

## Book Note

### INTERROGATIONS, FORCED FEEDINGS, AND THE ROLE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, by Ryan Goodman & Mindy Jane Roseman<sup>1</sup>

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IN *INTERROGATIONS, FORCED FEEDINGS, and the Role of Health Professionals*, Ryan Goodman and Mindy Jane Roseman remind us that health professionals are just as susceptible to situational factors that influence thinking and behaviour as anyone else. Through a collection of essays by renowned practitioners and scholars in human rights, bioethics, military intelligence, medicine, and psychology, this book brings attention to the gaps and conflicts between international law, ethical norms, and individual behavior as they relate to health professionals' involvement in military operations, specifically their role in interrogations and forced feedings. Goodman and Roseman conclude this collection with a set of recommendations on how various institutions can prevent detainee abuse and human rights violations in the military.

The first section, entitled "The Constraints of Contexts," highlights the various pressures confronted by military-based health professionals. Stephanie Erin Brewer and Jean Maria Arrigo illustrate the difficulty such workers face to maintain the delicate balance between their identities as healers and their roles as military officers. Johnathan H. Marks discusses the extent to which health professionals have become complicit in detainee abuse, especially in the wake of 9/11. Leonard Rubenstein explains how health professions rationalize their members' complicity in military torture. He suggests that systemic changes are needed to preserve beneficence and non-maleficence as priorities.

The second section, entitled "Ethical Quandaries and Policy Positions," defines and explores the various stances on interrogation and forced feedings among different groups, including health professionals, the American Psychol-

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1. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009) 228 pages.

ogy Association (APA), and the World Medical Association. In his ethical analysis, Edmund Howe discusses how the health profession justifies its role in military-based interrogation. Stephen Soldz uses the APA to illustrate how professional associations have used material self-interest to redefine their roles and erode their professional ethical codes to advance their professions. The Blachar and Borow essay discusses the consequences of the lack of direction given to military health professionals because of no legal consensus on particular ethical issues, like forced feeding. They recommend that as opposed to achieving legal consensus, attention should be put towards assuring military physicians are free to work as healers, regardless of who their patients are.

In the third section of the book, entitled "Operational Guidelines," Scott Allen and Hernan Reyes describe the difficulty in achieving trust in the physician-prisoner-patient relationship in detention centres. Lastly, Colonel Steven Kleinman provides us with insight into his own professional experience as a military interrogator trainer and his stern rejection of the use of coercive measures in interrogation. Kleinman believes that effective interrogation and human rights are actually inseparable as opposed to oppositional factors.

The actual conduct of military missions brings into contrast the human rights norms outlined by international and health professional ethics codes. Military policies and group psychology work in concert in the military environment to create an "atrocious-producing situation,"<sup>2</sup> where ordinary people, including health professionals, become capable of committing atrocities because of peer pressure and socialization to atrocity. As a result, elements central to the core of health professional ethical conduct, like beneficence and non-maleficence, are easily superseded by military agency objectives, leaving open the possibility of human rights violations among health professionals. Goodman and Roseman's collection of scholarly essays effectively identifies the gaps between human rights norms and military operations. The essays clearly illustrate the consequences of these gaps for human rights, military intelligence, and health professions. They provide workable and practicable recommendations that the United States and other countries can follow to achieve better intelligence and at the same time protect and promote human rights.

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2. *Ibid.* at 30.