

A landmark congressional report released today sheds new light on the coordination among the Bush White House and other high level government officials in the creation and implementation of torture policies. The report was released by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin (D-MI) and Ranking Member John McCain (R-AZ) after being declassified by the government and is a result of the committee's two-year long investigation into the Department of Defense's (DOD) role in the treatment of detainees in U.S. custody.

"Once again, we are presented with clear-cut evidence that the Bush administration's highest ranking officials were not only complicit in the use of torture, but were actively engaged in its implementation. It is now time to act on this evidence," said Caroline Fredrickson, Director of the ACLU Washington Legislative Office. "We can no longer pretend there is any doubt that crimes were committed and the Justice Department should respond accordingly. No one is above the law. An independent prosecutor must be appointed to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation."

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