

Members of the European Parliament

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AMNESTY
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EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

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EP resolution on US Senate Torture report must include call for action to promote accountability in Europe

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

In December, the European Parliament promptly and strongly reacted to the publication of the United States (US) Senate committee report summary detailing torture methods used as part of a secret US detention and interrogation programme. Voices across the political spectrum united to denounce torture but also ongoing impunity for the human rights violations committed by the US, with help from its European allies.

Since 2006, the European Parliament has been at the forefront of exposing the truth about European involvement in the CIA rendition and secret detention programmes. In resolutions in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013, the Parliament has consistently promoted accountability and justice in Europe. Its input has been widely recognised in Europe and the US; the landmarks reports of 2007 and 2012 were referenced in particular by the UN, the Council of Europe and historic judgments of its Court of Human Rights on the complicity of EU member states in CIA rendition and secret detention.

As documented in January 2015 by Amnesty International's report, "[*Breaking the Conspiracy of Silence: USA's European 'Partners in Crime' Must Act after Senate Torture Report*](#)", details in the US Senate report match with open source information to strengthen allegations that detainees were tortured in secret sites in Lithuania, Poland, and Romania. The report has also prompted public admissions by some member states' officials that CIA secret detention sites were established in their countries.

These developments create new momentum for advancing accountability in Europe and the resolution to be adopted tomorrow must be the opportunity to clearly re-engage the European Parliament on the task.

Following-up from its predecessors, this Parliament must continue to press in a meaningful and active way on this issue. **To this end, it is essential that the resolution to be adopted tomorrow provides a clear agenda for future action by the European Parliament, including support to investigations, hearings, country-visits, reports and renewed recommendations to member states and the other EU institutions as relevant.**

Any other resolution would be incompatible with the strong action of the European Parliament in the past. Mere acknowledgement of the US Senate Torture report without any commitment to action in Europe attached would do little justice to the important work that was conducted so far by the LIBE and AFET/DROI committees to fight torture, enforced disappearances and other human rights violations committed in the name of national security.

Yours sincerely,

Ivorna McGowan

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