

Torture

Text A

Brazilian torture survivor Ines Etienne Romeu dies

The only survivor of a torture centre where the Brazilian military regime interrogated opponents in the 1970s has died at the age of 72.

Ines Etienne Romeu memorised the names of her abusers and the location of what became known as the House of Death in Petropolis near Rio de Janeiro. Her testimony for Brazil's Truth Commission was key in exposing human rights abuses under military rule.

In 2003 she survived an attack in her home that left her unable to speak. The intruder was never identified.

Ms Romeu was admired for showing immense courage under torture, resisting when one of her torturers suggested she should kill herself. Guards had taken her down to a highway and told her to throw herself under a car, but instead she grabbed hold of his legs and screamed to draw the attention of passersby.

She underwent two more weeks of abuse and when she was finally delivered to her sister, only weighed 32kg (five stone). For her protection her family had her formally charged so she could be transferred to a state prison, where she spent eight years until a general amnesty in 1979.

She spent years making public the abuse that she and other political prisoners in Brazil had received, and when a truth commission was finally appointed in 2012 she gave public evidence, aided by her sister. She identified a number of her abusers and her testimony helped identify the doctor who had assisted torturers in the House of Death by keeping victims alive.

More than 400 people were killed or disappeared in Brazil between 1964 and 1985.

The truth commission identified 377 people as responsible for human rights abuses. It said those perpetrators still alive – approximately 100 – should be brought to trial. But Brazil's 1979 Amnesty Law makes that difficult. It states that neither members of the military accused of torture or abuse or their left-wing opponents accused of violence can face prosecution.

Source

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4710966.stm> [Accessed 27 May 2015]

© BBC News

TORTURE: UK MUST INVESTIGATE ITS ROLE

The public – heavily redacted – summary of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence report highlights some of the gruesome details of the torture methods used in secret CIA-run prisons across the world, as well as some of the horrific effects the interrogation techniques had on the detainees themselves – including hallucinations, paranoia, insomnia, and attempts at self-harm and self-mutilation. But the CIA and other US authorities did not act alone.

Time for truth

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Convention against Torture. It is time for the UK government to properly investigate our country's role in the programme of torture and rendition.

Many people were allegedly subjected to torture and rendition during the global counter-terrorism programme operated by US government and its allies after the attacks of 9/11. That includes the UK. Yet we still don't know the truth.

'I am confident this issue has been dealt with from the British perspective.'

Prime Minister David Cameron speaking on 9 December 2014.
Source: Sky News

In 2010, David Cameron said that 'for public confidence, and for independence from parliament, party and government, it is right to have a judge-led inquiry.' He added: 'That is what we need to get to the bottom of the case. The fact that it is led by a judge will help ensure that we get it done properly'.

Now he's trying to fob off the British public by allowing a completely inadequate UK investigation that is neither independent nor judge-led.

Astoundingly, David Cameron told the press today he is 'confident this issue has been dealt with from the British perspective'.

Demand an independent inquiry

Join our calls for a thorough, impartial, independent, judge-led inquiry which will finally reveal the truth about the UK's involvement in this shocking programme of torture and rendition.

Source

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/cia-usa-torture-uk-investigation>
[First posted 12 December 2014; Accessed 27 May 2015]

© Amnesty International UK

Reading

Read carefully the article headed '**Brazilian torture survivor Ines Etienne Romeu dies**' (Text A).

1. According to the article, how many were killed or disappeared in Brazil between 1964 and 1985?

- a. less than 400 ☐
- b. 1 in 400 ☐
- c. more than 400 ☐
- d. 377 ☐

2. Is the following statement true or false?

	True	False
Those that were guilty of torturing the prisoners were brought to justice.		

3. List two ways that it is suggested Ines Etienne Romeu was tortured.

This question tests your ability to retrieve information using deduction and inference skills.

4. What do you think of what happened to Ines Etienne Romeu? Explain the reasons for your point of view.

For this question you will need to analyse the text. Remember to give your own opinion and use evidence from the text to back up your answer.

Read carefully the webpage ‘**Torture: UK must investigate its role**’ (Text B).

5. What is the meaning of ‘redacted’ as used in the text?

- a. improved ☐
- b. corrected ☐
- c. censored ☐
- d. redrafted ☐

This is a context question. You can identify the correct meaning of a word by reading and understanding the surrounding text.

6. What is the purpose of this webpage?

- a. to persuade ☐
- b. to inform ☐
- c. to entertain ☐
- d. to instruct ☐
- e. to describe ☐

This question tests your ability to use deduction skills to identify the intended purpose of a text.

Read **both texts** carefully.

7. How do both writers present torture and the role of governments in Text A and Text B?

This is an analysis question which asks you to look at the language writers use to convey the meaning effectively.

You need to comment on:

- the writer’s choice of words;
- the details the writer has chosen to include;
- the types of sentences and paragraphs used.

You are also asked to evaluate the texts by comparing and contrasting styles of writing/information given.

Writing

- Remember to give your opinion and to give reasons for your opinions.*

10. In a small group discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using torture by governments. Should they be brought to justice?

Ensure that everyone has a chance to give his/her opinion and that you listen carefully to everyone.