

Nomination of Loretta E. Lynch to be Attorney General of the United States
Question for the Record
Submitted February 9, 2015

QUESTION FROM SENATOR WHITEHOUSE

1. As you know, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence conducted an extensive investigation into the CIA's so-called "enhanced interrogation program." The resulting report – which includes a 499-page executive summary and a full history of the program that is more than 6,000 pages – documents in exhaustive detail how our nation came to employ techniques such as waterboarding, which you rightly characterized at your hearing as torture, and how certain officials lied to Congress and others about the use and effectiveness of these techniques. The report also discusses the role played by the Justice Department in this sorry episode, and in particular details how lawyers in the Office of Legal Counsel enabled the use of techniques that are indisputably torture. As a result, it is essential reading for anyone in a position of leadership at the Department. Will you commit that, if confirmed or prior to your confirmation, you will read the executive summary as well as those portions of the full report discussing the role of Justice Department attorneys?

RESPONSE: If confirmed, I will review the executive summary and other appropriate materials to help ensure that the Department lives up to the high standards of conduct and legal rigor that are essential to its mission.