



Written by [Thomas R. Eddlem](#) on December 19, 2008

U.S. Soldier Exposes Torture at Guantanamo

Cervený had informed superiors at Guantanamo prison that two guards had bragged about beating Guantanamo detainees. Cervený's abuse report was [first revealed in 2006](#), and the military promised a quick investigation. "We are reviewing this affidavit and will investigate these allegations fully," Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Chito Pepler [told the Associated Press back in 2006](#).



But in 2007 the military officially exonerated the guards Cervený had accused of bragging. Chief investigator [Col. Richard Bassett found](#) that "the evidence did not support any of the allegations of mistreatment or harassment," and a "letter of counseling" was sent to Cervený for initiating a "fictitious account" of detainee abuse.

Now that investigation has been revealed to be nothing but a whitewash.

The world now knows that torture has occurred at Guantanamo. It's not just [detainees who have alleged torture](#), but the [U.S. Senate has supported the allegation](#) (though, in cowardly fashion, failed to call it "torture").

On December 18, the [Associated Press reported](#) that documents obtained from the Inspector General's office through the Freedom of Information Act revealed that one of the two guards fingered by Cervený had confessed to investigators he had beaten detainees. The other guard, documents revealed, had previously acted violently to superiors in training. The record now reveals that the whistleblower, Cervený, was the one who was under prosecution during the investigation. "It was definitely confrontational, like a cross-examination," Vokey told the Associated Press. "He read her her rights and accused her of making a false claim. It scared Sgt. Cervený pretty badly. She was shaking afterward."

Cervený isn't the only U.S. soldier to testify to abuse by American soldiers despite high-level pressure to remain quiet. Early in the Iraqi occupation, [Sgt. Samuel Provance](#) was almost single-handedly responsible for exposing the disgraceful abuse at Abu Ghraib prison. Provance also faced administrative discipline and official condemnation for testifying to what the world now knows to be the truth. But like Cervený, Provance held to the truth and the corruption was exposed.

Freedom-loving Americans should find the news about Cervený to be both encouraging and alarming. It is encouraging because it shows that there patriotic soldiers in America's military services with the moral fortitude to expose what's clearly wrong, even when faced with official repression from above. It is alarming not only because of the thorough [corruption at the top](#), but because of the impact of such



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events have on whether men and women of such high caliber will remain in the armed services. It's quite possible that the incident will end with Cerveny drummed out of the Marine Corps, as the Abu Ghraib controversy ended Provance's career in the Army.



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