

ANDREW TYRIE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon William Hague
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

25th June 2010

Dear William,

Re: An inquiry into British involvement in extraordinary rendition

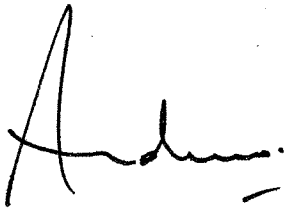
I have published today the attached legal opinion which concludes that an inquiry into rendition can start immediately, notwithstanding the number of ongoing related criminal investigations and civil cases.

On 20th May you announced that you intend to hold a judge-led inquiry into allegations of British involvement in extraordinary rendition. Soon afterwards, it was reported that such an inquiry might have to wait upon the conclusion of court cases. This was presumably prompted by fears that an inquiry would prejudice the fairness of those legal proceedings, and that witnesses might be reluctant to give evidence that could incriminate them.

The attached opinion allays these concerns. It concludes that they are not a bar to an immediate public inquiry into the UK's involvement in torture and extraordinary rendition; measures are available to mitigate any adverse effects on ongoing civil and criminal cases and to encourage the cooperation of witnesses.

I look forward to your response. I will be placing a copy of this letter and your response in the public domain.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew'.

ANDREW TYRIE MP
Chairman, All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition

cc. The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

Alistair Burt, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State responsible for counter terrorism