

WEB UPDATE – TACTICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TORTURE

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Feature 1 - Act now to stop rendition through Europe!

“The impression which some Governments tried to create at the beginning of this debate – that Europe was a victim of secret CIA plots – does not seem to correspond to reality. It is now clear – although we are still far from having established the whole truth – that authorities in several European countries actively participated with the CIA in these unlawful activities. Other countries ignored them knowingly, or did not want to know.”
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe report, 27 June 2006

Europe's governments have repeatedly denied their complicity in the US programme of "renditions" – an unlawful practice in which numerous men have been illegally detained and secretly flown to countries, where they have suffered additional crimes including torture and enforced disappearance.

But it is now clear that many European countries are complicit. These include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Turkey and EU members Germany, Italy, the UK and Sweden.

Ahmed Agiza and Mohammed El Zari, both Egyptian nationals, were detained in Sweden and flown to Egypt. The Swedish authorities had rejected the men's asylum applications and decided to expel them immediately.

In Egypt, the two men were held incommunicado and allegedly tortured. After unfair retrial, Ahmed Agiza was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment, later reduced to 15 years, and he remains detained in Egypt. Mohammed El Zari was released from prison in Cairo without ever having been charged.

The Swedish authorities had obtained "diplomatic assurances" from Egypt that the men would not be tortured or be subjected to the death penalty, and would be given a fair trial on their return to Egypt. Such assurances were worthless.

The Swedish government was complicit in the unlawful rendition of Ahmed Agiza and Mohammed El Zari and the human rights violations they suffered at the hands of foreign agents in Sweden on the plane and in Egypt.

Please take a couple of minutes to email the Swedish Prime Minister demanding justice for Ahmed Agiza and Mohammed El Zari and for Sweden's commitment to stop rendition.

Tell your friends. We need you to spread the word about the devastating impact on rendition on both the victims and their families.

Picture

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/adam/en/10515/detail.html> (as in web feature:
<http://web.amnesty.org/pages/stoptorture-140606-features-eng>)

Link to amnesty.org:

<http://web.amnesty.org/pages/stoptorture-140606-features-eng>

Feature 2 - States agree to spot checks of detention centres

26 June is the **International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**.

This year we mark this date with a **new international treaty** to prevent torture and other ill-treatment through a system of regular visits to all detention places.

Congratulations to the first 20 states that have taken this extra step to stamp out torture.

Picture - 11,000 candles (AI Australia)

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/adam/en/10828/detail.html>

11,000 candles to mark UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, June 2006, AI Australia. © Stefan Jannides/ Jorge Pujol

Link to amnesty.org

<http://web.amnesty.org/pages/stoptorture-210606-features-eng>

Feature 3 - Guantánamo must be shut down!

"You don't like waking up every day. Every day is every week that turns into a month, turns into a year. You just don't want to wake up sometimes." Moazzam Begg, released without charge after more than 3 years in Guantánamo.

With the apparent suicides of 3 detainees on 10 June, there is mounting pressure from both in the USA and abroad to close the detention centre. Even the US President George W. Bush now says that he would like to close Guantánamo, but does not say when.

Your action is making an impact.

Picture

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/adam/en/10792/detail.html>

Danish AI members lining up to represent each of the detainees at the US Naval Base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Link to amnesty.org

<http://web.amnesty.org/pages/stoptorture-120606-features-eng>

Feature 4 - Voices against torture

"Part of the structure of the camp was to try to break you physically, mentally and spiritually so keeping you in isolation was one of their main ploys."

Martin Mubanga, was held without charge in Guantánamo Bay for 33 months.

Picture

<https://intranet.amnesty.org/adam/en/9072/detail.html>

Martin Mubanga

Link to amnesty.org

