



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

Press release – 24 April 2018

Kenneth Clarke MP welcomed a High Court ruling ordering the disclosure of information gathered by police investigating the alleged involvement of British officials in a case of extraordinary rendition.

The court ordered the disclosure of a 400-page report that is the product of a four-year Metropolitan Police investigation (codenamed 'Operation Lydd') into UK involvement in the alleged rendition to Libya and ill-treatment of Abdul Hakim Belhaj and his wife, Fatima Boudchar, and Sami Al Saadi and his wife and children. As well as the report, the Government was ordered to hand over evidence given by 75 witnesses. The ruling came on 12 April 2018 as part of civil proceedings brought by Mr Belhaj and Ms Boudchar against former Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, MI6 and the government, claiming they participated in the rendition.

Kenneth Clarke, chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition, said: "The High Court's order is a reminder of the importance of the information gathered by the police in understanding the UK's involvement in extraordinary rendition - the programme of kidnap and torture developed during the Bush administration and alleged to have been facilitated by the UK government at the time.

The disclosure of the report in these proceedings is a welcome step towards transparency."

In 2016, in correspondence with the APPG on Extraordinary Rendition, the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC), confirmed that it would be "examining the Operation Lydd case," as part of its inquiry into detainee mistreatment and rendition, but gave no details as to the extent of the evidence to which it would have access.

Kenneth Clarke continued: "We believe that full access to the information gathered by the police in this case – irrespective of any potential criminal acts – is vital for the ISC in understanding what went wrong and why. There must be proper scrutiny of the role played by UK officials in the facilitation of extraordinary rendition so that we can get to the truth of the matter, learn the lessons of the past and avoid making the same mistakes in the future."

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Note to editors

- Kenneth Clarke is the chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition (APPG), a cross-party group of MPs and Peers that was founded in 2005. It aims to establish the facts about the scope and scale of UK involvement in rendition, and to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.
- The ISC [recently stated](#) that it planned to publish in 2018 its report on the involvement of the UK Government and Security and Intelligence Agencies in detainee mistreatment and rendition.
- The APPG, under the chairmanship of Andrew Tyrie MP, wrote to the ISC in July 2016 asking if the ISC planned to ask the CPS for the evidence gathered as part of Operation Lydd. The correspondence between Mr Tyrie and Dominic Grieve, chair of the ISC, can be read [here](#).