



All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition
House of Commons

Press release: Immediate, Thursday 9th June 2016

Rt Hon Andrew Tyrie MP comments on the decision by the Crown Prosecution Service not to charge anyone with a criminal offence in connection with allegations made concerning the movement and alleged ill treatment of Abdel Hakim Belhaj and his wife, Fatima Boudchar, and Khadija Al Saadi and his wife and children from countries in South East Asia to Libya in 2004

Rt Hon Andrew Tyrie MP says:

“It is now crucial to find out who authorised these operations. The Intelligence and Security Committee should try. They may well need to take evidence from the CPS about it.

Responsibility for this cannot be allowed to fall through the cracks.

The public need to be assured that the scope and limits of British involvement in kidnap and torture have been fully investigated. They cannot yet have that confidence.

Failure to get to the truth would almost certainly result in a drip-drip of further revelations. These could tarnish Britain’s reputation far more than the shorter term impact of an inquiry – preferably judge led – which gets to the truth.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Andrew Tyrie has spent over a decade attempting to get to the bottom of Britain's involvement in the kidnap and torture. Mr Tyrie is a 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 andrew.tyrie.mp@parliament.uk. The website of the All Party Group is www.extraordinaryrendition.org.

The Crown Prosecution Service have concluded that, to some extent, politically authority was sought in relation to the suspects involvement to the rendition of Mr Belhaj; 'albeit not within a formal written process nor in detail which covered all his communications and conduct'

Operation Lydd began on the 5th January 2012. A joint CPS/ Metropolitan Police Service panel was set up to consider complaints of ill treatment against detainees. The terms of reference required the MPS 'to investigate the treatment whilst awaiting transfer, the circumstances of transfer and also the treatment and interviewing once in Libya' of the Belhadj and Al Saadi families. The panel advised that further investigation was needed in respect of these allegations.
