



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

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

7 June 2018

Dear Theresa,

It is now 13 years since the first press reports emerged of UK involvement in the United States' programme of extraordinary rendition.¹ Yet we still do not know all the details of how and why Britain got caught up in this, nor who was responsible.

When I announced in January 2012 that the work of the Gibson Inquiry into UK involvement in detainee mistreatment and rendition would be brought to a close, I made clear that the intention was to hold a judge-led inquiry into these issues once all related police investigations had concluded. By December 2013, it was clear that the police investigations were nowhere near finished and, not wanting to delay further, I passed the investigation to the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC), hoping and expecting, as I said at the time, that the ISC would finish its report by the end of the following year. It is highly regrettable that this has not turned out to be the case, with the ISC report remaining unpublished over four years later.

The Government's recent apology to Mr Belhaj and Mrs Boudchar for the UK's role in their 'detention, rendition and suffering', saying that the Government believes their accounts, is of course very welcome and I congratulate the government on making it. But the apology, together with the CPS statement on the matter in 2016 that there was sufficient evidence to support the contention that the suspect [Sir Mark Allen] had "sought political authority for some of his actions" indicates that further investigation is needed into the involvement of ministers, civil servants and other government officials in the renditions.

¹ Stephen Gray, 'How Britain helps the CIA run secret torture flights,' *The Independent*, 10 February 2005; Ian Cobain, Stephen Gray and Richard Norton-Taylor, 'Destination Cairo: human rights fears over CIA flights', *Guardian* 12 September 2005.

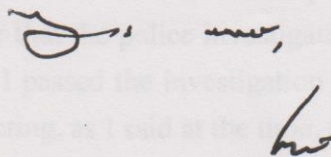
There must surely now be a full independent inquiry into the circumstances surrounding this case, including ministerial involvement in, or authorisation of, the renditions. I was disappointed to see that, in answer to my question on this matter, the government has refused to confirm that it will ask the ISC to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the renditions of Mr Belhaj and Mrs Boudchar.²

It is my opinion, and that of my fellow members of the All-Party Group on Extraordinary Rendition who are co-signatories to this letter, that an independent judge-led inquiry must now investigate this matter, and the other allegations of British involvement in rendition and detainee mistreatment.

The Attorney General said last month that when Britain gets things wrong, we must learn lessons and make changes to avoid the same thing happening again. Despite the very welcome apology to Mr Belhaj and Mrs Boudchar, we are nowhere near getting to the bottom of Britain's disgraceful involvement in rendition and torture. A judge-led inquiry is now the only way to establish the truth, ensure that lessons are learned and to restore public confidence in our intelligence and security services.

With this in mind, will you confirm whether, now that all relevant legal proceedings have come to a close, the Government will announce a new independent judge-led inquiry into the UK's involvement in detainee mistreatment and rendition?

We will place this letter, and your response, in the public domain.



Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP (Chair)

**Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts CBE
(Treasurer)**

Rt Hon the Lord Tyler (Vice-Chair)

Catherine West MP (Vice-Chair)

Crispin Blunt MP

Rt Hon Tom Brake MP

Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP

Rt Hon the Baroness D'Souza CMG

Lord Dubs

Kevin Hollinrake MP

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

John Penrose MP

Yasmin Qureshi MP

Baroness Stern CBE

² In answer to my written question on the matter, tabled on 22 May 2018, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, the Rt. Hon David Lidington CBE MP answered on 4 June 2018 merely that "The Intelligence and Security Committee sets its own work programme."