



Jerzy Miller  
Minister of Interior and Administration  
Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Brussels, 28 September 2011  
Our Ref: B1103

Dear Minister,

**Amnesty International report: Unlock the truth in Lithuania: Investigate secret prisons now**

Tomorrow, Amnesty International launches a new report on the role of EU member state, Lithuania in the US-led rendition and secret detention programmes. The report, *Unlock the truth in Lithuania: Investigate secret prisons now*, documents developments in Lithuania since the authorities admitted that the country hosted two secret CIA detention facilities between 2002 and 2006. It unravels the ramifications of Lithuania's involvement throughout the EU, shedding fresh light on the human rights obligations of Lithuania and other EU countries and the urgent need for justice to be achieved in Europe.

Lithuania launched a criminal investigation in January 2010 into the two secret CIA detention sites (already acknowledged by a parliamentary enquiry) but it was abruptly terminated only after a year in January 2011 on highly dubious grounds. No one has ever been held accountable.

Confronted with the Prosecutor General's refusal to date to re-open the investigation, non-governmental organisations have sought additional information from various Lithuanian Government agencies and other sources concerning officials' and agencies' cooperation with the CIA between 2002 and 2006. NGOs including Amnesty International, the Vilnius-based Human Rights Monitoring Institute, and London-based Reprieve and Interights, have unearthed new data on rendition flights and related links between flights in Lithuania and other European countries.

Amnesty International challenges the Lithuanian authorities to investigate:

- Allegations that Abu Zubaydah was held in Lithuania, as well as in Poland, including a February 2005 flight from Morocco to Vilnius uncovered by London-based NGO Reprieve
- Aircraft landings in Lithuania in September 2004 and July 2005 which may have been part of the US-led rendition and secret detention programmes
- Links between aircraft landings in Lithuania and several other European countries, including Poland and Portugal
- Links to Poland and Romania where other CIA secret prisons are alleged to have been set up

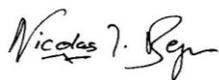
There is currently no meaningful accountability in the USA for these illegal operations. The premature closure of the criminal investigation in Lithuania is an example of increasingly disturbing signs that the same impunity may prevail in Europe.

We urge the EU to break its silence by including on the EU's justice & home affairs agenda the issue of member states' accountability for serious human rights violations committed by state actors in the course of CIA rendition and secret detention programmes.

Amnesty International calls on the Council of the EU under the leadership of the EU Polish presidency to publicly:

- Press the Lithuanian Government to re-open a criminal investigation
- Urge all other governments alleged to have been complicit in the US rendition and secret detention programmes, including Romania, which has failed to conduct any proper enquiry into allegations that it hosted secret detention sites, to abide by their legal obligation to conduct thorough and effective investigations
- Monitor the continuing Polish criminal investigation to ensure it sets the right standards for such investigations

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Nicolas J. Beger  
Director  
Amnesty International European Institutions Office



Draginja Nadazdin  
Director  
Amnesty International Poland