

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ADVISORY

19 September 2012  
AI Index: EUR 30/014/2012

## Italy: Rendition court case decision a step towards ending impunity

A decision by Italy's High Court to uphold the convictions against 22 CIA agents and a US military official for the abduction in Italy in 2003 of the Egyptian national Usama Mostafa Hassan Nasr (known as Abu Omar) is a step towards ending impunity.

After being seized Usama Mostafa Hassan Nasr was transferred to Egypt where he was tortured. The court also ruled that five senior Italian secret service agents, whose cases had previously been dismissed, should be tried for their role in the abduction.

Julia Hall, Amnesty International's expert on counter-terrorism and human rights, said:

*"This important decision is another step towards accountability for violations that took place during the US rendition operations.*

*"We are especially satisfied that the High Court has sent the cases of the Italian intelligence officials back for retrial.*

*"The High Court has recognised that blanket claims of state secrecy cannot be used to shield the government from accountability for human rights violations."*

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