

Today during his confirmation hearing for the head of the FBI, James Comey stated he could not determine in 2002 whether waterboarding was a crime or not. We'll grant you that he had more respect for the law than some other members of the Bush administration we could mention. But that's not a very high bar now, is it?

After World War II, Japanese officers were convicted, and one was sentenced to death, for the crime of waterboarding. In 1983, a sheriff in Texas was sentenced to 10 years of prison for the crime of waterboarding. So how is it that James Comey in 2002 could not figure out that it was a crime?

And what did we get as a country for committing in 2002 the crime of waterboarding? We got the false intelligence that was used to justify the strategically catastrophic invasion and occupation of Iraq. Nowadays, those who pushed for this ask rhetorically how they could have known the intelligence was unreliable? They got it by torturing people, that's how.

So despite Comey's admirable resistance against another legal outrage which started in the same era, warrantless wiretapping, he remains insufficiently qualified to administrate an agency dedicated to investigating violations of the law. We can do better, and James Comey should not be confirmed.