



All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition
House of Commons

25th May 2006 immediate release

Intelligence and Security Committee to probe allegations of UK complicity in rendition

The Intelligence and Security Committee has written to Andrew Tyrie stating that it will look into the issue of extraordinary rendition and will take Mr Tyrie's points into account.

Mr Tyrie said: "This is a real step forward. We uncovered a number of leads in our information session and I am delighted that the Committee will be following them up. There are serious questions that need answers."

In March 2006, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition held an information session on the rendition and maltreatment of UK residents Jamil El-Banna and Bisher Al-Rawi. Following that session, Andrew Tyrie, Chairman of the APPG, wrote to the Intelligence and Security Committee to ask them to probe deeper into the allegations that the UK may have been involved in their rendition.

Enclosed:

Copy of letter to Andrew Tyrie from Intelligence and Security Committee

Copy of letter from Andrew Tyrie to Intelligence and Security Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee and Joint Committee on Human Rights.

Notes:

Andrew Tyrie is Conservative MP for Chichester and Chairman and founder of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition.

Since it was formed in December 2005, the APPG has been spearheading a concerted cross party campaign on Extraordinary Rendition. It has:

- Asked a concerted series of Parliamentary Questions, and written letters to Ministers, which have uncovered the nature of the permission system for rendition flights, how the government keeps records of such flights, the nature of the legal tests applied, and other matters.
- Published a briefing paper on Extraordinary Rendition with the New York University Centre on Human Rights and Global Justice.
- Put pressure on the government to ask questions of the US about rendition. This pressure played a role in the Foreign Secretary seeking assurances from Condoleezza Rice about rendition in December 2005.
- Commissioned an expert legal opinion from Professor James Crawford SC, Professor of International Law at the University of Cambridge. This opinion, now widely cited, demonstrated that the UK could not rely on the assurances provided by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to fulfill its domestic and international legal obligations.
- Engaged in correspondence with John Bellinger, the Legal Adviser to the State Department in matters concerning Extraordinary Rendition.
- Shared information with both the Council of Europe's investigation into Extraordinary Rendition, and the European Parliament's investigation.
- Worked closely with NGOs, academics and other interested parties to ensure that people who are concerned about rendition have access to parliamentarians.
- Held an information session on Bisher Al-Rawi and Jamil El-Banna, UK residents presently in Guantanamo Bay who claim that they were subject to rendition. This information session led to the publication of the intelligence telegrams which

highlight that the UK government communicated with a foreign government about these men.

Future activities include:

- an information session on Binyam Mohammed. A UK resident in Guantanamo Bay who claims to have been subject to extraordinary rendition.
- The publication of a detailed report into Extraordinary Rendition.
- Working with US senators and Congressmen so that questions are asked in the US about the UK's role in Extraordinary Rendition.

Mr Tyrie can be contacted on 0207 219 6371. His office email is marsha@parliament.uk. The Specialist Adviser to the APPG is Mark Pallis. He can be reached on 07891 205 962. His email is markpallis@yahoo.co.uk. The website of the All Party Group is www.extraordinaryrendition.org