

PRESS RELEASE

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Mr Marty's report highlights the breadth of concern across Europe about Extraordinary Rendition. Despite these investigations, and the wealth of circumstantial evidence, there is still great uncertainty about what has taken place and what may still be taking place. To establish this our governments need to take further steps.

As Mr Marty has pointed out (para 67 of his report), Colin Powell has accused a number of European countries of hypocrisy – benefiting from the intelligence the Americans gather while publicly distancing themselves from the methods by which it is obtained. It is time to ask the American administration directly whether Extraordinary Rendition flights have been conducted using UK airspace or UK airports and whether they have been conducted with, or without, express authorisation from the UK.

Tomorrow I have called a meeting with representatives from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Liberty and Redress. We will attempt to make practical recommendations to enable the British public to have greater assurance that UK law with respect to torture is being observed. Clearly something of this type needs to be done – up to now the government has attempted to reassure the public while showing scant evidence that adequate steps have been taken to find out the facts.

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