



All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition
House of Commons

Press release: Immediate, 10 December 2014

Andrew Tyrie MP comments on the publication of the US Senate Intelligence Committee's report on the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Programme.

“The publication of this report is an achievement for democracy. Sunlight is the best disinfectant. It makes the UK's failure adequately to investigate allegations of its own facilitation of rendition – that is, kidnapping suspects and taking them to places where they may be maltreated or tortured – all the more unacceptable. If one of the great Anglo-Saxon democracies can be so open, why can't another?”

Until the scope and limits of the UK's involvement are fully known, allegations – whether true or not – will continue to erode public confidence in our intelligence and security services. That is not in the public's interest any more than it is in the security services' interests. A full and thorough investigation is long overdue. The Intelligence and Security Committee should have got to the bottom of this the first time they examined it, in 2007. The fact that they erroneously concluded that the UK was not involved in kidnap and torture makes it all the more essential that their investigation is comprehensive at their second attempt.

America's programme, and the UK's involvement in it, have eroded the credibility of the values that the West seeks to export around the world – values of civil and political liberty. Enormous damage has been done. The Senate Intelligence Committee has done a great service, by taking a crucial step to putting this right. The UK, both government and Parliament, must now do the same.”

Ends.

Notes to Editors:

On 9 December 2014, the US Senate Intelligence Committee released the executive summary of its report on the CIA's rendition and detention programme after spending five years conducting an in-depth review. The report has been redacted to black out references to the involvement of other countries, such as the UK.

Among the study's key findings are the following:

1. The CIA's "enhanced interrogation techniques" were not effective.
2. The CIA provided extensive inaccurate information about the operation of the program and its effectiveness to policymakers and the public.
3. The CIA's management of the program was inadequate and deeply flawed.
4. The CIA program was far more brutal than the CIA represented to policymakers and the American public.

On 19 December 2013, the Government announced that the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) would take over the investigation into allegations of British involvement in extraordinary rendition that was initiated by Sir Peter Gibson's Detainee Inquiry. It is not clear when the ISC will begin its investigation.

Andrew Tyrie is 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.

Created in December 2005, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition is an informal, cross-party group of over 60 Members of Parliament and Peers from the Parliament of the United Kingdom who have joined together to collect, examine and publicly disseminate information about the topic of extraordinary rendition, the involvement and/or cooperation of the United Kingdom in extraordinary rendition and related issues.