Since the killing of Osama bin Laden, there has much debate over whether the of detainees in U.S. custody helped American intelligence find the terror leader would be hard to find a better authority on where the truth lies than CIA Direct Leon Panetta. Now the Washington Post's Greg Sargent has released part of a letter from Panetta to torture opponent Sen. John McCain — and the contents leave little doubt that torture played no role in locating the courier who eventually led to bin Laden. Panetta wrote:

In the end, no detainee in CIA custody revealed the facilitator/courier's full true name or specific whereabouts. This information was discovered through other intelligence means.

The most high-profile back-and-forth over the issue has been between Sen. McCain and former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, who has been doing some backpedalling on his initial claim that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed put U.S. intel on the courier's trail after being waterboarded. Sen. McCain wrote in a Washington Post op-ed last week about how torture does not work because it only gets victims to say something — not necessarily the truth.

That point is backed up by former military interrogators such as Matthew Alexander, who helped track down al-Qaeda in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Alexan wrote:

I think that without a doubt, torture and enhanced interrogation techniques slowed down the hunt for bin Laden... they gave us the bare minimum amount of information they could get away with to get the pain to stop, or to mislead us.

Torture supporters like former senator and current presidential candidate Rick Santorum (who made some ridiculous statements Tuesday about Sen. McCain's argument) have argued that lies from detainees helped in the bin Laden hunt b
it showed that they were protecting important information. But of course, the statement holds true whether the prisoners were tortured or not.

It’s not surprising that the proponents of torture would try to use the killing of bin Laden to support these illegal methods — unfortunately for them, their argument that torture works is false. But even if some shred of evidence were gained through torture, it would prove nothing, because the same or better information could have been obtained humanely. What we can do now is hold those responsible for this course of action accountable.

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2 RESPONSES TO "THE CIA WEIGHS IN: TORTURE DID NOT HELP FIND BIN LADEN"

1. **Anonymous** Says:
   May 19th, 2011 at 10:10pm
   
   Ideology is not centered to one person...He is not the first and not the end...

2. **Hendra Subrata** Says:
   May 19th, 2011 at 10:12pm
   
   He is not the source of ideology...By killing him does not end the ideology...
• Allowed HTML tags: <a> <em> <strong> <cite> <code> <ul> <ol> <li> <dl> <dd>
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