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In April of 2004, the United States learned of the abuses at Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq. I was selected by the U.S. Army to be a part of the team dispatched to this awful place to appropriately train the staff to interview rather than harshly interrogate prisoners, and to develop a policy that would end the abuses.

As with most of us who have taken an introductory psychology course, I had read about the Stanford Prison Experiment, but I had never met Dr. Zimbardo or had the opportunity to discuss with him exactly what happened, what went wrong in his famous study, and how the lessons learned could help our nation end prison abuses at Abu Ghraib.

In early May of 2004, Dr. Zimbardo was scheduled to give a lecture at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu, and I happened to be stationed in Hawaii as an Army Psychologist. Out of the blue, I received a telephone call from Dr. Zimbardo because he had learned that I would soon be visiting Abu Ghraib to help end the abuses. He then offered to meet and make suggestions on what to do and not do.

Our meeting in an Italian coffee shop ended up lasting two hours. Dr. Zimbardo was incredibly generous with his time and expertise. Truly, our nation owes him a great debt of gratitude because he helped me craft an 11-step plan at that meeting to end the abuses at Abu Ghraib, and indeed, to shape policies outlawing abusive practices at military detention facilities around the world.

In my work with Dr. Zimbardo, his character and integrity have been without question. Most of all, I will always think fondly of his warmth, generosity, research expertise, and willingness to help me and others during a very dark time in our nation's history.

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