

CIA ‘Accidentally’ Destroyed 6,700 Page Torture Report? Snowden Calls Bullshit

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The world’s most famous whistleblower, Edward Snowden, took Twitter by storm when he created an [account](#) last year. Since, he has criticized everyone from the [FBI](#) to [Google](#), so his latest post on the CIA should come as no surprise.

Commenting on [revelations](#) the CIA “inadvertently” destroyed a copy of the 6,700-page torture report, Snowden questioned the agency’s official story.

“I worked [@CIA](#). I wrote the Emergency Destruction Plan for Geneva. When CIA destroys something, it’s never a mistake,” he [tweeted](#) Wednesday, openly challenging the CIA’s claim. He also shared an [article](#) detailing the news.

I worked [@CIA](#). I wrote the Emergency Destruction Plan for Geneva. When CIA destroys something, it’s never a mistake. <https://t.co/S1VULfE4NY>

— Edward Snowden (@Snowden) [May 18, 2016](#)

Snowden previously [worked for the CIA and as an NSA contractor](#) before leaking documents revealing the U.S. government’s extensive mass surveillance programs and subsequently fleeing the country. He has been an [outspoken voice](#) against government overreach and privacy issues ever since.



On Monday, *Yahoo News* [reported](#) on the CIA's apparent fumble that inspired Snowden's Wednesday tweet:

"The CIA inspector general's office — the spy agency's internal watchdog — has acknowledged it 'mistakenly' destroyed its only copy of a mammoth Senate torture report at the same time lawyers for the Justice Department were assuring a federal judge that copies of the document were being preserved."

The Senate Intelligence Committee was reportedly informed of the 'mistake' last summer, but it was never disclosed to the public, nor to the federal judge presiding over a Freedom of Information Act case seeking access to the lengthy document.

Douglas Cox, a professor at the City University of New York School of Law, who specializes in "tracking the preservation of federal records," commented on the CIA's self-described mistake. "It's breathtaking that this could have happened, especially in the inspector general's office — they're the ones that are supposed to be providing accountability within the agency itself," he said. "It makes you wonder what was going on over there."

The clandestine organization [came under fire](#) for its use of torture after 9/11 (and [before, though it's lesser-known](#)), as exposed by a Senate investigation in December 2014. Following embarrassing reports of everything from sexual assault and forced rectal feeding to beatings, sleep deprivation, [and other degrading practices](#), the CIA has since tried to clean up its image. Amid presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's [calls](#) to implement waterboarding and more torture, in general, CIA Director John Brennan [disavowed](#) the agency's infamous practice. "I will not agree to have any CIA officer carry out waterboarding again," he said in April.

But the CIA has a track record of [deception](#), and has had at least one issue with destroyed documents before — that time [concerning records](#) on the agency's coup in Iran in 1953.

The 2014 Senate report "relied on the CIA's own records to document a pattern of an agency consistently understating the brutality of the techniques used on detainees and overstating the value of the information they produced," the Associated Press [reported](#) in 2014.

"This is a tremendous amount of CIA misrepresentation. It is difficult to read these pages and wonder whether a system of accountability can work," Mother Jones [observed](#), in a thorough article examining the *many* ways the CIA deceived lawmakers and multiple federal agencies about its torture program.

As Democratic Senator Mark Udall flatly [said](#), "*The CIA lied.*"

No doubt, according to Snowden, the CIA continues to lie — and his tweet highlights growing mistrust of establishment narratives as Americans increasingly [lose faith in government](#) and other [institutions](#).

Read Snowden's recent article on political resistance [here](#).

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