



All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition  
House of Commons

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**Andrew Tyrie MP comments on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's response to his Parliamentary Question about Government records of flights passed through Diego Garcia.**

“It has been seven years since I first started asking questions about Diego Garcia in Parliament. In 2007, the Government assured Parliament that Diego Garcia had not been used in the rendition programme. The following year they were forced to make a statement flatly contradicting this and admit that two US rendition flights landed on the island in 2002, despite assurances to the contrary.”

“When I asked the Foreign Office for Diego Garcia flight records in 2008, I was told that a thorough review had been conducted which had found no such information. This time there is better news. It turns out that records have been kept. But the silver lining has a large cloud. Today, we have learned that we may never get the full truth because flight records from 2002 are ‘incomplete due to water damage’.”

“The Security Service has previously been criticised for its poor record keeping, which impeded an effective investigation into allegations of British complicity in rendition. It seems that poor record keeping is once again making it difficult to get to the truth about the UK's country's involvement in the rendition programme.”

“Recent reports that the CIA maintained a so-called black site on Diego Garcia with the full cooperation of the British Government are deeply disturbing. We need to know if this is true. One way or another, the truth will eventually come out. The security services don't want to be involved in these practices. The services want the public to have confidence in them. Accountability is to their benefit. That is why an investigation into extraordinary rendition is not only morally right but expedient on grounds of national security”

Ends.

Notes to Editors:

On 21 February 2008, then Foreign Secretary David Miliband was forced to confirm that contrary to explicit US assurances two rendition flights had refuelled at Diego Garcia in 2002. It subsequently emerged that inaccurate assurances had been provided by the US in relation to Diego Garcia on at least eight separate occasions.

In its annual reports of 2008-2009 and 2010-2011, the Intelligence and Security Committee criticised the security services for its poor record keeping and failure to provide the Committee with relevant information in the course of its 2007 investigation into rendition. The Committee's lack of access to the agency's documents seriously compromised its ability to carry out an effective investigation and resulted in the publication of an inaccurate and misleading report on rendition.

In April, leaks by US officials familiar with the report of the Senate Intelligence Committee on the rendition programme stated that the CIA detained some high-value suspects on British Indian Ocean Territory Diego Garcia, which the UK leases to the US. The classified CIA documents further state that the US acted with the 'full cooperation' of the British government.

In June, the Foreign Affairs Committee published its Report on The Use of Diego Garcia by the United States with the stated aim of restoring confidence in the US-UK agreement to ensure that it is not used for purposes of rendition. It cautioned that "if the reports of the Senate Committee's findings are substantiated, we would expect to revisit this issue, to assess the implications for the UK and for public confidence in its statements on US use of Diego Garcia."

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