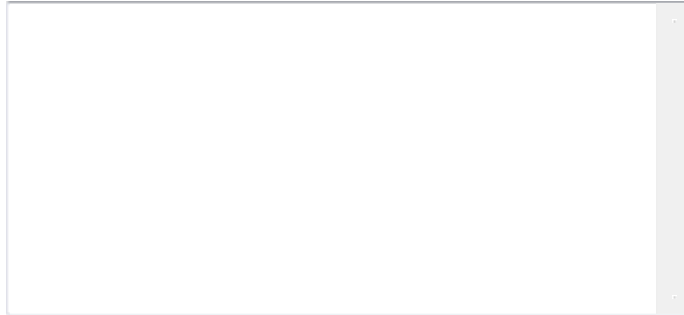
2. *Hendra Subrata* Says:

May 19th, 2011 at 10:12pm

He is not the source of ideology...By killing him does not end the ideolog



Name



- Allowed HTML tags: <a> <em> <strong> <cite> <code> <ul> <ol> <li> <dl> <dd>
- Lines and paragraphs break automatically.

[More information about formatting options](#)

#### CAPTCHA

This question is for testing whether you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.



What code is in the image? \*

Enter the characters shown in the image.

Save

[Blog Home](#) | [ACLU.org](#) | [About the ACLU](#) | [Take Action](#) | [Join the ACLU](#) | [Your L](#)

© ACLU, 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor New York, NY 10004  
This is the Web site of the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU |  
[Learn more](#) about the distinction between these two components of th

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Site Map](#)