**Abu Ghraib Prisoner Abuse**

During the war in Iraq (that began in March 2003), personnel of the US Army and the Central Intelligence Agency committed a series of human rights violations against detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. There was evidence that authorization for the torture had come from high up in the military hierarchy.

(Wikipedia, 2016)

Abu Ghraibwas one of the world’s most notorious prisons, with torture, weekly executions and vile living conditions. As many as fifty thousand men and women were jammed into Abu Ghraib at one time, in twelve-by-twelve-foot cells. Some of the violations and wrongdoing included: breaking chemical lights and pouring the phosphoric liquid on detainees; pouring cold water on naked detainees; beating detainees with a broom handle and a chair; threatening male detainees with rape; allowing a military police guard to stitch the wound of a detainee who was injured after being slammed against the wall in his cell; sodomizing a detainee with a chemical light and perhaps a broom stick, and using military working dogs to frighten and intimidate detainees with threats of attack, and in one instance actually biting a detainee.

Hersh, M. A. (2004)

The abuses became public in 2004, when Specialist Joseph M. Darby provided two CDs of photographs to Special Agent Tyler Pieron of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, who was stationed at Abu Ghraib Prison.

(Wikipedia, 2016)

Seventeen soldiers and officers were removed from duty, and eleven soldiers were charged. Two soldiers, Specialists Charles Graner and Lynndie England, were sentenced to ten and three years in prison, respectively. Brigadier General Janis Karpinski, the commanding officer of all detention facilities in Iraq, was reprimanded and demoted to the rank of colonel. Several more military personnel who were accused of perpetrating or authorizing the measures, including many of higher rank, were not prosecuted.

Hersh, M. A. (2004)

Sergeant Ivan Frederick was also given a harsh sentence. The military's unwillingness to accept any of the many mitigating circumstances that had directly contributed to his abusive behaviour and should have reduced his harsh prison sentence. The prosecutor and judge refused to consider any idea that situational forces could influence individual behaviour. They believed that the fault was entirely "dispositional", the consequence of Sergeant Chip Frederick's freely chosen rational decision to engage in evil.

(Zimbardo, 2007)

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