

## Handout: Analyzing Sources on the Burge Torture Scandal

For each source, do the following:

**Observe:** What is this source? Who created it? What information does it present?

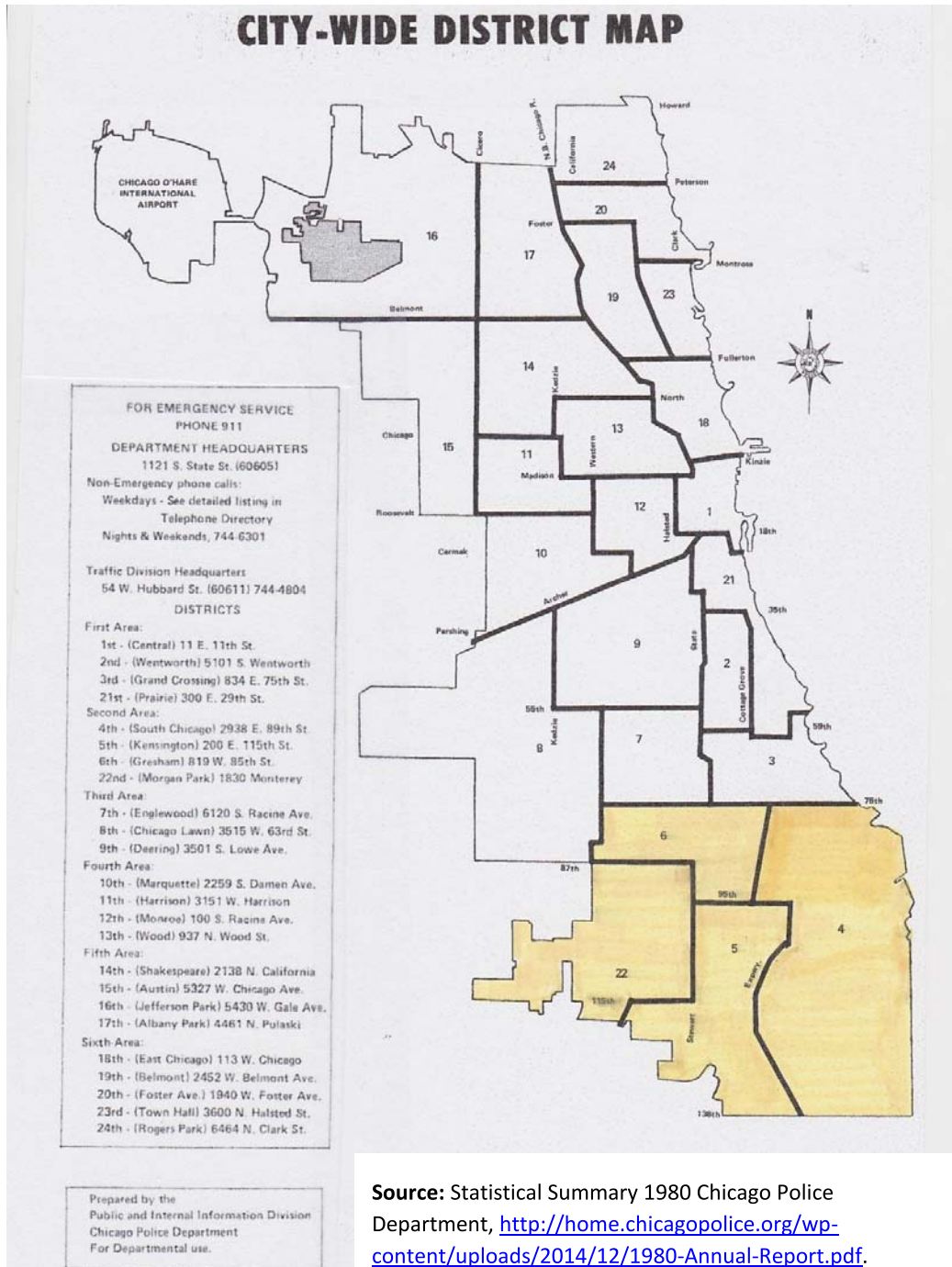
**Reflect:** Did the person who created the source have a particular bias? How does that affect the information it presents? What conclusions would you draw based on the information presented?

**Question:** What questions does the source raise?

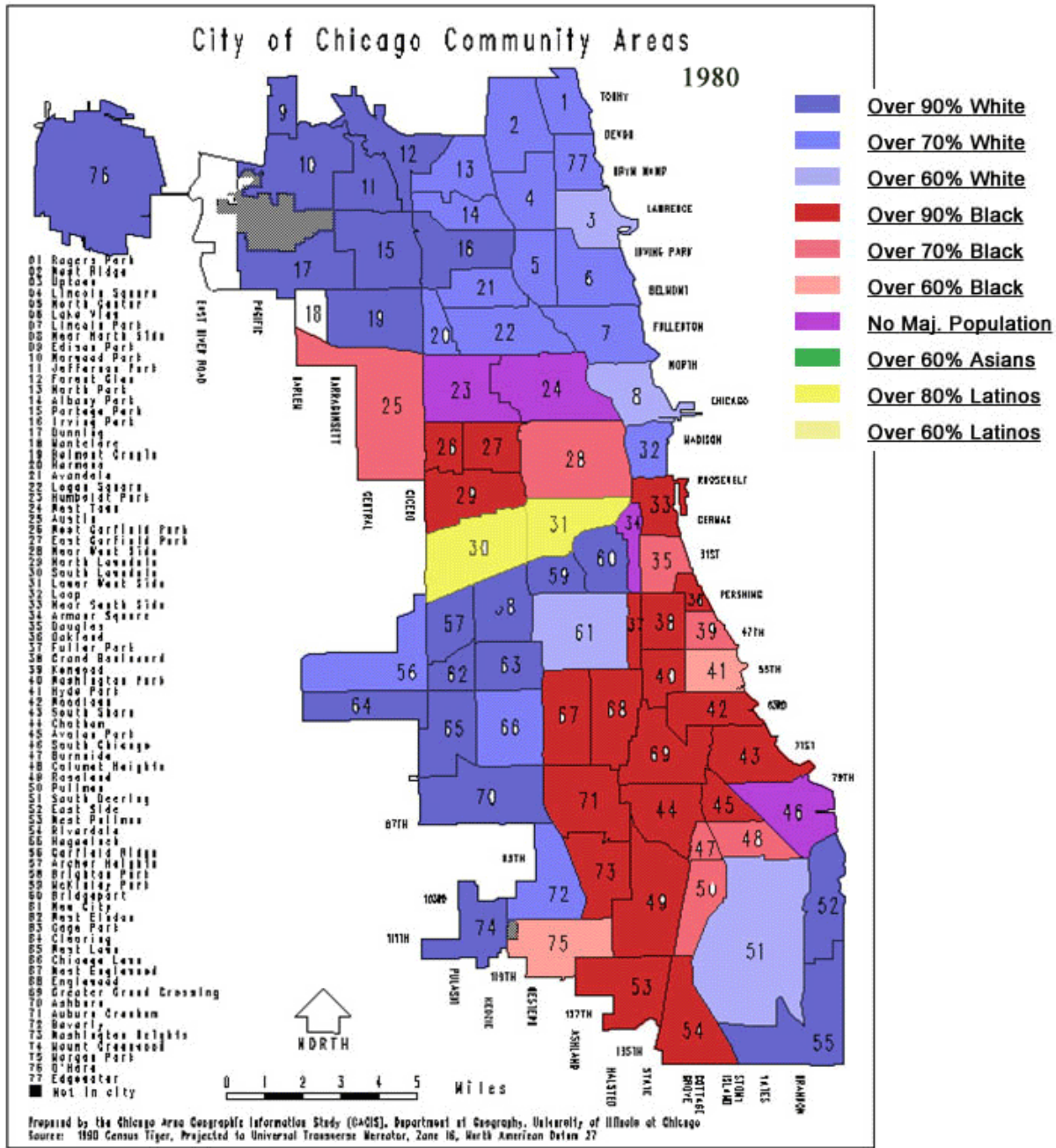
	Observe	Reflect	Question
Source 1			
Source 2			
Source 3			
Source 4			
Source 5			

# Source 1: Maps

## Area 2, Chicago Police Department, 1980



# Ethnicity of Chicago Neighborhoods, 1980



Source: University of Illinois at Chicago, <http://www.gif-explode.com/?explode=http://i.imgur.com/xZoKnTa.gif>.

## Source 2: Jon Burge Torture Index

110	Number of people tortured by Burge and his men since 1972
12	Number of Chicago Police torture survivors sentenced to death
5	Number of Chicago Police torture survivors sentenced to death who were later exonerated
11	Number of Chicago Police torture survivors who have been exonerated
24	Number currently behind bars who were tortured into confessions by Burge and others under his command
22	Number of men who were electrically shocked with the electric shock box or cattle prods by police
23	Number of men who were suffocated with a plastic bag by police
32	Number of men who were attacked or had pain inflicted in their genitals by police
36	Number of men beaten with objects by police
13	Number of men beaten with flashlights
13	Number of men beaten with a phone book
3	Number of men beaten with a rubber hose or pipe
1	Number of men beaten with a bat
15	Number of men threatened with a gun
3	Number of men beaten with a gun
20	Number of men who were called racial slurs
21,179,000	Taxpayer dollars spent by the City to compensate torture survivors in civil suits
10,528,582	Taxpayer dollars spent by the city to defend Jon Burge against claims of police torture
7,000,000	Taxpayer dollars spent by the special prosecutors to investigate claims of torture by Burge and other officers
527,464	Taxpayer dollars spent to fire Burge from the Chicago Police Department
468,000	Taxpayer dollars spent for Burge's pension since he was terminated from the department for his acts of torture and abuse*
40,610,204	Total taxpayer dollars spent on the legal cases related to the Burge torture scandal
0	Apologies from Burge
0	Number of times Burge has accepted responsibility for torturing people
0	Number of times Burge has accepted responsibility for lying about the torture
0	Number of times Burge has testified against other detectives who tortured
26	Number of detectives allegedly involved in the torture ring
25	Number of police officers allegedly involved in the torture ring who have never been prosecuted
1197	Combined time spent behind bars for the five exonerated death row torture survivors in months
15 to 21	U.S. Probation Department's recommended sentence for Jon Burge in months
?	Prison sentence Jon Burge will receive at his sentencing hearing on January 20, 2011*

**Source:** Illinois Coalition Against Torture (ICAT), <https://illinoiscat.org/2011/01/13/jon-burge-torture-index/>. Complete list of sources for the data is available at the link. The Illinois Coalition Against Torture (ICAT) describes itself as an association of individuals and community-based organizations whose goal is to end U.S. torture by state actors at all levels of government at home and abroad.

\*Jon Burge received a sentence of 4-1/2 years. Since this table was prepared in 2011, he has also continued to receive his CPD pension, raising that number significantly.

### Source 3: Timeline of the Chicago Police Torture Scandal

	Events within the Chicago Police Department	Events outside the Chicago Police Department
1970s	<p><b>1972</b> Jon Burge started work as a detective in Area 2.</p> <p><b>1972</b> Torture of African Americans began in Area 2. Electric shock and suffocation were both used.</p>	<p><b>1970s</b> Throughout the decade, crime rates rose nationally.</p> <p><b>1971</b> President Richard Nixon declared a “War on Drugs.”</p>
1980s	<p><b>1982</b> Andrew Wilson arrested for murder. He was repeatedly tortured with shock, suffocation, and burning by Burge and his officers.</p> <p><b>1982</b> Police superintendent received a letter from Doctor John M. Raba with documentation of injuries to Andrew Wilson.</p> <p><b>1982</b> State’s Attorney Richard M. Daley is advised of the allegations of the torture of Wilson.</p> <p><b>1986</b> Andrew Wilson filed first civil lawsuit related to torture in CPD.</p> <p><b>1981-1988</b> More than 87 men claimed they were tortured in Area 2. The State’s Attorney’s Office was aware of many allegations of torture. However, the coerced statements were used in prosecution against the tortured men.</p> <p><b>1989</b> Wilson’s lawsuit dismissed.</p>	<p><b>1980s</b> Crime rates continued to rise.</p> <p><b>1980s</b> Throughout the decade, numerous groups demonstrated, asking the city to take action against Burge and others involved in torture.</p> <p><b>1983</b> Harold Washington elected first African American mayor of Chicago.</p> <p><b>1984-1994</b> Congress passed several major anti-crime bills. Aggressive policing had public support.</p> <p><b>1989</b> People’s Law Office received an anonymous letter containing allegations of torture in Area 2.</p>
1990s	<p><b>1990</b> Police Department’s Office of Professional Standards documented 50 cases of torture and abuse in Area 2.</p> <p><b>1993</b> Jon Burge fired.</p>	<p><b>1991</b> Amnesty International called for investigation of torture allegations. Mayor Richard M. Daley responded with “no comment.”</p> <p><b>1991</b> Video of Rodney King being beaten by police officers in Los Angeles drew attention to the issue of police violence against African Americans.</p>

	<p><b>1998</b> Survivors of CPD torture on Death Row called themselves “The Death Row 10” and became active in movement to abolish the death penalty.</p>	<p><b>Mid-1990s</b> Crime rates peaked and began to decline nationally.</p>
<p><b>2000s</b></p>	<p><b>2008</b> Jon Burge arrested and charged with perjury and obstruction of justice.</p>	<p><b>2002</b> Survivors and family members joined with attorneys, the Center on Wrongful Convictions, Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and Campaign to End the Death Penalty to mount a campaign to urge Governor George Ryan to commute all of the state’s death sentences.</p> <p><b>2003</b> Governor George Ryan commuted sentences of 167 people on death row and pardoned four whose confessions were coerced by torture.</p> <p><b>2004</b> Photos of American military men and women torturing Iraqis at the Abu Ghraib prison released.</p> <p><b>2004</b> Black People Against Police Torture organized to take cases to the international human rights arena.</p> <p><b>2006</b> The United Nations Committee against Torture said Burge cases violated the international torture convention. Called for those responsible to be brought to justice.</p>
<p><b>2010s</b></p>	<p><b>2010</b> Jon Burge convicted.</p> <p><b>2011</b> Jon Burge sentenced to 4-1/2 years in jail.</p> <p><b>2013</b> CTJM and Aldermen Joe Moreno and Howard Brookins introduced the Reparations Ordinance for Chicago Police Torture Survivors in City Council.</p> <p><b>2015</b> Jon Burge released from jail.</p>	<p><b>2011</b> The group Chicago Torture Justice Memorials formed to honor and seek justice for the survivors of Burge torture, their family members, and the African American communities affected by the torture.</p> <p><b>2014</b> The group We Charge Genocide brought their report to the UN Committee Against Torture, condemning the City of Chicago and the Chicago Police Department for systemic racist violence.</p> <p><b>2015</b> City Council passes ordinance provide reparations to living survivors and family members.</p>

Compiled by Chicago Public Schools from the following sources:

Alice Kim and Jennifer Scism Ash, eds., *Reparations Now, Reparations Won* (Chicago: Chicago Torture Justice Memorials, 2015).

Bethel Hable, “Black Lives Tortured: Chicago Awards Reparations to Survivors of Burge Police Torture—Timeline,” *Medill News*, <http://medillnews847.com/madeinchicago/burge/index.html>.

Timeline: Chicago Police Torture Cases, Chicago Torture Justice Memorials Project, [http://chicagotorture.org/files/2012/03/16/CTJM\\_Timeline.pdf](http://chicagotorture.org/files/2012/03/16/CTJM_Timeline.pdf).



## Source 4: Photos and Flyers: Community Response

These sources include flyers, posters, and photographs that provide evidence of the decades-long community response to the torture scandal.

**ON TUESDAY, JULY 31st**  
**A CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION WILL BE INTRODUCED**  
**CALLING FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND TERMINATION**  
**OF CHICAGO POLICE COMMANDER JON BURGE**  
**FOR ACTS OF TORTURE AND BRUTALITY**

Jon Burge is accused of repeated acts of torture against Black citizens of the City of Chicago from 1972 to the present which include: the use of electroshock, near suffocation by placement of plastic bags over victims' heads, placing guns in victims' mouths and playing "Russian Roulette", beatings on the bottoms of feet and genitals, burnings, and racial death threats. Despite numerous complaints to the Office of Professional Standards (the Police Department's internal investigative body), the Police Board, Police Superintendent LeRoy Martin and Mayor Daley, the United States Attorney General and the Illinois Attorney General, Jon Burge has not been disciplined. In fact, he has been steadily promoted to the point where he is one of six Area Commanders in all of Chicago responsible for supervising interrogations by the Detectives under his control.

**8:30 a.m. RALLY in front of City Hall**  
**Clark between Randolph and Washington**


**9:30 a.m. Press Conference**

**10:00 a.m. City Council Convenes**  
**Official Introduction of Resolution**

For More Information: **TASK FORCE TO CONFRONT POLICE VIOLENCE 663-5046**  
**P.O. BOX 478783, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60647**

A flyer for a rally at city hall in 1990.

**WANTED**



Commander Jon Burge  
Chicago Police Department

**FOR TORTURE**

**VICTIMS OF TORTURE BY JON BURGE**

**ELECTROSHOCK**  
 Anthony Holmes 1973  
 Lawrence Pove 1973 & 1979  
 George Powell 1979  
 Michael Johnson 1982  
 Melvin Jones 1982  
 Andrew Wilson 1982  
 Leroy Kidd 1984  
 Lawrence Orange 1984  
 Donald White 1982

**DRY SUBMERSION**  
*(unconsciousness and revival by placing a bag over victims' heads)*  
 Anthony Holmes 1973  
 Lawrence Pove 1973 & 1979  
 George Powell 1979  
 Roy Brown 1982  
 Walter Johnson 1982  
 Larry Milan 1982  
 Donald Taylor 1982  
 Donald White 1982  
 Andrew Wilson 1982  
 Shadford Martin 1985

**RUSSIAN ROULETTE**  
 Howard Collins 1974  
 Willie Porch 1979  
 Melvin Jones 1982  
 Andrew Wilson 1982  
 Jackie Wilson 1982

**OTHER ACTS OF SEVERE VIOLENCE**  
 Raymond Golden 1979  
 Timothy Thompson 1979  
 Tony Thompson 1979  
 Edward James 1980  
 James Lewis 1980  
 Roy Brown 1982  
 Andrew Wilson 1982  
 James Daniel 1985

On January 21, 1992 the City will commence hearings at the Police Board to fire Jon Burge and two of the Detectives under his command, John Yucas and Patrick O'Hara. The above listed Black men represent known victims who have accused Burge personally of torture. Yucas and O'Hara personally have been named in numerous complaints of torture, as well.

Many other officers under Burge's command including such notorious officers as Dignan, Byrne, Dwyer and Lottio have also been accused of strikingly similar acts.

Despite the overwhelming evidence of systematic torture over a twelve-year period by Burge and his cohorts the City is prosecuting based exclusively on only one of the complainants. This is true because Chief of Police Martin, with the backing of Mayor Daley, has suppressed a report affirming a systematic pattern of torture by Burge and his Detectives.

The police are already organizing to support Burge's reinstatement, with petitions, speeches to the Police Board and financing his defense. Burge's lawyer has already been paid \$750,000 by the City. The stakes are high! A police Commander has never been accused of torture and has never been suspended pending firing proceedings. That's why they got all their metho charms out for the fight. We must keep the pressure on! If Burge is not fired the will be a clear green light to other police officers that it is okay to continue their sad brutality without fear of discipline.

**DEMONSTRATE &**  
**ATTEND THE HEARING**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 21, 1991 8:00 a.m.**  
**Police Headquarters 1121 S. State**

TASK FORCE TO CONFRONT POLICE VIOLENCE P.O. BOX 25501, CHICAGO, IL 60625 (312) 472-9180

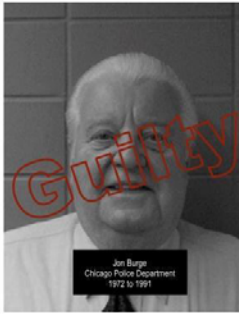
A flyer for a rally at Police Headquarters, 1991.

You are invited to a program

# Jon Burge: GUILTY Beyond the Trial

## What does the verdict mean? Where do we go from here?

After decades of grassroots pressure, former Chicago police commander, Jon Burge was found guilty of perjury about his involvement in torture but not for torture. What does the verdict mean to the survivors of torture? What does it mean to the men who are still incarcerated as a result of forced confessions. Will Burge's accomplices be held accountable for torture? How prevalent is the use of excessive force/torture now and has the campaign against Burge resulted in changes in the Chicago Police Department?



### Program

Film:

#### *The End of the Night Stick*

Award winning documentary focusing on the campaign to halt torture, bring justice to the survivors and hold Jon Burge and others accountable for their actions.

Speakers:

Mary L. Johnson,  
Mother of Burge torture survivor

Flint Taylor,  
Attorney for the People's Law Office

Discussion

Date: Thursday, September 30

Time: 6:30 food - 7 pm program

Place: Grace Place  
637 S. Dearborn

For more information contact: 312.641.5151

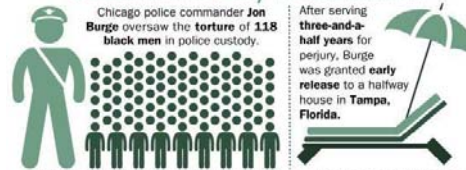
Sponsored by Illinois Coalition Against Torture and National Lawyers Guild—Chicago Chapter

The Illinois Coalition Against Torture (ICAT) is an association of individuals and community-based organizations whose goal is to end U.S. torture by state actors at all levels of government at home and abroad. We also want to eliminate the culture of impunity regarding torture through influencing public opinion and advocating for political change.

Poster for a film about the Burge trial.

Source: *Film Screening and Discussion Forum: Jon Burge—GUILTY—Beyond the Trial*, Illinois Coalition Against Torture (ICAT), September 10, 2010, <https://illinoiscat.org/2010/09/10/film-screening-and-discussion-forum-jon-burge%E2%80%94guilty%E2%80%94beyond-the-trial/>

## JON BURGE: CHICAGO POLICE COMMANDER, TORTURER



### SO HOW MUCH DID THIS TORTURE COST CHICAGO'S TAX-PAYERS?

MORE THAN **\$120,000,000**

LET'S BREAK THAT DOWN:

<b>\$66.8 MILLION</b> IN SETTLEMENTS TO TORTURE VICTIMS	OVER 22M	OVER 20M	OVER 15M
	OVER 22 MILLION IN ONGOING PENSION PAYOUTS TO BURGE'S COLLABORATORS	OVER 20 MILLION IN LEGAL DEFENSE TO BURGE AND HIS HENCHMEN	OVER 15 MILLION TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE BURGE'S CRIMES

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AS MANY AS **2065 \$0**

Burge torture victims remain behind bars today.	claims of torture are currently being heard by the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission.	for rehabilitation, job-training, education, and medical and psychological treatment for any torture victims.
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IN THESE TIMES

Data obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests and court documents by the People's Law Office

The costs of the torture scandal to Chicago tax-payers.

Source: Flint Taylor, "Jon Burge, Torturer of Over 100 Black Men, Is Out of Prison After Less Than Four Years," *In These Times*, October 2, 2014, [http://inthesetimes.com/article/17213/jon\\_burge\\_torture\\_chicago\\_has\\_not\\_paid\\_for\\_his\\_crimes](http://inthesetimes.com/article/17213/jon_burge_torture_chicago_has_not_paid_for_his_crimes)





Survivor Mark Clements speaks out on how reparations would help those who suffered torture.

**Source:** Kate Morrissey, "Songs For Burge Torture Victims Fill City Hall," *Medill Reports*, January 15, 2015, <http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/chicago/songs-for-burge-torture-victims-fill-city-hall/>



Activists at an Amnesty International protest in Chicago.

**Source:** Stephen W. Hawkins, "After 30 Years, Accountability for Police Torture in Chicago," *Huffington Post*, May 14, 2015, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steven-w-hawkins/after-30-years-accountability-for-police-torture-in-chicago\\_b\\_7278382.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steven-w-hawkins/after-30-years-accountability-for-police-torture-in-chicago_b_7278382.html)

## Source 5: Burge and His Men

Records from the Special Prosecutor appointed to investigate the torture allegations indicate that as many as 67 police officers were named in at least one case. Nearly all were white; three officers were African American and one Hispanic.

Watch the video clips listed below, which present two key police officers in the case under questioning:

Detective Michael Kill: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0sJXxPkZLg>, 19:31 to 21:38

Commander Jon Burge: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0sJXxPkZLg>, 31:40 to 34:02