

FACT VERSUS FICTION: TORTURE AND ZERO DARK THIRTY

"The CIA has long said that most people in the general public get their information about the CIA and its activities from film and television. The film will be a key shaper of public opinion and historical memory about this event." -- Tricia Jenkins, author of "The CIA in Hollywood," quoted in the [Los Angeles Times](#), January 7, 2013



FACT: *Zero Dark Thirty* confirms that the CIA used torture.

FACT: Torture is a war crime.

FACT: *Zero Dark Thirty* implies there is a link between the use of torture and finding bin Laden.

FACT: **There is no link between the use of torture and finding bin Laden;** this link has been denied by Senators Carl Levin, Dianne Feinstein and John McCain, as well as former CIA Director Leon Panetta.

After reviewing 6 million pages of documents pertaining to the CIA's detention and torture program, the Senators wrote to the acting Director of the CIA:

Contrary to the film's suggestion that torture of detainees produced information about bin Laden's courier, the Senators write:

*"[T]he CIA learned of the existence of the courier, his true name, and location through means **unrelated to the CIA detention and interrogation program.**"*

"We are concerned by the film's clear implication that information obtained during or after the use of [torture] played a critical role in locating Usama Bin Laden."

The Senators write: "The CIA detainee who provided the most accurate information about the courier provided the information prior to being subjected to coercive interrogation techniques." [Their emphasis]

The senators say the film "credits" CIA detainees subjected to torture "as providing critical lead information" and calls this assertion "incorrect."

But it's just a movie, right? Not so fast. The Senators:

"The film opens with the words "based on first-hand accounts of actual events," and according to now publicly released CIA records, the filmmakers met extensively with CIA personnel." One of those released documents was an email in which a CIA official wrote: "As a [sic] Agency, we've been pretty forward-leaning with [the filmmaker], and he's agreed to share scripts and details about the movie with us so we're absolutely comfortable with what he will be showing."

For more information, please visit: www.aclu.org/torture or www.privacysos.org/torture