

Psychology is dedicated to understanding the mind and improving the lives of all people. But the science of the mind can instead be misapplied to control, punish, or destroy individuals. As psychologists, we must continually safeguard and honor our ethical principles. A recent, independent investigation commissioned by the American Psychological Association (APA) in response to ongoing allegations of wrong-doing has found that the APA has not lived up to these aspirations. According to that report (link provided below), after September 2001, individual psychologists, and psychologists representing the APA, colluded with the Department of Defense to align ethical principles with U.S. interrogation practices without serious regard for whether these might condone or facilitate physical and psychological torture by U.S. intelligence and defense agencies.

Many psychologists have worked for years from within and outside of the APA to ensure that APA policies would prevent our science and our practice to be used in violation of human rights. The PhD Program in Psychology at the CUNY Graduate Center agrees with the recent clarification by the American Psychological Association that the "... actions, policies and the lack of independence from government influence described in the [independent] report represented a failure to live up to [APA's] core values." Torture, whether physical or psychological, is abhorrent and contrary to our ethical principles and antithetical to the principles and practice of psychological science.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/11/us/psychologists-shielded-us-torture-program-report-finds.html?smid=fb-share&_r=1&assetType=nyt_now

<http://www.apa.org/independent-review/APA-FINAL-Report-7.2.15.pdf>