

February 12th 2007

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Subject: Amnesty International's call for leadership on human rights

Report on the alleged use of European countries by the CIA for the transport and illegal detention of prisoners – 14 February 2007

In light of the forthcoming adoption on 14 February of the report of the Temporary Committee on the alleged use of European countries by the CIA for the transport and illegal detention of prisoners (TDIP), Amnesty International would like to present its concerns.

Amnesty International has welcomed the investigations by the European Parliament and notes that the findings of the Temporary Committee confirm Amnesty International's own conclusions that complicity by European countries allowed CIA extraordinary renditions to occur in Europe. The abduction by foreign secret agents of persons from European territory for the purpose of ill-treatment and torture effectively amounted to a breakdown of the rule of law, breaching the fundamental values of the European Union.

It was this special situation that led the European Parliament to set up a special committee. Now, with its final report before it, the European Parliament should lead the EU irrespective of national and political interests to set the record straight. It should extend its call for action to national parliaments to see to it that the responsibility taken at European level by both the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament is matched by equivalent scrutiny there where it is bound to have most impact: at national level.

To achieve closure on this appalling episode, the report on renditions in Europe must lead to accountability, reparation and prevention. Amnesty International urges the members of the European Parliament to send the Council and the Member States an unequivocal message by unanimously adopting the report of the Temporary Committee on 14 February. Given the gravity of the abuses, this must not be an occasion where political and national interests prevail over human rights.

The European Parliament should maintain an active role to ensure speedy implementation of measures to remedy human rights violations of the past and prevent similar abuses in the future.

Yours sincerely,



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