



All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition
House of Commons

Press release: Immediate, Tuesday 16th November 2010

Andrew Tyrie responds to the settlement of court cases brought against the British Government by former Guantanamo Bay detainees.

Andrew Tyrie MP said: “This is an important settlement that takes us a step closer to getting to the truth.”

“I’m very pleased that the Government recognises the importance of restoring Britain’s moral standing after a period of what appears to be complicity in kidnap and torture.”

“David Cameron has created the Gibson inquiry to get to the truth. Any documents that would have been available in the court cases must be available to the inquiry. I very much hope that this is confirmed in the Ministerial statement this afternoon.”

“The sooner the inquiry is up and running the better.”

Ends.

Notes to editors

This settlement removes one of the main barriers to beginning the inquiry into allegations of British involvement in the rendition and mistreatment of detainees.

The Inquiry was announced by the Prime Minister on 6 July 2010. In his letter to Inquiry Chairman Sir Peter Gibson, Prime Minister David Cameron stated that its commencement would wait upon the various legal cases:

“As you know, the Government will ask this inquiry to begin as soon as possible after the end of related criminal processes and once sufficient progress has been made in settling ongoing litigation.”

In June 2010 the APPG published a Legal Opinion by Richard Drabble QC on the effect of ongoing civil litigation, including the *Al-Rawi* case, and criminal

investigations on the proposed judge-led inquiry. The Opinion concluded that neither could legally prevent the holding of such an inquiry, and further, that mitigating steps could be taken to minimise any risk to the ongoing investigations and litigation caused by the holding of a simultaneous inquiry.

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.