

AI has evidence of a large number of unlawful air transfers of prisoners to countries where they face torture and ill-treatment. These secret flights use specially leased planes and are in direct violation of international law. All in the name of the "war on terror". Now you know: you should be afraid of flying. Don't look down.

Are you afraid of flying?

Dear Condoleezza Rice,

When you visited Europe in December 2005, you defended the US policy of "rendition".

You said that the USA does not transport terror suspects "for the purpose of interrogation using torture" and that your government "will not transport anyone to a country when we believe he will be tortured".

Amnesty International has documented several cases of rendition where people have been kidnapped, disappeared and subjected to torture and other ill-treatment by US officials or by other governments at the request of the US authorities as part of the rendition programme. These practices carried out behind closed doors violate human rights law and international standards.

I urge the USA to stop rendition and secret detention and to denounce torture and other ill-treatment in the strongest possible terms.

No one should be sent to a country where they may face torture or ill-treatment. No one should be held in secret or in incommunicado detention. My security will not be best protected by rendition but by respecting everyone's human rights.

Name
City, Country
Date

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
US Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington DC 20520
USA

Are you afraid of flying?: Artwork produced for AI Greece.
Image courtesy of Angelo Cavalli/ Corbis/ Apeiron Photos

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