🇺🇸 TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"
DOES IT HURT?
OR ARE YOU SCARED?
- Let's define
ACCEPTABLE
INTERROGATION
TECHNIQUES!

By Stephen L. Bakke 🇺🇸 December 21, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

There was a letter that introduced the topic of "What is torture?" so I decided to pick up on that and go a step farther. I once wrote "I don't know what torture is, but I'll know it when I see it!" That's just an embarrassing "cop out"! So I decided to take a "stab" at it. (Whoops! There I go, using harsh and violent language! SORRY!)

Here's my response:

Does it hurt? Or are you scared? – Let's define ACCEPTABLE INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES!

Following-up on Joe Kibitlewski's letter, "What is turture?" (12-21), I observe that some persons incorrectly insist that defining torture is simple. It's not! But I'm going to take an educated "stab" at defining acceptable techniques. (Whoops! There I go, using violent language! **SORRY!)** Words used in laws governing interrogation, and related commentary, include "severe" and "suffering", and concepts such as "intent", "circumstances", and "timing". It's unclear what was intended. Nevertheless, I believe governing language comfortably points to an interpretation that would allow water-boarding, and similar techniques, in sit-uations of extreme importance to national security or American lives.

"WE KNOW YOU'RE MAKING A LIST! WHO'S NAUGHTY? AND WHO'S NICE?"

My definition of "Acceptable Interrogation Techniques":

An interrogation technique becomes torture when it crosses the line from causing extreme discomfort or fear, to causing permanent physical harm to the person being interrogated. A technique that is done to punish, or out of sadistic cruelty, is terribly wrong even if that line is not crossed – and should be prohibited. There must be a compelling national security or life threatening situation to justify using a technique such as waterboarding. Under my definition of what may be acceptable under extreme circumstances, there are no fingernails pulled out, eyes damaged, electric wires attached to body parts, broken bones, or punctures. This recognizes the need to be really tough in a tough situation.