



**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

24 July 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 16 July.

We welcome the Government's commitment to give careful consideration to calls for a judge-led inquiry into the UK's involvement in detainee mistreatment and rendition. We hope this really will be an in-depth and detailed weighing up of the critical issues at stake, which impinge on the UK's reputation as an upholder of the rule of law, justice and fairness.

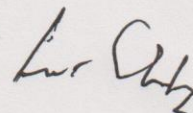
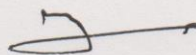
We all of course recognise the importance of strong and effective security services, and are extremely grateful for the difficult and dangerous work they do. We are not interested in persecuting individuals.

However, Britain's complicity in abuses carried out by our allies in the years following 9/11 is completely unacceptable. Moreover, years later, despite two attempted inquiries by Parliament's top security-cleared Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC), we still don't know the full truth, nor what went wrong.

It is incomprehensible to us that the ISC on its most recent attempt was blocked from interviewing the individual officers who were on the ground at the time — the crucial witnesses as to what really happened. Further, as you know, the case of Mr Belhaj and his pregnant wife Ms Boudchar, who were, with British assistance, delivered to Gadaffi's torture chambers, has received no scrutiny at all — despite the Government's recent apology to the couple.

It is quite clear to us that an independent, judge-led inquiry is the only way to get to the bottom of this shameful episode in our recent history and to draw a line under it.

We urge the Government in the strongest terms to finish what was started under the Gibson Inquiry – and make good on the promise made by the Cameron coalition government for: “a single, authoritative examination of...these issues.”¹ Nothing less will suffice.



Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP (Chair)

Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts CBE (Treasurer)

Catherine West MP (Vice Chair)

Rt Hon Tom Brake MP

Rt Hon David Davis MP

Baroness D'Souza

Lord Dubs

Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP

John Penrose MP

Andy Slaughter MP

Baroness Stern CBE

¹ Statement by Prime Minister David Cameron, HC Deb, 6 July 2010, Vol 513, Col 175.