

ANDREW TYRIE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt. Hon. David Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

6 March 2008

Dear David,

Re: Diego Garcia

I wrote to you on 16 October 2007 about allegations that Diego Garcia had been used in the US renditions programme, requesting that you carry out an investigation into the alleged use of Diego Garcia in the processing of 'high value detainees'¹. I received a reply from Kim Howells which stated: "we have had robust assurances from the US that at no time have there been any detainees either on Diego Garcia, or transiting through the UK's territorial seas or airspace surrounding Diego Garcia. I have confidence in these assurances." This now sits oddly with your Terrorism Suspects (Renditions) Statement on 21 February 2008, confirming that two rendition flights with detainees on board refuelled at Diego Garcia in 2002.

On Sunday, Manfred Novak, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, made new allegations about the use of Diego Garcia by the US. He stated that he had received credible evidence from well-placed sources that detainees have been held on the island by the US². He also said that he would consider a request by the UK Government to share the information he had received. I am writing to ask if you have now made that request. If not, will you do so?

¹ Available at www.extraordinaryrendition.org.

² <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/mar/02/ciarendition.unitednations>

The UK Government should request more information about the role of Diego Garcia in the US renditions programme. It is now clear that US assurances on this issue are unreliable. What prompted the US administration to re-examine its records in relation to Diego Garcia? Have other rendition flights refuelled at Diego Garcia? Are allegations³ that detainees have in the past been held on or in the vicinity of Diego Garcia accurate? If they have not been already, these specific questions need to be put to the US administration along with the list of flights that you will be submitting to them for individual assurances. You will have already received a letter from me responding to your Terrorist Suspects (Renditions) Statement with reference to the list of flights officials in your Department are currently compiling.

What, if any, legal and/or procedural safeguards need to be introduced in order to ensure that the UK adheres to its international obligations relating specifically to Diego Garcia and other overseas territories?

I am putting this letter in the public domain.

Yours ever,

Andrew

ANDREW TYRIE

Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition

³ Reprieve, 'Enforced Disappearance, Illegal Interstate Transfer, and Other Human Rights Abuses Involving the UK Overseas Territories', www.reprieve.org.uk