



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind KCMG QC MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

4th December 2013

Dear Malcolm,

It is a step forward for public accountability that the Intelligence and Security Committee held its first ever public evidence session with the heads of the intelligence agencies on 7 November 2013.

When Sir John Sawers denied that MI6 was complicit in torture, none of the Committee sought to challenge this assertion, despite evidence to the contrary including the Binyam Mohamed case. If these hearings are to have more than presentational value, it is essential that such lines of questioning be more vigorously pursued in the future.

I would be grateful for your assurance that the ISC will follow through on its commitment to investigate the Abdul Hakim Belhaj rendition allegations, once the police investigation is completed.

I am putting this letter in the public domain.

*Yours,
Andrew*

ANDREW TYRIE