

## US Senate Considers Bill Authorizing More Torture

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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### **“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which says the report acknowledges that the “systematic practice of mistreatment” ended shortly after martial law was repealed on June 1.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

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