



All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition
House of Commons

Press release

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Andrew Tyrie, Chairman of the APPG on Extraordinary Rendition, comments on the Amnesty International Report: 'Below the Radar: Secret flights to torture and disappearance', released today.

Andrew Tyrie said: 'This report makes clear that Amnesty believe that planes used by the CIA for rendition have stopped in the UK on several occasions. The government must now investigate whether these flights were being used as part of a rendition. The government must also put in place checks to ensure that no rendition flights pass through the UK in future.'

This report details the great lengths to which the US appears to be going in order to circumvent the legal safeguards that have existed for half a century. It beggars belief that only yesterday, the Defence Secretary, John Reid, was

suggesting that such international legal standards might be amended and, by implication, weakened. Before proposing to rewrite the rule book he should concentrate on making sure that the laws we do have are obeyed, both by the UK and the US.

The British government has been walking along the side of the street, looking the other way, for far too long. The rendition scandal is gravely damaging the credibility of the West. We are losing the battle for the hearts and minds of moderate Muslim opinion which we must win if we are to defeat fundamentalist Islamic terrorism. Double standards will act as a recruiting sergeant for terrorism. The American administration's policy, and the apparent British government's condoning of it, is making us less safe, not more.

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