

WEB ACTION – TACTICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TORTURE**Date** 13/06/2006**WEB ACTION** WA 17/06**AI Index number** EUR 01/013/2006**Title**

EU-USA Summit: President Bush is arriving – Guantánamo remains – No word from EU President Schüssel?

Text

On 21 June, US President George W. Bush arrives for the EU-USA Summit in Vienna. The USA, led by its President, is responsible for numerous and serious human rights violations in the so-called 'war on terror', such as, abductions, arbitrary detentions, 'disappearances' and torture. Amnesty International calls on EU Council President Schüssel to raise these concerns in his talks with President Bush and get concrete answers.

Take Action:

Send the following appeal asking EU Council President Schüssel to demand concrete answers from President George W Bush to the questions posed.

Letter

Dear Chancellor Schüssel,

I am concerned to hear about the numerous and serious human rights violations the USA has committed as part of the so-called 'war on terror', including arbitrary arrest, abductions, 'disappearances', torture and other ill-treatment. The people of the European Union are affected too.

The EU presents itself as a community based on values such as freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. I therefore appeal to you in your capacity as the EU Council President to raise the following questions with President Bush and get some concrete answers.

Protection of EU Nationals and Residents

- How long will the US Administration still refuse to cooperate with the investigations by the Council of Europe and the European Parliament into the abductions and illegal transfers of persons ("extraordinary renditions") from and through Europe?

- If the USA transfers any person detained through Europe, will it prove the legality of the transfer to the relevant air control authorities?

- How will the USA ensure that European nationals and residents who are victims of the US rendition programme, such as the German national Khaled el Masri secretly transferred to Afghanistan, obtain the right to reparations, including compensation? How can those affected enforce their claim for apology and compensation when the US courts refuse to negotiate their complaints with an across-the-board reference to State secrets?

External EU Human Rights Responsibility

- When will Guantánamo finally be closed? When will the inmates be charged and brought to trial in line with international standards of fairness? For those released from Guantánamo, how will the US authorities ensure that no one is transferred to further abuse in another country?

- When will independent medical experts, the UN and organizations such as Amnesty International be granted unrestricted access to all the detainees at Guantánamo?

- How many people are held by the US in the "war on terror" worldwide? What are their names and which countries and places of detention are they held in?

I urge you to use every opportunity you have to raise these concerns.

Yours sincerely,
