



All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition

House of Commons

Press release: Immediate, Monday 17th December 2012

Andrew Tyrie MP responds to news that the Government has reached a settlement on the rendition claim brought by Libyan dissident Sami al-Saadi.

Andrew Tyrie MP said: “For over six years, the APPG has been trying to get to the truth about alleged British complicity in the kidnap and torture of detainees. We still don’t know it. Mr al-Saadi’s case highlights the need to hold a full judge-led inquiry as soon as possible. Only then can we draw a line and move on.

This is the sort of case that could be caught by the secret courts provisions of the Justice and Security Bill. In the future, if the Bill comes into effect unamended, a person suing the Government for his rendition and torture could be shut out of his own case. So would the lawyers for the claimant, the press, and the public. Any evidence deemed damaging to national security would require the case to be heard in secret. The judge would only hear the Government’s evidence and the claimant wouldn’t be able to challenge it. The claimant wouldn’t know why he or she won or lost; what allegations were made against him; or what case was made on his behalf by the

Special Advocate. This flies in the face of the fundamental principles of our legal system and is unacceptable.”

Notes to Editors

British involvement in the rendition of Gaddafi opponents Sami al-Saadi and Abdel Hakim Belhadj to Libya, where he was imprisoned and tortured, came to light last year when documents were discovered in 2011 in the headquarters of Gaddafi’s intelligence chief, which had been bombed by NATO. Mr Belhadj has also brought a civil case for damages against the British Government for his rendition. His case continues.

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.
