Introduction

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has always stated that no one should be subjected to torture and yet in this world today we still see it happening. Torture has always led to severe physical or psychological pain for its victim, and is considered inhumane. However, after the declassification of a report by the Senate Intelligence Committee on CIA torture on December 9, 2014. The world witnessed torture being used by the Central Intelligence Agency as a part of their detention and interrogation program for detainees including suspected terrorist in order to gain intelligence information for analysis with the aim of providing politicians with intelligence assessments. Along with that report, it revealed the details of detainees being subjected to many cruel and inhuman methods of torture. Major flaws surfaced in program’s inefficiency and how they were not realized and doubted with. However the question then comes why has this program existed all along without the world realizing? This is due to the confinement of accurate detail from press and government agencies.

Definition of Key Terms

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

Created in 1947 the CIA is an intelligence-gathering agency of the United States federal government with the aim of gathering information about foreign governments, corporation and individuals in order to analyze and provide politicians intelligence assessments in order to prevent threats to the national security of the United States.

Enhanced interrogation techniques

A program of systematic torture of detainees taking place in many black sites around the world including Iraq, Cuba and Afghanistan carried out by various intelligence agencies of the United States government. Torture methods could include but not limited to prolonged stress position, sleep deprivation, threats to harm family members and many more cruel torture tactics.
Senate Intelligence Committee report on CIA torture

A 6000-page report compiled by the United States Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) an agency dedicated to overseeing the United States Intelligence Community. The report detailed the torture program of the CIA as well as shortcomings of the detention program between 2001 and 2006. Currently only 500 pages have made public on December 9, 2014, the rest remains classified.

Black Sites

A location at which an unacknowledged black project is conducted. Recently, the term has been used to refer to secret prison operated by the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

Background

The beginning of the usage of enhanced interrogation techniques begun after the 9/11 attack on the United States back in 2001, the US government authorized the existence of such torture tactics as part of interrogating terrorism suspects that are in the custody of the United States. In the past, despite criticisms from US officials on the memorandum that authorized these techniques the program still continued, and the techniques were claimed as not have been constituting torture.

Senate Select Committee Findings

On December 8, 2014 after a voting deciding that the Committee Report on CIA torture was to be declassified, it generated a very heated debate about the issue as to whether the interrogation program constituted torture. US president Barack Obama acknowledges that torture had been a part of the CIA's post 9/11 interrogation program however many official still argue it is not and bring up criticisms of the report itself.

Violation of human rights

According to the Senate Select Committee the interrogations carried out by the CIA were far worse than they have represented to the American policy makers. They report went on briefly outlining, stating how interrogation techniques such as slaps and wallings were used in combination with sleep deprivation (through usage of loud music) and nudity, according to the report there was no support to the CIA's original representation of the interrogation beginning with the “least coercive technique possible”. There were also records of waterboarding techniques being used on detainee with physical harm up to the extent of inducing convulsions and vomiting. Other torture methods include ice water “baths”, death threats and threats to harm family and being confined in small spaces. Quite often while in the process of the interrogation, despite being warned by medical personnel, the detainee’s medical conditions were placed at lower priority than the interrogation. In article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights it states, “No one shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or
punishment" however the rights of these detainee has been clearly violated through subjecting them to torture.

Inefficiency

There is no doubt that the torture tactics used have been a violation of human rights however on top of that, the tactics have in fact been ineffective in the actual interrogation. In the released portion of the Senate Intelligence Committee report on CIA torture, the enhanced interrogation techniques has been reviewed to be not effective. Not only did it not help gain the cooperation of the detainee, but also has been counterproductive where detainees will fabricate information. Many of this false information will then be put down as CIA’s high priority information and will lead inaccurate analysis and unnecessary intelligence assessments.

Flaws in the interrogation program

Besides the basics of violation of human rights and the inefficiency the Senate report also realized a couple more flaws in the program. These include being underprepared after the being granted detention authorities as well as allow for a flawed management in the CIA’s detention and interrogation program. This flawed management allowed for interrogation of detainees by untrained CIA officer to take place being unauthorized, and unsupervised as well as the usage of enhanced interrogation techniques that have not been approved by the Department of Justice and the CIA head quarter. On top of the flawed the system the provision of information lacking accuracy to other intelligence agencies, the media and the CIA’s Office of Inspector General was the major reason why people haven’t come to realize how flawed the program really is. These information may include the number of detainee held and subjected their interrogation program as well as details concerning their efficiency.

Major Parties Involved

United States of America

The United States currently still has mix opinions on the matter of the CIA torture. Barack Obama, President of the United States has acknowledged that torture was a part of the interrogation program after 9/11. However, the is still a very heated debate in the US government as a lot of official say the program cannot be considered usage of torture.

European Nations

Many European nations have in fact been involved in the CIA’s interrogation program. Some nations helped carry out kidnappings of suspects others may have hosted CIA’s Black Sites. However, recently after the release of the report, most European countries have remained very quiet about the
matter. As the United States government has never released the exact locations of the prison or a list the cooperating governments, the European countries involved still remains majorly unknown.

**Human Rights Watch**

On December 9th, Kenneth Roth, the executive director of Human Rights Watch released a statement saying “The Senate report summary should forever put to rest CIA denials that it engaged in torture, which is criminal and can never be justified ”. As a International non-governmental organization that deal with research and advocacy of human rights, the Human Rights Watch has continued to promote the importance of preventing torture. Since the release of the report the Human Rights Watch has urged for the prosecution of those responsible for the torture, and the realize of remain report. It also emphasized that the CIA’s interrogation program is definitely torture, which violates human rights.

**Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue**

Despite the CIA’s torture program surfacing after the release of the report by the United States Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, there may still be possibilities of similar cases repeating itself in other countries, where they have to resort to torture for information. However, there currently haven’t been effective measures to prevent similar cases from happening. The European countries have not carried out effective investigation of those who facilitated the CIA’s works. The only countries that have had minimal success are Sweden and Italy. Where they have paid compensation to the victims in Sweden and convicted official in court in Italy for the involvement in the CIA programme.

**Possible Solutions**

- New effective interrogation methods that do not involve torture must be developed, and proper training must be given to those officers carrying out the interrogations.
- Proper management of intelligence agencies by governments to ensure the accuracy of the information given to them regarding the interrogation programs carried out.
- Ensure the prosecution of those involved in these kind of torture programs, either through public support or implementation of legislative measures
- Reinforcing the clauses and articles made in United Nations Convention against Torture and the Geneva Convention in regards to torture to ensure that they have been effectively carried out
Bibliography


Appendix or Appendices

I.  http://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2014/12/politics/torture-report/ (Senate Intelligence Committee report on CIA torture program)

This is the actual report by the United States Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which can give you a more detailed look into the CIA’s interrogation program, and it’s flaws

II.  http://www.hrw.org/keywords/senate-torture-report (Senate Intelligence Committee report page of the Human Rights Watch Website)

The Human Rights Watch page on the Senate intelligence committee report has some recent updates on the issue


IV.  http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/cia-torture-report (Recent new by The Guardian on the Senate Intelligence Committee on CIA torture)