



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Inaugural meeting 2017

Date: Wednesday 6th September, 2017

Location: Room W2, Westminster Hall

Time: 3:30 PM

1. Election of officers
2. Financial accounts
3. Overview of previous year's activities
4. General discussion and future priorities

Attendance

Parliamentarians:

Tom Brake MP

Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP

Baroness Hamwee

Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts

Kelvin Hopkins MP

Baroness Stern

Rt Hon Lord Tyler

Others:

Rt Hon Andrew Tyrie (founder)

Hannah Stone (coordinator)

Jamie Hall (office of Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP)

Mark Johnson (office of Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP)

Marsha Kendall (office of Fabian Hamilton MP)

1. Election of officers

- Kenneth Clarke MP (Chairman)
- Lord Hodgson (Treasurer)
- Kelvin Hopkins MP (Vice Chair)
- Lord Tyler (Vice Chair)

2. Financial accounts

The APPG agreed to take over the assets and liabilities held by the APPG at the end of the previous Parliament.

3. Overview of previous year's activities and developments

Engagement with Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC):

The decision to close down the Gibson Inquiry into detainee treatment left all the weight on the ISC. It is not clear whether the ISC is equipped with the powers or personnel to do the job, or whether it has seen relevant information from the US Senate Torture Report. The APPG has made a series of recommendations for how the Committee could improve its chances of getting to the truth.

Rendition cases in the courts:

The first rendition cases to be heard since the passage of the Justice and Security Act were given permission to go ahead this year. The APPG has made public comments on these, and is tracking the performance of the Act.

Trump administration:

The Chairman has pressed the Prime Minister to make clear to President Trump that Britain would not facilitate torture.

Freedom of Information case:

The APPG's legal case against US intelligence and security agencies has produced new documents. The Group plans to persist with the case.

Engagement with parliamentarians:

The Chairman wrote to all members of the Commons and selected members of the Lords, gaining many new members.

4. *General discussion and future priorities*

- Introduction of the new Chairman.
- Recognition of the work of the outgoing Chairman.
- The importance of maintaining high-functioning security services, with strong mechanisms of accountability.
- The need to ensure that delays in carrying out an inquiry into extraordinary rendition do not lead to the impression that there has been closure.
- The workings of the ISC, and plans to engage with it.
- The need to concentrate on the controls in place today to ensure that there is no repeat.
- Allegations that rendition flights used UK airports.
- The CPS's decision not to prosecute over the Libyan renditions.
- Concerns about the use of closed proceedings in rendition cases.