



All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition
House of Commons

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The Ministry of Defence discloses information on rendition following the Information Tribunal’s judgment on 18 April 2011. This includes the previously secret 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and the US; further extracts of a 2008 Detention Practices Review; and statistical information on detainees captured in Afghanistan.

Andrew Tyrie MP said: “More than three years after I first requested information on rendition from the Ministry of Defence it has finally been required to disclose much of it. It reveals a catalogue of MOD mishaps and failures, including a failure to track detainees handed over to the US, a weakening of protections for those handed over and a failure to keep proper records.”

“The Detainee Inquiry’s position, that ‘*military detention operations should not be one of the key themes for the Inquiry*’, now looks unsustainable. Without a comprehensive examination of rendition the drip-drip of allegations will continue. This is why it is essential that the Gibson Inquiry into rendition covers detainee transfers in theatre.”

“The MOD’s reliance on US standards of treatment, known to be lower than those of the UK, is of serious concern. In the past, practices such as waterboarding, which would amount to torture under UK standards, have been declared lawful by the US. Specific provisions to enable the UK to demand the return of people handed over to the US were removed from the MOU in 2008. These provisions, contained in the 2003 MOU, were an important safeguard against abuse. They should be restored.”

“The documents reveal that from March 2003 – June 2004 there was no tracking of detainees handed over to the US. They show that full records on detainee handovers in Iraq were not seen or analysed during MOD investigations. The government’s reliance on these separate arrangements to justify excluding detainee transfers from the remit of Sir Peter Gibson’s Inquiry is flawed. They cannot give the public confidence that we have got to the bottom of UK involvement in rendition.”

“We already knew that UK forces had been involved in rendition. These documents reveal many of the circumstances which allowed this to happen. They also show how protections in place for handovers to the US were weakened and are inadequate.”

Ends.