Instrument for International Legalization Experiment (Fielded by Knowledge Networks June-July 2010)

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 fighters from the opposing side. These prisoners may have information of interest for the conflict, such as the enemy's troop movements or plans for future attacks. Some U.S. officials believe interrogating prisoners 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.

[All given 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.

[All given statement that prisoners are Insurgents/Not Regular Armed Forces]
The interrogation methods would be used on prisoners that are not part of regular armed forces. The fighters are often organized in small groups, do not wear standard uniforms or carry their weapons openly, and conduct subversive operations.

[International legalization treatments – respondents are then randomly assigned to one of the following groups. See Table 2 below for more information.]

Group 1: [High Obligation; High Precision; High Delegation]
The interrogation methods would violate international law. The United States has signed international treaties that do not allow the use of torture under any circumstances against any prisoners. If U.S. officials used torture, then an international court could prosecute them for war crimes.

Group 2: [High Obligation; Low Precision; High Delegation]
The interrogation methods might, or might not, violate international law. The United States has signed international treaties that might not allow for the use of torture against prisoners. But there is a lot of debate among experts about what the treaties really mean. If U.S. officials used torture, then an international court could prosecute them for war crimes.

Group 3: [High Obligation; High Precision; Low Delegation]
The interrogation methods would violate international law. The United States has signed international treaties that do not allow the use of torture under any circumstances against any prisoners. Even if U.S. officials used torture, no international court could prosecute them for war crimes.

Group 4: [High Obligation; Low Precision; Low Delegation]
The interrogation methods might, or might not, violate international law. The United States has signed international treaties that might not allow for the use of torture against prisoners. But there is a lot of debate among experts about what the treaties really mean. Even if U.S. officials used torture, no international court could prosecute them for war crimes.

Group 5: [Low Obligation; High Precision; Low Delegation]
The interrogation methods would violate general international values. These values do not allow the use of torture under any circumstances against any prisoners. Even if U.S. officials used torture and it was found to be against these values, no international court could prosecute them for war crimes.

Group 6: [Low Obligation; Low Precision; Low Delegation]
The interrogation methods might, or might not, violate general international values. These values might not allow for the use of torture against prisoners. Even if U.S. officials used torture and it was found to be against these values, no international court could prosecute them for war crimes.

Question:
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
The United States should use interrogation methods involving torture on prisoners.
Strongly Agree / Agree / Somewhat Agree / Neither Agree Nor Disagree /
Somewhat Disagree / Disagree / Strongly Disagree

Table 1: Experimental Groups for International Legalization Experiment

	International Law Treatments		
Group	Obligation	Precision	Delegation
1	High	High	High
2	High	Low	High
3	High	High	Low
4	High	Low	Low
5	Low	High	Low
6	Low	Low	Low

Note: All groups are assigned the same "general statement on nature of interrogation methods and information" and "insurgent" prompts listed in the opening section of the instrument.