Instrument for International Law Experiment (Fielded by Knowledge Networks October-November, 2008)

This question is about foreign policy. In conflicts ranging from World War I to the present, it is common for the United States to capture combatants from the opposing side. These combatants may have information of interest for the conflict, such as the opposing side's troop movements or plans for future attacks. Some U.S. officials believe interrogating captured combatants through a variety of methods is a useful way to obtain this information. Please consider each of the following points carefully and then tell us what you think.

[General statement on nature of interrogation methods and information]
The interrogation methods would involve torture, meaning they would cause severe pain or suffering to the captured combatants. The information may, or may not, be accurate or relevant to the conflict.

[A combination of the following points is then presented. See matrix in Table 1 below for full distribution. The relevant sequence of additional information each respondent receives is also randomized in order to guard against any possible order effects.]

[Regular armed forces]
The interrogation methods would be used on captured combatants that are part of regular armed forces. The combatants are organized in units of varying sizes, use standard uniforms and weapons, and conduct military operations in a similar manner to the U.S. military.

[Insurgents/Not Regular Armed Forces]
The interrogation methods would be used on captured combatants that are not part of regular armed forces. The combatants are often organized in small units, do not use standard uniforms or carry their weapons openly, and conduct operations geared toward subversion.

[International Law]
The interrogation methods would violate international law. The United States has signed international treaties that do not allow the use of these methods under any circumstances against any captured combatants.

[Reciprocity]
The interrogation methods are currently being used by the opposing side on captured U.S. combatants. The U.S. combatants were captured during the course of regular military operations and then interrogated using the same sort of methods with the same expected consequences.

Question:
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
The United States should use interrogation methods involving torture on captured combatants.
Strongly Agree / Agree / Somewhat Agree / Neutral /
Somewhat Disagree / Disagree / Strongly Disagree

Table 1: Experimental Groups for International Law Experiment

Group	Methods	Treaty	Soldier (S)/ Insurgent (I)	Reciprocity
1	+		S	
2	+		S	+
3	+	+	S	
4	+	+	S	+
5	+		I	
6	+		I	+
7	+	+	I	
8	+	+	I	+