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Expert to Speak on Waterboarding as War Crime, Nov. 11

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Expert to Speak on Waterboarding as War Crime, Nov. 11

Wednesday, November 11

Kennedy Hall, Rm. 237

Dr. Wolfgang Form:

Charging Water-Boarding as a War Crime:

U.S. War Crime Trials in the Far East After World War II

11:30 a.m.

Dr. Wolfgang Form, director of the War Crimes Documentation Center at the University of Marburg, Germany, will discuss a little-known chapter of U.S. military justice and the implications for today of the verdicts issued at these military trials. Shortly after the surrender of Japan, Allied policy directives provided for trials and punishment of war criminals in the Pacific. The defendants at these military commission trials were charged with committing torture, including what was then called water torture.

Japan's use of water torture was extremely common. Many Japanese were convicted for using water torture against U.S. and other Allied POWs. American judges at these military commissions or convening officers roundly condemned the practice as it was applied to American servicemen. The sentences for ill-treatment imposed on the Japanese defendants were often harsh, up to and including hanging or death by firing squad. Presented by the Chapman University School of Law. For more info, contact Michael Bazylar at bazylar@chapman.edu