

WEB UPDATES – TACTICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TORTURE

Name/Team	Edurne Rubio/ TCT ext. 5515
Date	15/06/2006
Section	Features
AIDOC	IOR 61/015/2007
Web Action	WA 017/07

Title

The EU must show leadership in revealing the truth about rendition

Summary

As Portugal takes over the Presidency of the EU in July 2007, call on the Portuguese Prime Minister to ensure that all EU governments cooperate to end rendition and secret detention and that their role in these practices is fully investigated.

Body

It is time for the EU to take concrete steps to ensure disclosure of the truth about rendition and secret detention in EU territory, end the practice once and for all, and ensure accountability for past crimes.

A report by the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly confirmed, in June 2007, that the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has operated secret detention centres in Poland and Romania. The report does not rule out the possibility that secret CIA detentions may also have occurred in other Council of Europe (CoE) member states.

The report reinforces earlier findings by the CoE and the European Parliament and is further confirmation of Amnesty International's conclusions that some European Member States have been complicit in the US-led programme of renditions and secret detention.

Both the European Parliament and bodies of the CoE have recommended measures aimed at disclosure of further facts about what has occurred and to prevent further human rights violations of this nature from taking place in the EU. **None of these recommendations has been implemented to date.**

The EU and all European governments must take steps to ensure that counter-terrorism measures do not lead to individuals being subjected to rendition, secret or arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture or other ill-treatment, or other serious human rights violations.

They must also ensure that allegations of human rights violations are fully and independently investigated, that those responsible are brought to justice and that the victims receive adequate reparation.

As Portugal holds Presidency of the EU from July to December 2007, call on Portuguese Prime Minister José Socrates to ensure that the EU Council publicly condemns rendition and that the recommendations of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe are implemented.

Separate text

Hundreds of people are feared to have been **unlawfully detained and transferred**, usually in secret, to countries where they face further human rights violations, including unlawful detention, torture or other ill-treatment. Some victims of this US-led practice, known as rendition, have ended up in official US detention centres, such as Guantánamo. Others have disappeared after being arrested by US agents or turned over to US custody.

Letter

Dear Prime Minister,

I am deeply concerned about the role that some EU Member States have played in the US-led programme of renditions and secret detention.

Inquiries carried out by the Council of Europe and the European Parliament found that some EU Member States had been complicit in renditions and secret detention and recommended measures to prevent renditions in or through Europe in future. I am deeply troubled that none of the recommendations has been implemented to date.

In view of Portugal's Presidency of the European Union, from July to December 2007, I urge you to ensure that the EU Council publicly condemns rendition and that the recommendations of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe are implemented, including by ensuring that:

- the EU does not allow national or foreign intelligence agencies to operate without effective control on its territory;
- Member States encourage and provide full information to independent parliamentary and/or judicial inquiries into allegations of co-operation in renditions;
- All Member States provide accurate and thorough information on rendition and secret detention to the European Parliament, the EU Council, the EU Commission and the Council of Europe.

Respectfully,

Name

City, country

Date

Address

Prime Minister José Sócrates

Rua da Imprensa à Estrela

4-1200-888

Lisboa

Portugal

Email: pm@pm.gov.pt

Web page: www

Related documents

- News flash: Amnesty International's reaction to Council of Europe report on renditions (IOR 30/013/2007)
- Article: Europe slammed for 'renditions' collusion (<http://web.amnesty.org/wire/April2007/WOT>)
- [++ upcoming press release]

Images:

- José Socrates as Portugal Prime Minister (adam)
@APGraphicsBank
- European Union logo over texture, partial graphic
@APGraphicsBank
