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## Debates on censoring delay release of classified report US delays release CIA report on secret prisons



The report expected to be released questioned the effectiveness of interrogation techniques like waterboarding (seen here)

DUBAI (Courtney C. Radsch)

The United States Department of Justice delayed the release Wednesday of a CIA report detailing the secret detention prisons opened during the former administration and which sparked worldwide controversy after several accusations of torture and abuse were alleged.

"It's my understanding that it's doubtful that it will be released this week," said White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

The report was set to be released two weeks ago but Barack Obama's administration asked for more time to discuss how much of the report should be published and how much censored, which the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said was disappointing.

"They asked for several small extensions," ACLU National Security Project Fellow Alex Abdo told Al Arabiya. "We think that any delay hurts the public debate and there's the importance of timeliness in disclosure, but we hope these delays have allowed the administration to work out debates and release as much as possible."

"We don't even know if it will have significant information... or how much will be unclassified," Abdo said.

The ACLU filed its request in 2003 and has been litigating since 2004, contending with what experts have called the most secretive administration in American history under former president George W. Bush.

Abdo said similar delays happened with President Barack Obama's administration's release of the Justice Department memos earlier this year detailing the CIA's harsh interrogation practices.

It was delayed over what appeared to be infighting between the two agencies over how much should be released. The justice department won out and the memos were released with minimal redaction.

“We’re hoping that will be the same result here,” said Abdo.

The report expected to be released was written in 2004 by the CIA's chief, who questioned the effectiveness of interrogation techniques such as waterboarding, known as simulated drowning.

Last month, leaked declassified government transcripts showed Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, an accused top al-Qaeda operative and self-confessed mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, saying he confessed to his crimes under CIA torture at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Several Guantanamo detainees have alleged severe torture and abuse and horrific stories of their abuse have put further pressure on Obama who has vowed to shut down the controversial prison at a U.S. naval base in Cuba.