



What
are we
tied to
in
Vietnam?

"HAULING IN RED GUERRILLA

Vietnamese soldiers hitch a Communist Viet Cong guerrilla prisoner to armored truck carrier prior to pulling him through stream in effort to make him talk. The prisoner was captured with a weapon and documents during operation by Vietnamese troops in Dinh Tuong Province south of Saigon. (AP Wirephoto via cable from Saigon.)" *Boston Record American*, May 23, 1964.

"BROUGHT TO HEEL

South Viet Nam soldier uses dagger butt on Vietnam who gave wrong information about the Viet Cong to troops. After knocking the farmer down, the soldier to work him over. See foto right . . . Farmer is sto soldier. (Associated Press Radiofotos.)" *New York Times*, Jan. 10, 1964.



"Does this mean that the American authorities sanction torture as a means of information?"



"VIETNAMESE INTERROGATION

South Vietnamese soldiers lower a Communist guerrilla, his hands tied behind him, into a water pot. The prisoner was one of four taken in Mekong Delta town where bloody battle occurred. The ducking was one method of persuading men to talk. (Associated Press.)" *New York Times*, Oct. 27, 1964.

Look again at these pictures. Terrible acts of brutality and premeditated torture on prisoners-of-war and civilians are commonplace in Vietnam today. What is especially terrifying is that the evidence is widely reported and yet there is no audible protest; our nation remains indifferent. These deliberate cruelties are considered routine. Such atrocities violate every concept of the dignity of man and discredit every honorable military code. They discredit us and yet America is silent.

Some argue that brutality and torture can be justified on the tactical ground that they weaken the morale of the enemy. But the very opposite has occurred: the number and the resoluteness of the Vietcong are strengthened; the peasantry is increasingly estranged. Others argue that military information may be obtained through torture, but the integrity of America becomes badly compromised in the process.

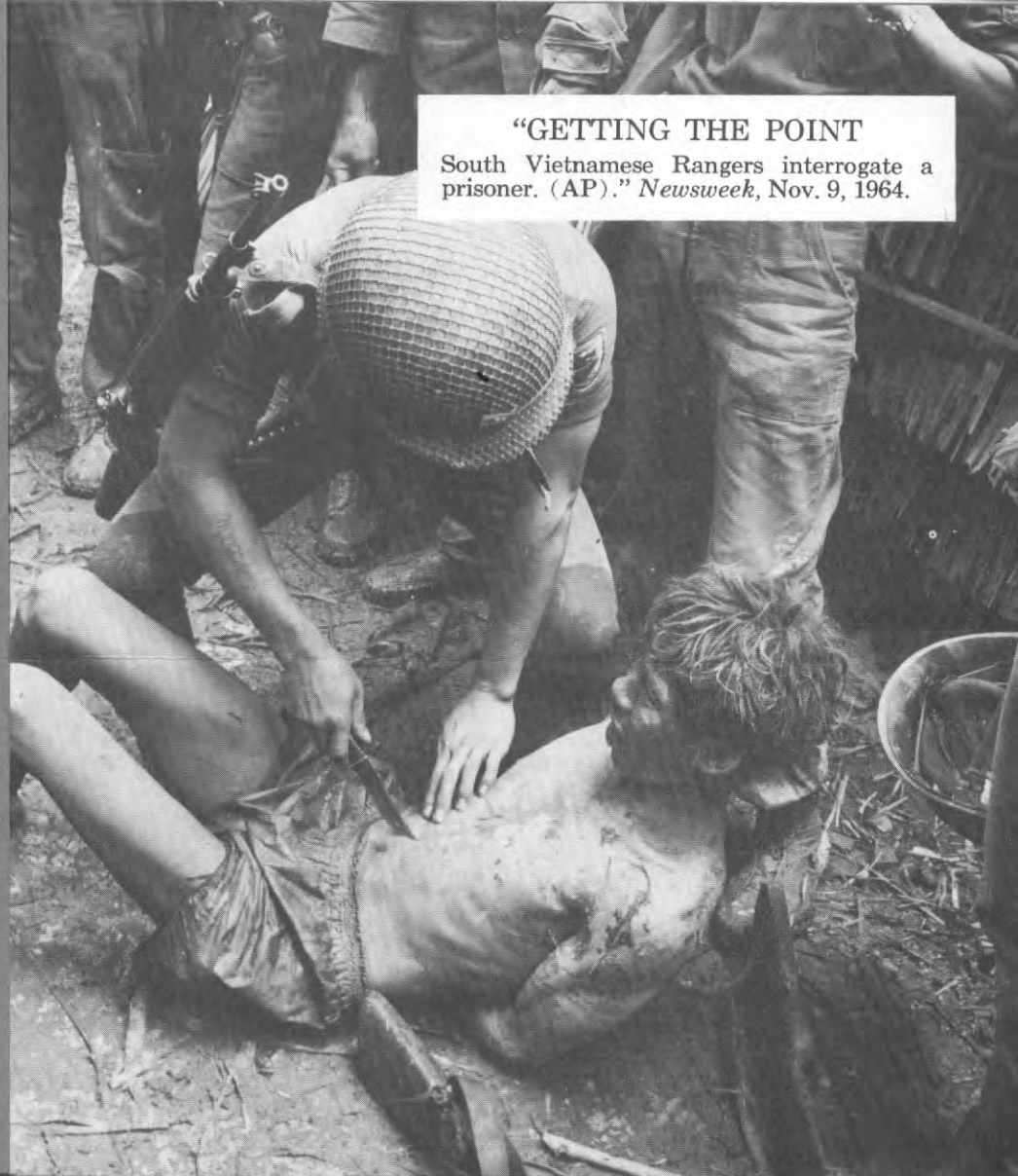
Our country bears a heavy responsibility because these crimes are committed by soldiers who for the most part are trained, equipped, paid and advised by the United States.

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"GETTING THE POINT

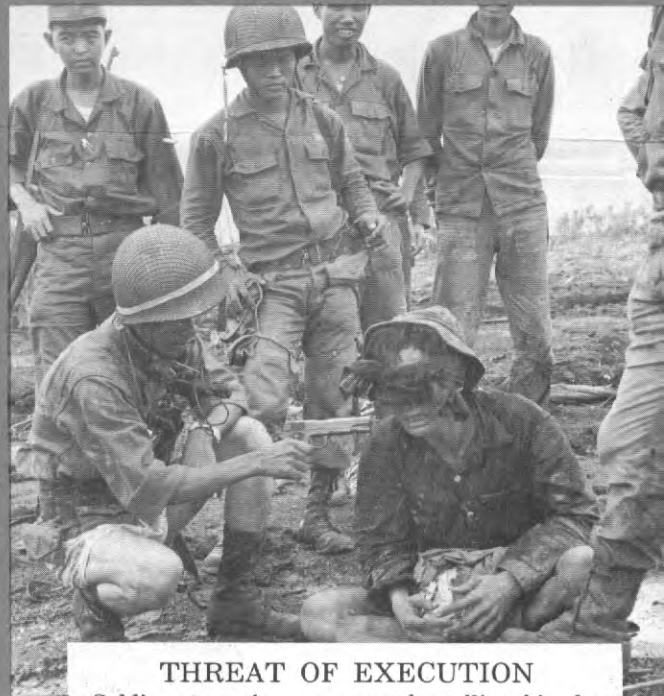
South Vietnamese Rangers interrogate a prisoner. (AP)." *Newsweek*, Nov. 9, 1964.



terrogation?"

WAR TROPHIES IN VIET NAM

A Vietnamese Marine follows a captive Viet Cong suspect as they carry the heads of a Viet Cong platoon leader and two soldiers on a pole between them after a battle near Can Duoc, 30 miles South of Saigon Sept. 16 . . . Heads, cut from men killed in engagement, were suspended by the ears to be carried off as trophies. This picture was made by U.S. Marine Sgt. Steve Stibbins, A.P. photo appeared in Paris edition of *New York Herald Tribune*, Sept. 17, 1964.



THREAT OF EXECUTION

Soldiers terrorize a peasant by telling him he will be shot. He is a cripple and was unable to flee village when soldiers arrived. He was unharmed but sent to a prison camp. Photo and account by Daniel Ford. Photo appeared in *New York Times Magazine*, Dec. 6, 1964.

Whatever happened to our objective?

"Improved treatment of prisoners, now marked by brutality, is an objective of the United States."

Homer Bigart, *New York Times*,
July 25, 1962.

The Extent Of U.S. Responsibility

"U.S. officers are instructed not to allow torture of prisoners to extract information, but it is rumored that they often 'take a walk' during the interrogation."

Jeanne Kuebler, *Editorial Research Reports*,
April 17, 1963.

Are We Participating?

"The evidence strongly suggests that the United States is sanctioning, and to an important extent participating in, brutalities of a more vicious nature and on a wider scale than have been permitted by this country in recent military history."

Chandler Davidson, *The Nation Magazine*,
Nov. 2, 1964.

Heaved From A Helicopter

"A helicopter pilot (American) looked up . . . to relate what had happened to a captive he had been flying back from a battle area. A Vietnamese army officer yelled in the ear of the suspected guerrilla who was tied hand and foot. The man did not respond, so the officer and a Vietnamese soldier heaved him, struggling against his ropes, out of the UH-1B helicopter from 2,900 feet."

Jonathan Kapstein, *The Nation Magazine*,
Dec. 21, 1964.

Lined Up And Shot

" . . . A 25-year-old U.S. Army lieutenant described what he had seen one time when soldiers of the Vietnamese 7th Infantry Division captured prisoners. "They had four, all suspected of being Vietcong — the first prisoners they had taken in a long time. They lined 'em up and shot the first man. Then they questioned the second. His answers were unsatisfactory, I guess, because they shot him too. The third man talked freely.'"

Jonathan Kapstein, *The Nation Magazine*,
Dec. 21, 1964.

It's Sometimes Better To Die

"In Vietnam . . . on both sides of the guerrilla war, a man is sometimes better off dead than captured."

Editorial, *Saturday Evening Post Magazine*,
Jan. 16, 1965.

The Vietnamese Marines Are Tough

"The Vietnamese Marines are as tough with their own as with the enemy . . . 'if a guy goes over the hill and they catch him, there's no time for a court martial. They bust him to private, take off his clothes, beat him half to death and put him back to work.'"

And they waste no pity on recalcitrant civilians. Pointing to an officer, Martin said 'the other day he caught a VC woman lying to him. If he hadn't caught the lie, it would have killed several of our men. He made one gesture to his cowboy (bodyguard) and he blew off her head with a shotgun.'"

Interview with U.S. Marine Sgt. Frank Martin,
Boston Herald, May 25, 1964.

Iron Discipline Is Important

"Iron discipline is an important part of the training of the new units. Recently one unit found that a Viet Cong infiltrator had joined it. The men themselves held a field tribunal for the traitor and then decapitated him, sending the body and head back to the man's family."

Associated Press, *Boston Sunday Globe*,
Oct. 25, 1964.

When Soldiers Get Nervous

" . . . Maybe they were nervous — but there was a Vietnamese woman with three children. She grabbed one up, the Arvin (Army of Vietnam) shot the two older ones and the kid in her arms, and shot her in the belly."

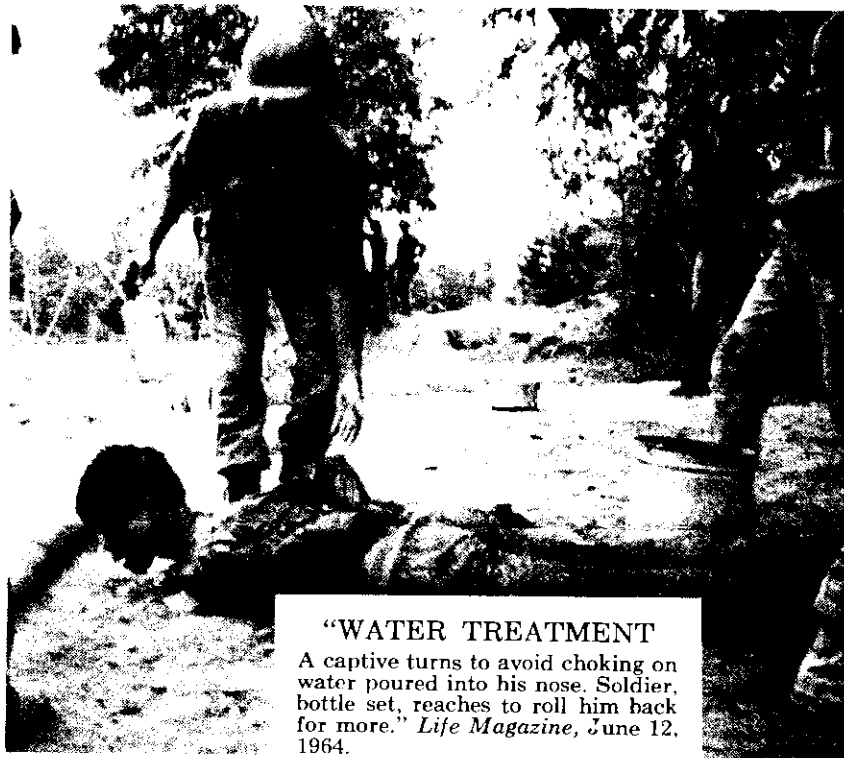
Richard Tregaskis, *Vietnam Diary*,
Holt, Rinehart and Winston, N.Y., 1963.

"The long, slow slide into barbarism..."

"The strange new feature about the photographs of torture now appearing in the British and American Press, is that they have been taken with the approval of the torturers and published over captions that contain no hint of condemnation.

They might have come out of a book on insect life. 'The white ant takes certain measures against the red ant after a successful foray.' But these, after all, are not ants but men. The long slow slide into barbarism of the Western world seems to have quickened. For these photographs are of torturers belonging to an army which could not exist without American aid and counsel. Does this mean that the American authorities sanction torture as a means of interrogation?"

Graham Greene, *London Daily Telegraph*,
Nov. 6, 1964.



"WATER TREATMENT"

A captive turns to avoid choking on water poured into his nose. Soldier, bottle set, reaches to roll him back for more." *Life Magazine*, June 12, 1964.

"The Vietnamese commander whipped the captives with a bamboo cane and booted them as they lay trussed on the ground. The women and children watched the torture of their husbands and fathers with steady faces. The guerrillas were jackknifed into positions of agony. They were held under the river's surface and tortured with water that was forced into their noses. Rags were put over their faces and then water was poured over the rags to give the impression of drowning. Photographer Okamura protested: this seemed needless and cruel. A soldier replied, 'But this is my duty.' But the prisoners would not talk." *Life Magazine*, June 12, 1964.

"DEFIANT ENEMY"

This young muddy-faced guerrilla had been beaten and tortured with water poured into his nose, but still he would not talk." *Life Magazine*, June 12, 1964.





*"The Vietnamese... could
not torture without us."*

"... Who among us knew enough to be shocked, let alone protest, at the photographs of the Vietnamese torturing Vietcong prisoners which our press has published? The Vietnamese are wearing United States equipment, are paid by us, and could not torture without us. There is no way around this — the prisoner crying out in agony is *our prisoner.*"

Arthur Miller,
New York Times Magazine, Jan. 3, 1965

"TERRIFIED PRISONER

A captured Viet Cong kneels in terror as Vietnamese guard threatens him with bayonet. The guard demanded to know where arms were hidden. No reply. The guard let him go to a prison camp unharmed. In interrogating prisoners each side in the Vietnam war occasionally resorts to torture."
Life Magazine, Jan. 25, 1963.