

US Senate Considers Bill Authorizing More Torture

By [Washington's Blog](#)

Region: [USA](#)

Global Research, November 29, 2011

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#), [Law and Justice](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

[Washington's Blog](#) 29 November 2011

“A Middle East Dictatorship Has More Democratic Accountability for Abuse of Power, Including Torture, Than the US Under Obama”

The same Senate which today passed a bill [allowing indefinite detention of American citizens on American soil for suspicion of being terrorists](#) is now [considering a bill to repeal the prohibitions against torture](#):

The ACLU and over 30 other organizations sent a letter to the Senate asking them to oppose an effort in Congress that threatens to revive the use of torture and other inhumane interrogation techniques. If passed, an amendment introduced by Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) to the Defense Authorization bill would roll back torture prevention measures that Congress overwhelmingly approved in the 2005 McCain Anti-Torture Amendment, as well as a 2009 Executive Order on ensuring lawful interrogations. It would also require the administration to create a secret list of approved interrogation techniques in a classified annex to the existing interrogation field manual.

In a related development, republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann renewed her attack on the prohibition of waterboarding and other forms of torture

Glenn Greenwald [pointed out](#) last week:

Andrew Sullivan ... [today noted](#) that the U.S. under Obama imposes even less accountability for abuse of power and war crimes [than does Bahrain](#):

Bahrain's Sunni government promised “no immunity” for anyone suspected of abuses and said it would propose creating a permanent human rights watchdog commission. “All those who have broken the law or ignored lawful orders and instructions will be held accountable,” said a government statement, which says the report acknowledges that the “systematic practice of mistreatment” ended shortly after martial law was repealed on June 1.

As Andrew put it: “So a Middle East dictatorship has more democratic accountability for abuse of power, including torture, than the US under Obama.” Beyond things like [this](#) and the facts set forth in the [last paragraph here](#), perhaps Andrew could use today's post of his to help clear up the towering mystery he raised yesterday of liberal disenchantment with Obama. That American war criminals are being [aggressively shielded](#) from any and all accountability is not an ancillary matter but one of enduring historical significance.

That's okay, though, because – [according to top military, intelligence and civilian experts on interrogation](#) – torture:

- (1) Doesn't produce actionable intelligence
- (2) Reduces national security
- (3) Creates more terrorists
- (4) And is only useful for:
 - (A) Producing false confessions; and
 - (B) As a way of terrorizing the population

The original source of this article is [Washington's Blog](#)
Copyright © [Washington's Blog](#), [Washington's Blog](#), 2011

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Washington's Blog](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca