AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Response to Goodman editorial
April 2008

Dear Editor:

Amy Goodman's editorial (The real anti-torture president, April 10) was seriously misinformed in its suggestion that there is any debate within the American Psychological Association regarding the use of torture by psychologists. There is no such debate. Torture is always immoral and unethical, without exception. Indeed, our association has stated emphatically that neither a state of war nor threat of terrorism justifies torture. In its August 2007 statement against torture—APA adopted its first anti-torture resolution over twenty years ago—the association condemned specific techniques (including waterboarding, sexual humiliation, and the use of phobias, also known as "harsh interrogations," "torture light," and "no-touch torture") in an resolution that the *Washington Post* called a "rebuke" of the Bush administration's interrogation policy. This resolution also called upon U.S. courts to reject testimony derived from torture, and explicitly endorsed civil disobedience as the ethical response to an order to engage in torture. It is important to note—again contrary to the implication in Ms. Goodman's editorial—that our division of military psychology has taken a lead role in drafting APA's emphatic statements against torture.

Sincerely,

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