

Mass Media and Torture in Post-9/11 America*Brigitte Nacos*

When the news media publicized the horror pictures of tortured detainees at Abu Ghraib, there was no collective outcry in the United States. Why was there no massive and sustained protest against the gross human rights violations in U.S.-run prisons and against the “outsourcing” of terrorist and suspected terrorists to countries with long histories of torture? My examination of the news about controversial interrogation methods and the entertainment program’s depiction of torture suggests links between mass media content on the one hand and public opinion trends and pro-torture policies on the other.