



All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition
House of Commons

EMBARGOED UNTIL 21st March 2006

George Mickum's article in *The Independent* of 16th March raises a number of important questions.

1. Did the British order the arrest of Bisher al-Rawi and Jamil el-Banna in Gambia, and or provide any information about them to foreign governments?;
2. Was the UK asked by either the Gambian or US authorities to extend consular protection to them?;
3. Did we know of, or assist in, their rendition to Afghanistan? If so, when?;
4. Did the UK seek and/or obtain any assurances from the US in relation to their treatment in Afghanistan or Guantanamo Bay?;
5. Have the British received and/or used any information which was obtained in Gambia, Afghanistan, or Guantanamo Bay?;
6. Why have the British not sought their return to the UK?

The All Party Group is determined to obtain answers to these questions. Last Friday I wrote to Jack Straw asking for his response to them.
(Letter attached)

On Tuesday 28th March the APPG will be holding a public information session with George Mickum (the lawyer representing Bisher al-Rawi and Jamil el-Banna), Wahab al-Rawi, the brother of Bisher, who was also arrested in the Gambia and Sabah el-Banna the wife of Jamil el-Banna. Mr Tyrie concluded:

“Rendition needs to be brought within the rule of law. Only by respecting our values of respect for law and due process can Western countries export those values to other countries around the world.

Without respect for the law, Tony Blair’s and George Bush’s calls for the extension of democracy in the Middle East and elsewhere are meaningless.

The charge that the UK government may have been assisting the US administration in rendering people to places where they suffer inhuman treatment or torture is a grave one. It is essential that parliament gets to the facts.”

Andrew Tyrie is Conservative MP for Chichester and Chairman and founder of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition. Mr Tyrie can be contacted on 0207 219 6371. His office email is marsha@parliament.uk. The Specialist Adviser to the APPG is Mark Pallis. He can be reached on 07891 205 962. His email is markpallis@yahoo.co.uk. The website of the All Party Group is www.extraordinaryrendition.org

The Rt Hon Jack Straw MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

17th March 2007

Dear Jack

The cases of Bisher al-Rawi and Jamil el-Banna

George Mickum's article in yesterday's *Independent* raises a number of important questions. For example:

1. did the British order the arrest of Bisher al-Rawi and Jamil el-Banna in Gambia, and/or provide any information about them to foreign governments?;
2. was the UK asked by either the Gambian or US authorities to extend consular protection to them?;
3. did we know of, or assist in, their rendition to Afghanistan? If so, when?;
4. did the UK seek and/or obtain any assurances from the US in relation to their treatment in Afghanistan or Guantanamo Bay?;

5. have the British received and/or used any information which was obtained in Gambia, Afghanistan, or Guantanamo Bay?;
6. why have the British not sought their return to the UK?

I would be very grateful if you could reply to these questions so that I can circulate your answers to the members of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition.

Yours ever

ANDREW TYRIE