

The New York Times

The Legal Memos About Torture

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To the Editor:

Re "The Roots of Abu Ghraib" (editorial, June 9):

Can the American Bar Association ignore the fact that some of the country's top lawyers wrote a memorandum advising our leaders that the torture of prisoners was not illegal?

The military is investigating itself to discover how the Abu Ghraib abuses happened.

Shouldn't the legal profession now do the same regarding the secret March 2003 memo that legitimized torture? DENIS PELLI New York, June 10, 2004