



All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition
House of Commons

Press release: Immediate, Wednesday 17th November 2010

Andrew Tyrie MP responds to the announcement by the Crime Prosecution Service that an MI5 officer will not be prosecuted over allegations that he was complicit in the mistreatment of Binyam Mohamed:

Andrew Tyrie MP said: “It was right that these allegations were investigated and I welcomed the Attorney-General’s referral of the case to the police last year.”

“However, it is clear that the CPS have ‘insufficient evidence’ to prosecute Witness B so it is appropriate that the criminal investigation be brought to a close. This brings us another step closer to the much-needed Gibson Inquiry.”

“As I said yesterday, David Cameron created the Gibson inquiry to get to the truth. Any information that would have been available in the court cases and criminal investigations must be available to the inquiry.”

“The sooner it begins, the better.”

Ends.

Notes to editors

This announcement removes another barrier to beginning the inquiry into allegations of British involvement in the rendition and mistreatment of detainees.

The Inquiry was announced by the Prime Minister on 6 July 2010. In his letter to Inquiry Chairman Sir Peter Gibson, Prime Minister David Cameron stated that its commencement would wait upon the various legal cases:

“As you know, the Government will ask this inquiry to begin as soon as possible after the end of related criminal processes and once sufficient progress has been made in settling ongoing litigation.”

The Government announced yesterday that the litigation had been settled.

Binyam Mohamed was detained by US authorities in Pakistan, and subsequently rendered to Morocco, Afghanistan, and then Guantanamo Bay. He alleges that he was brutally tortured during his time in detention.

Witness B is an MI5 officer who interviewed Binyam Mohamed in Pakistan on 17 May 2002. In 2008, Witness B gave evidence on the interrogation of suspects in a judicial review in the High Court.

The Attorney General announced on 26th March 2009 that she was referring the allegations of possible criminal wrongdoing by MI5 agents in relation to Binyam Mohamed to the police.

Andrew Tyrie is Conservative MP for Chichester and Chairman and founder of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition. Mr Tyrie can be contacted on 0207 219 6371. His office email is tyriea@parliament.uk. The website of the All Party Group is www.extraordinaryrendition.org.