

WESTWORLD



Secret CIA prisons show disregard

w. Suhail Ansari
World Editor

In the years 2003-2005, Swiss Senator Dick Marty has claimed, secret U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) prisons existed in Europe, according to the British Broadcasting Company (BBC). In 2007, Marty, on behalf of the Council of Europe, a human rights organization, released a report of the alleged prisons in Europe and the illegal interrogations and detainment that take place there. The report was quickly denied by the CIA as biased and distorted and also by Polish and Romanian officials, where the secret prisons were allegedly based.

This revelation has lasting consequences for the U.S. in the sense that it undermines the values that the U.S. supposedly strives to uphold in its own jurisdiction and abroad

Now, according to the BBC, two anonymous Polish intelligence officers have confirmed that the CIA ran a secret prison on Polish soil. Polish officials deny they knew of such existence, but in 2006, U.S. President George W. Bush admitted the CIA had detainees in secret prisons, but not where these prisons were located. At these prisons, detainees were held and interrogated without any of the rights guaranteed to prisoners in the U.S.

This revelation has lasting consequences for the U.S. in the sense that it undermines the values that the U.S. supposedly strives to uphold in its own jurisdiction and abroad. Although such a prison might have operated with the knowledge of Polish officials, such a prison is not new to the tactics of the CIA. The agency is widely known to keep detainees in Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp (Guantanamo Bay), another prison not on U.S. soil, without *habeas corpus* of any other rights guaranteed to prisoners in the U.S. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the prison in Guantanamo Bay operates legally in respect to denying to a speedy trial, but that only applies to that specific prison.

Not only do these prisons prove that the CIA acted knowingly of the illegality of their actions, they highlight a general disregard of the freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution; the U.S. government has shown this disregard recently

In Europe, the CIA has no authority to hold any detainees. The CIA is not the sovereign government of that region, nor does the CIA have the authorization from the government to run such an operation. The activities there would be classified as kidnapping and torture because of the lack of authority of the CIA. Since the orders for such a prison likely came from senior officials of the agency, the whole agency would be guilty of kidnapping and torture—if not directly—as part of a conspiracy to commit such crimes.

Not only do these prisons prove that the CIA acted knowingly of the illegality of their actions, they highlight a general disregard of the freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution; the U.S. government has showed this disregard recently. The highest document in our land is the Constitution, which guarantees several basic rights such as the right to a speedy trial. This operation undermines the values that the U.S. stands for and the citizens who believe in said values.

If these actions were to be carried out on U.S. soil, there would be media coverage throughout the night and the political pressure would cause the project to collapse. Various prisoners would pursue lawsuits and they would definitely have a strong case.

It should not be a surprise to citizens that their government has been implicated in such illegal operations. Just because the government puts a prison off U.S. soil, the prisoners should still be treated with rights. It would serve the U.S. better to treat prisoners with rights they deserve, and in the long run, it would help clean up our bad reputation in the world and our reputation is the most valuable resource for defending against violent attacks directed toward the U.S.

Village shoots down ordinance

w. Suhail Ansari
World Editor

“When Morton Grove decided to enact the handgun ban, [the trustees] had a vote at village hall, and I remember when that happened because they had the National Rifle Association (NRA) lobbyists there; they brought in so many NRA lobbyists, not even from the area [but] from all areas, and it was so full they actually had an overflow of people outside the village hall. [The lobbyists] were actually surprised [the trustees] voted it through,” law teacher Dana Kanwischer recalled.

Sophomore Andrew Gaddam, a resident of Morton Grove, said, “The handgun ban does not really have an effect. Morton Grove is a very quiet place and the [repeal] will not make any difference.” He went on to comment on the case and mentioned that a limit on any type of guns, whether rifles or handguns, do not make a difference because of the atmosphere of the village.

As a result of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling a similar handgun ban unconstitutional, the Morton Grove voted to repeal their handgun ordinance that banned possession of such arms, according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

“In 1981, Morton Grove decided to ban handguns and the reason why they did that is someone wanted to open a gun shop. Then they decided that not only did they not want to have a gun shop open but they wanted to ban handguns; so, [Morton Grove was] one of the first in the nation [to do so.] Well then Washington D.C. had the same type of handgun ban, and it finally reached the U.S. Supreme Court,” said Kanwischer.

The right to bear arms is guaranteed in the Constitution but the interpretation of this law can vary, according to *The Boston Globe*. The right to bear arms is secured by the Second Amendment and is not limited to people in the state militia; the Second Amendment is also in the Bill of Rights, the part of the Constitution reserved especially for individual rights, according to *The Boston Globe*.

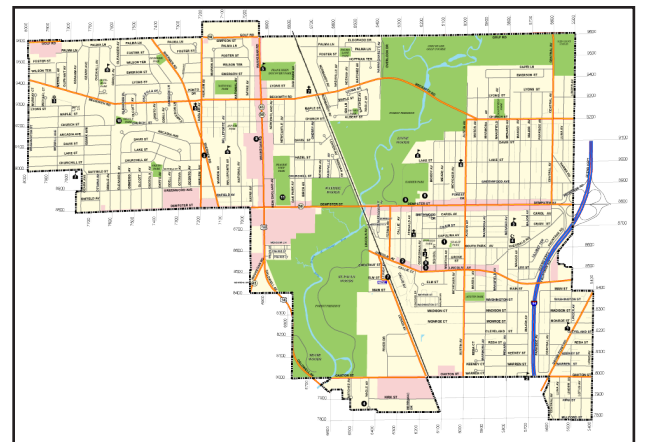
Junior and Morton Grove resident Inho Jung said, “I learned that the right to own guns is in the Constitution, but is guaranteed to state militias only. People should not be allowed to own guns because then it will just lead to more violence and the world does not need that now.”

Kanwischer expanded on the interpretation of the Second Amendment. “People have always argued about [the handgun ban issue] because it is [relates to] such a short amendment,” Kanwischer said. She went on to explain that many interpret the

amendment in relation with state militias; the amendment applies to these militias and the federal government can not stop them. According to Kanwischer, the amendment does say, the “right to bear arms” so others believe this guarantees individual gun rights and that is where the interpretation is needed.

Sophomore Marko Sajic, who is a resident of Morton Grove, said, “I do not think having guns in the house is safe, [let alone] out in the streets. All types of guns should be banned because the crime rate will go up if they are not.”

Kanwischer also gave her opinion on the matter and said, “I



The repeal has taken effect in the entire jurisdiction of Morton Grove. Photo courtesy of wikipedia.org

think it is a good idea to have the ban, but the trouble is that they do not enforce the laws already that are on the books. If they really enforce the laws and made them more strict I think then they can control handguns more, but there are something like 200 million guns out in our society and 300 million people in the U.S.” She then went on to joke that the bullet manufacturing industry would have to be regulated as comedian Chris Rock has proposed in his stand-up routine. Her law class will discuss the handgun ban topic later on in when they study the amendments but they have recently looked at crime and have discussed crime rates in relation with handguns.

Junior and Morton Grove resident Nasheet Quraishi said, “We can not move forward from all this violence in the world when we allow the ban to be repealed. Guns should not be allowed in Morton Grove because the domestic tranquility is already established and there is no need for citizens to defend themselves with guns when they are already safe.”

California legislature trims excess fat

w. Naomi Prale
Around Town Editor

“Banning trans fat is a good thing,” junior Urveel Shah said of a new trend that began in New York City in 2006.

Sophomore Casey Plach feels that the ban should be expanded. “I think that if trans fat were banned in Illinois, obesity would be much less of a problem,” Plach said. Obesity is one of the biggest problems in the United States, according to *The New York Times* (Times).

California imposed the first statewide ban on selling food with trans fat in July. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill that will eliminate all trans fats from restaurant by 2010, and all trans fats found in retail baked goods by 2011, according to the Times.

In an attempt to promote healthy eating, California legislators believe eliminating trans fats will ameliorate the state’s health problems. In doing so, California joins cities such Philadelphia, PA, and Stamford, CT, that have taken their cue from the New York City ban. Trans fat are created by pumping hydrogen into liquid oil at high temperatures, a process called partial hydrogenation according to the Times.

The result is inexpensive fats that help prolong shelf life and the appurtenance of food, making food seem more crisp

and flavorful. Trans fats have been linked to diseases such as coronary heart disease, coronary artery disease, and raise “bad” cholesterol levels. Trans fats also are linked to increase the risk of diabetes, and mostly related to weight gain, according to the Times.

Last month, Illinois was named as the 26th most obese state in the United States, according to the fifth annual *F as in Fat: How Obesity Policies Are Failing in America, 2008* report from the Trust for America’s Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. According to the TFAH, the state’s adult obesity rate is 25.3 percent, and increase from last year.

Junior Joshua Lee applauds measures to eliminate trans fat. “It’s a good idea,” he said.

Sophomore Thidar Khine agrees. “If trans fats were banned in Illinois, then the state would become a lot healthier. I think we should ban [trans fats],” Khine said.

Indeed, Illinois legislators are working at banning trans fats. Illinois lawmakers plan to ban trans from school cafeterias

by 2009 the Associated Press reported; the state would join eight other states with bills pending in the state senate on banning trans fats in schools.

While many support banning trans fats, junior Trace Hiyama begs to differ. “Banning trans fats is a horrible idea because then you can not eat foods such as Krispy Kremes™,” he said. “If Illinois produced a similar ban to California, all of the sugary, sweet, and salty tasting foods would not be allowed.”



Dishes like a taco appetizer might not be served in restaurants due to their trans fat content. Photo courtesy of ASNEKRT Campus