



**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition**  
**House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA**

*Press release: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017*

**The Rt. Hon. Andrew Tyrie MP asked the Prime Minister if she would make clear to President Trump that Britain will not return to facilitating torture.**

Andrew Tyrie asked:

“President Trump has repeatedly said that he will bring back torture as an instrument of policy. When she sees him on Friday, will the Prime Minister make clear that in no circumstances will she permit Britain to be dragged into facilitating that torture, as we were after September 11<sup>th</sup>?”

The Prime Minister responded:

“I can assure my Honourable Friend that we have a very clear position on torture. We do not sanction torture, we do not get involved in that, and that will continue to be our position.”

**Andrew Tyrie comments:**

“As a presidential candidate, Donald Trump said a number of times that ‘torture works’ and that he would bring back ‘worse than waterboarding’.

Today in Parliament, the Prime Minister assured me that the UK would not become involved in torture. This is welcome. Confidence in the Government’s assurances would be bolstered by admission of the full truth about our previous involvement in ‘extraordinary rendition’ – the programme of kidnap and torture launched by the US after 9/11. Britain is currently in the midst of its third attempt in a decade to hold an inquiry into this, after the first two failed to get to the truth.

Any US return to rendition and torture would be not just illegal and immoral but counterproductive. It would make the gathering of intelligence more difficult. And most importantly, a return to torture would undermine the West’s fundamental values of civil and political freedom, and make them all the more difficult to export.”

[Ends]

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## Note to editors:

- Andrew Tyrie is Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition, a cross-party group of MPs that he founded in 2005. It aims to establish the truth about the scope and scale of UK involvement in rendition, and to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.
- On January 24<sup>th</sup>, the New York Times reported that President Trump was considering issuing orders to review “whether to reinstate the program of interrogation of high-value alien terrorists to be operated outside the United States, and whether such a program should include the use of detention facilities operated by the C.I.A.” Another draft order would “order a review of the Army Field Manual to determine whether to use certain enhanced interrogation techniques”.  
(*Trump to Order Mexican Border Wall and Curtail Immigration*, New York Times, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017.)
- Statements by Donald Trump on torture:
  - “I am a person that believes in enhanced interrogation, yes. And by the way, it works.”  
(*Trump sees Geneva Conventions as ‘out of date’*, MSNBC, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016).
  - “Don’t tell me it doesn’t work — torture works.” “But they asked me the question: ‘What are you going to do on waterboarding?’ Absolutely fine, but we should go much stronger than waterboarding. That’s the way I feel.”  
(*Trump says ‘torture works,’ backs waterboarding and ‘much worse’*, Washington Post, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016).
  - “I would bring back waterboarding and I’d bring back a hell of a lot worse than waterboarding.”  
(*Donald Trump says he would bring back water-boarding and ‘a hell of a lot worse’*, The Independent, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016.)
  - “Would I approve waterboarding? You bet your ass I would — in a heartbeat. And I would approve more than that.”  
(*Donald Trump on waterboarding: ‘If it doesn’t work, they deserve it anyway’*, Washington Post, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015.)