

I am married to a Shiia, or I am a Shiia and my son is married to a Sunni.

And if I ask a Kurd, they will say I am Kurd, but you do not seem to understand. Kurds are Sunnis. We tend to divide them up more than they do. My biggest fear is that in spite of the progress that is being made, huge progress, in spite of the fact that Sunni radicals tried to ignite the country in sectarian violence, you only saw that sectarian violence in two places, Baghdad and Ramadi, and actually Basra.

They held off. This is an amazing thing that we are seeing take place. The Iraqis deserve our staying the course with them. They did not attack us, we attacked them. We disbanded their army, their police and their border patrol. It is absolutely imperative, absolutely imperative that we not leave before they have their police, their border patrol, and their army to protect themselves.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. George Miller) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CHICAGO JAIL'S AREA 2

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, mock executions by putting the barrel of a shotgun into the mouth of a prisoner and pulling the trigger. Using alligator clips on ears, noses and genitals. Racial attacks and use of racial slurs, burns all over the body, electric shock to the genitals. Suffocation with bags.

In other words torture which is now almost synonymous with U.S. run prisons and detention centers. Immediately the U.S. facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Abu Ghraib in Iraq come to mind when even the word is said.

But the question I have, Mr. Speaker, is how did we get to this point? Some prison activists immediately pointed out that we must not forget Attica when we are talking about Guantanamo or Abu Ghraib. And so I participated in a forum entitled, From Attica to Abu Ghraib.

But now as the memory of Attica has been invoked, it appears that another U.S. detention facility must be named too. Area 2 in Chicago, run by the Chicago police department. Area 2 will now go down in U.S. annals as a domestic torture center.

Sadly, over 135 African Americans have come forward to say that they were tortured, mostly in Chicago's Area 2, in what could be one of the greatest scandals of modern day American prison practice and procedure.

Documentation shows that torture of African American men occurred in Areas 2 and 3 of Chicago jails for over 20 years, and no one with authority to stop it did so.

Moreover, these actions were covered up for 30 years by those in Chicago in authority. How many people are in jail today because confessions were tortured out of them? Incredibly, some prisoners were even on death row after having had confessions tortured out of them.

Moreover, the torture victims have psychological issues that have never been clinically resolved. Thank goodness former Illinois Governor Ryan commuted all of the death row cases, and gave full innocent pardons to four death row inmates who should never have been in prison.

Incredibly, even after Governor Ryan's actions, the City of Chicago is paying more than \$5 million to lawyers who represent the accused police officers. How do we know about this? Due to the hard work and the thankless hours put in by activists, lawyers, and journalists who refused to let this issue go or be swept under the rug.

And thank goodness we have dedicated journalists for what is referred to as the alternative media, who are willing to write those stories and get the message out.

I learned about this story from Amy Goodman's Democracy Now broadcast on the Pacifica network of stations. This week or next, the judge will rule whether or not to release the report to the public. But in the interim, one thing is clear, and that is, that Areas 2 and 3 of the Chicago city jail must be added to the annals of U.S. prisoner abuse, from Attica to Abu Ghraib and beyond, Chicago now owns an unfortunate chapter.

CHICAGO'S ABU GHRAIB: UN COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE HEARS REPORT ON HOW POLICE TORTURED OVER 135 AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN INSIDE CHICAGO JAILS

Extraordinary rendition. Overseas prisons. Abu Ghraib. Guantanamo Bay. Practices and places that have become synonymous with the abuse of detainees in U.S. custody are getting renewed attention at the United Nations this week, where the UN Committee Against Torture is holding hearings on U.S. compliance with its international obligations. But there is one name expected to arise this week that few people in this country will have heard about—and it's the one that's closest to home.

It's called Area 2. And for nearly two decades beginning in 1971, it was the epicenter for what has been described as the systematic torture of dozens of African-American males by Chicago police officers. In total, more than 135 people say they were subjected to abuse including having guns forced into their mouths, bags placed over their heads, and electric shocks inflicted to their genitals. Four men have been released from death row after government investigators concluded torture led to their wrongful convictions.

Yet the case around Area 2 is nowhere near a resolution—to date, not one Chicago police officer has been charged with any crime.

The most prominent officer, former police commander Jon Burge, was dismissed in the

early 1990s. He retired to Florida where he continues to collect a pension. Today, a special prosecutor is now in the fourth year of an investigation. Just last week, a group of Chicago police officers won a court ruling to delay the release of the prosecutor's preliminary report.

David Bates, one of dozens of men to come forward with allegations of abuse at the hands of the Chicago police.

Flint Taylor, an attorney with the People's Law Office in Chicago, which he helped found in the late 1960s. He has represented many of the torture victims and was directly involved in spearheading the special prosecutor's investigation.

John Conroy a journalist and author who has covered the case for over a decade. He has written several articles for the Chicago Reader, and is the author of the book "Unspeakable Acts, Ordinary People: The Dynamics of Torture."

AMY GOODMAN. We go now to Chicago, where we're joined by three guests: David Bates, Flint Taylor and John Conroy. David Bates is one of dozens of men to come forward with allegations of abuse at the hands of the Chicago police. Flint Taylor is an attorney with the People's Law Office in Chicago, which he helped found in the late 1960s. He has represented many of the torture victims and was directly involved in spearheading the special prosecutor's investigation. And John Conroy is a journalist and author who's covered the case for over a decade. He's written several articles for the Chicago Reader and is the author of the book, *Unspeakable Acts, Ordinary People: The Dynamics of Torture*. We welcome you all to Democracy Now! I want to begin with Flint Taylor for an overview. You have been working on this case for years. You have represented people who said they were tortured. Give us the scope of this story.

FLINT TAYLOR. Well, the scope started out with one man who was tortured by electric shock and having a plastic bag put over his head and being beaten by Jon Burge and others at the Area 2 police station. He, on his own, brought a lawsuit in the mid-'80s. That lawsuit, we got involved in, and over the years we were able to uncover, with the help of journalists such as John Conroy, others such as David Bates, who had also been tortured and had told their stories in various courts, but no one had put all this evidence together.

We were able to assimilate, over many years, over 60 cases of torture, and when I say "torture," I mean electric shock, I mean suffocation with bags, I mean mock executions, I mean racial attacks, that kind of thing. And they were all coming out of the same station, and they were all headed up by this man, Jon Burge, who came out of Vietnam, started out as a detective and quickly rose in the ranks through sergeant, lieutenant and commander. This went on—the actual documentation now shows that this went on for over 20 years, from 1972 to 1992, when in fact Burge was finally, after community outrage, suspended and fired from his job.

As you said, he has never been prosecuted. The State's Attorney of Cook County at the time this evidence first came to light in the mid-'80s was none other than the now major Richard Daley. The Superintendent of Police at that time contacted him with the evidence of torture and said, "Are you going to prosecute this?" Daley did not intervene or prosecute at that time. Later on, his first assistant, Richard Devine, became State's Attorney of Cook County. Remarkably, Devine, while he was in private practice, had been Burge's lawyer, defending many of these civil cases. He then became prosecutor in 1997. Of course, he did nothing either, because his clients were the ones that needed