



U. S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

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Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

September 19, 2005

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

This responds to your letter, dated September 14, 2005, reiterating your request for what you describe as a Justice Department opinion on the legality of specific interrogation techniques. We are sending the same response to Senators Feingold and Durbin, who cosigned your letter. There are substantial confidentiality interests associated with any such opinion, which would consist of confidential legal advice for the consideration of senior Administration decision-makers. Although we appreciate your interest in any such opinion, its disclosure outside the Executive Branch would harm the deliberative processes of the Department and the Executive Branch and disrupt attorney-client relationships.

We hope that this information is helpful. If you would like assistance regarding any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

William E. Moschella  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary



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The Honorable Russ Feingold  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feingold:

This responds to your letter, dated September 14, 2005, reiterating your request for what you describe as a Justice Department opinion on the legality of specific interrogation techniques. We are sending the same response to Senators Kennedy and Durbin, who cosigned your letter. There are substantial confidentiality interests associated with any such opinion, which would consist of confidential legal advice for the consideration of senior Administration decision-makers. Although we appreciate your interest in any such opinion, its disclosure outside the Executive Branch would harm the deliberative processes of the Department and the Executive Branch and disrupt attorney-client relationships.

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Office of the Assistant Attorney General

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September 19, 2005

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

This responds to your letter, dated September 14, 2005, reiterating your request for what you describe as a Justice Department opinion on the legality of specific interrogation techniques. We are sending the same response to Senators Feingold and Kennedy, who cosigned your letter. There are substantial confidentiality interests associated with any such opinion, which would consist of confidential legal advice for the consideration of senior Administration decision-makers. Although we appreciate your interest in any such opinion, its disclosure outside the Executive Branch would harm the deliberative processes of the Department and the Executive Branch and disrupt attorney-client relationships.

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