

Sir,

We write to report two cases of the use of snakes in psychological torture in East Africa. The use of snakes in torture is not new and contemporary evidence exists from Asia as early as 1673.¹ Although a modern symbol of the medical profession,² snakes have always been associated with fear and suffering: for example, in 1813 the poet Shelley referred to the “torture snakes of hell”.³ One reason for this may lie in human evolution as there is evidence that humans and other primates have evolved special systems to detect and fear snakes.⁴⁻⁶ From the second half of the twentieth century there are accounts of snakes being employed in torture in South America,^{7,8} Asia⁹ and South Africa.¹⁰ More recently a python was used in a racist attack in England.¹¹

Reports of torture using snakes in the twenty first century are absent in the medical literature. In 2009 we examined two patients from the same East African country who reported the use of snakes as a means of psychological torture. The first patient was detained in a military establishment for one week, during which he was interrogated, electrocuted and beaten unconscious. The scars on his body were consistent with the account of the alleged torture. This took place in a specially equipped chamber. An unusual feature of this room was a large “tank” inside which the patient could see

live snakes. He could not identify the species of snake, but clearly saw a number of specimens of different sizes. This suggests either a range of species or of ages. When the client was unable to provide the information his torturers sought they threatened to push him inside this tank to be bitten. In this case the physical threat was not carried out, however the patient was very intimidated.

The second case was similar but from a different military establishment within the same country. In addition, the second patient was threatened with being pushed into a caged pool containing crocodiles. These are the only recent specific accounts of the use of reptiles in institutional torture that we have been able to identify. Discussion with colleagues working with torture victims did not identify other cases. The use of snakes in these establishments may have been chosen for a number of reasons. First, although at least one East African tribal group does practise ritual dancing with certain non-venomous species,¹² Africans are particularly fearful of snakes (sometimes exacerbated by associated superstitious beliefs).^{13,14} Second, snake bites are common in Africa¹⁵ and this renders torture difficult to verify. In addition, our evidence suggests that techniques are being shared between establishments within the same country.

Thus, we conclude that methods using

reptiles may pose new challenges to physicians working with victims to document torture.

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Results from several empirical studies suggest that many victims of bullying suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). However, few researchers have attempted to explain why exposure to bullying may result in severe trauma. Furthermore, no studies have related these symptoms to the victims' exposure to other distressing life events. The aims of this study were therefore to assess the prevalence and intensity of PTSD analogue symptomatology among a group of 118 victims of bullying at work. Second, we investigated whether victims of bullying who report being more affected by other distressing life events than by bullying were more likely to suffer PTSD analogue symptomatology. But there are many challenges. Getting justice for victims of torture and other abuses used to be just about impossible. It's still extremely difficult, but decades of work by activists, lawyers and increasingly by doctors have brought new tools to the struggle, whether they're working in a war zone or a hostile political environment. It's called the Istanbul Protocol, and physicians use it to document wounds in such fine, forensic detail that the results can serve in court as corroborating evidence of torture. Gathering Evidence In War Zones. Berishvili has been doing a lot of work in Kazakhstan, where she says it was virtually forbidden to even speak of torture in detention. A Spiritual Guide to Mastering the Challenges of Women, Work, and Sexual Desire. DAVID DE Rich Dad Poor Dad. 241 Pages 2014 11.31 MB 1,180,251 Downloads New! Rich_Dad_Poor_Dad_(PDFDrive_com).pdf No More Mr. Nice Guy! 193 Pages 2003 739 KB 53,600 Downloads New! I edited this epub myself (using Sigil) from a very poorly formatted one, which was clearly converted from the pdf you c What Women Want In A Man: How To Become The Alpha Male Women Respect, Desire, And Want To Submit To. 2013 548 KB 123,921 Downloads New! 146 Pages 1997 3.56 MB 20,156 Downloads New! In The Way of the Superior Man, author David Deida takes the reader on a powerful journey into the heart of contemporary ... Try as they might, anti-human, anti-American globalists can't convince conservatives and Christians to commit vaccine suicide. This doesn't necessarily mean that what comes next is any better, of course. The anti-human globalists currently running the Joe Biden Alzheimer's presidency will only support a replacement that they believe can somehow convince tens of millions of conservatives across America to be injected with deadly spike protein bioweapons. Kamala Harris clearly isn't that person, as she is the very opposite of charismatic and tends to invoke reviled hatred in every person she attempts to lecture. Convincing conservatives across America to be injected with a deadly bioweapon will likely require the... "Physicians are uniquely able to help victims of torture and trauma secure asylum status by providing a comprehensive evaluation," write Lipoff and co-authors Jenna M. Peart, MD, of Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center in Denver and Elisabeth H. Tracey, fourth-year medical student at the Perelman School of Medicine. "Physicians should directly and empathetically elicit a detailed history of any trauma and ask about the origin of all exam findings." The United Nations' Convention against Torture forbids countries from transporting people to any country where there is reason to believe they will be tortured. When appropriate, forensic medical evaluations may be used to corroborate episodes of trauma.