



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

**Press release – 29 August 2018**

Ken Clarke MP, Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition, has today criticised the government's failure to meet its own 60-day deadline to announce whether or not it will hold a judge-led inquiry into the UK's involvement in rendition and torture.

On 28 June 2018, Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee published two reports into detainee mistreatment and rendition. The reports revealed shocking levels of UK involvement in rendition but were unable to get to the full truth due to government obstruction, with access to key witnesses blocked. In light of the reports, Ken Clarke asked an urgent question in the House of Commons on 2 July 2018 as to whether the government would now hold a judge-led inquiry. In response, Foreign Office Minister Sir Alan Duncan promised that the government would give 'careful consideration' to calls for a judge led inquiry and 'update the House within 60 days of publication of the reports' – ie. by 27 August 2018. No such update has yet been forthcoming.

Ken Clarke said: "I am very disappointed to see that the government has failed to keep to its own 60-day deadline in response to my urgent question. I can only hope this means they are working to finalise details of the independent judge-led inquiry we need.

It is now over two months since the Intelligence and Security Committee's reports were published, over four years since the Committee was first handed the inquiry, eight years since the Government gave a promise in Parliament for a full judge-led inquiry and over 13 years since press reports of UK involvement in rendition and torture first emerged. The details of UK involvement in torture and rendition that we know about already are shocking – such as the UK's role in the rendition of Mr Belhaj and his pregnant wife Ms Boudchar to Gaddafi's interrogators. Yet we still do not fully know what went wrong and why, nor who was responsible. The only question now is - what is the government waiting for?" [ENDS]

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**Note to editors**

- Ken Clarke is the chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition (APPG), a cross-party group of MPs and Peers that was founded in 2005. It aims to establish the facts about the scope and scale of UK involvement in rendition, and to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.
- The Intelligence and Security Committee released two reports on 28 June 2018: "Detainee Mistreatment and Rendition: 2001-2010" and "Detainee Mistreatment and Rendition: Current Issues," revealing much greater UK involvement in detainee mistreatment and rendition than was previously known.
- On 2 July 2018, in response to an urgent question by Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Europe and the Americas (Sir Alan Duncan) stated that the Government would give "careful consideration" to calls for a judge-led inquiry and update the House within 60 days of publication of the reports.