

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



# UNLOCK THE TRUTH IN EUROPE

# EUROPE, RENDITIONS AND SECRET DETENTIONS

**European governments must come clean about their involvement in torture and the CIA's rendition and secret detention programmes.**

After the 11 September 2001 attacks in the USA, US agents operating in countries around the world started secretly transferring terror suspects in their custody from country to country. This came to be known as the "renditions" programme. It was a violation of international law.

Many of these detainees were held without charge or trial, sometimes for years. Many suffered multiple human rights abuses, including secret detention, enforced disappearances, and torture and other ill-treatment. Many of their loved ones did not know if they were alive or dead.

The CIA could not have done this without the support, acquiescence or complicity of other governments. Some European governments allowed the USA to use their airspace and airports; others hosted secret CIA detention facilities.

The US government carried out these violations and has failed to hold those responsible to account; but European governments also played a significant role and must be held accountable. Victims, their families and the public have the right to know the truth. More than 10 years have passed and many questions remain unanswered.

Now is the time to unlock the truth.





## GERMANY TURNS A BLIND EYE TO TORTURE?



Murat Kurnaz, a lifelong German resident, says he was abused by German Special Forces Soldiers (Kommando Spezialkräfte, KSK) in Kandahar, Afghanistan, following his transfer

from Pakistan to US custody in December 2001. "I saw that they were Germans and I thought they might help me", he told Amnesty International, "but it wasn't so. They didn't ask me anything, one just told me they were KSK and threw me down and kicked me." Murat Kurnaz also said he had been tortured at the Kandahar camp by US forces, and that the KSK soldiers were aware of the conditions there.

Murat Kurnaz was then transferred to Guantánamo, where he was interrogated by German officials in 2002 and again in 2004. An investigation was opened in Germany in December 2006, but closed in May 2007 after prosecutors decided that there was insufficient evidence to charge the two soldiers identified by Murat Kurnaz. The investigation was reopened in August 2007 when new witnesses were found, but closed a second time in March 2008. A three-year-long parliamentary inquiry completed in June 2009 did not find any German state actor responsible for involvement in any rendition, enforced disappearance, or torture and other ill-treatment of detainees – including Murat Kurnaz. The inquiry was hampered by lack of co-operation by the security services.

## EUROPE: A GATEWAY TO GUANTANAMO BAY



In 2002, 'Abd al Rahim Hussayn al-Nashiri was arrested in Dubai and Abu Zubaydah was arrested in Pakistan. They were then handed over to US operatives.

The CIA held the men in

secret locations and in solitary confinement. The men said that during interrogation they were stripped naked, beaten, kicked, threatened, "waterboarded", deprived of sleep and forced into stress positions. Such treatment constitutes torture.

Both men say they were held in Poland; Abu Zubaydah says he was also held in Lithuania. In 2006, they were transferred to Guantánamo Bay, where Al-Nashiri faces the death penalty in a potentially unfair trial before a military commission. Abu Zubaydah remains in indefinite detention.

## WHAT DOES AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WANT?

EU member states and candidate countries that allegedly colluded with the CIA rendition and secret detention programmes must

- carry out independent, impartial, thorough and effective investigations,
- identify perpetrators and
- bring those responsible to justice.

## WHAT CAN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DO?

- Members of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) committee must produce and adopt an authoritative report, identifying gaps in accountability processes at national and EU level regarding member states' involvement in the CIA rendition and secret detention programmes. The report should include strong recommendations to remedy these failures.
- Members of the European Parliament should adopt, with support from all political groups, the report from the LIBE committee and take measures to monitor its implementation.

For more details see

[www.unlockthetruth.org](http://www.unlockthetruth.org)

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# WHAT'S NEW?

## RENDITIONS AND SECRET DETENTIONS IN EUROPE

European governments were linked to the US-led rendition and secret detention programmes between 2001 and 2006.

This map shows information on aircraft suspected of involvement in renditions (suspect flights) and facts that have emerged since the 2007 European Parliament report.\*

\*as documented by Amnesty International, inter-governmental bodies such as the Council of Europe and the UN, other civil society organizations and official government documentation.



### GERMANY

A 2009 parliamentary inquiry into the role of the German Intelligence Service did not find any state actor responsible. A German court ruled that the inquiry was thwarted by the government's lack of co-operation and by state secrecy, which was also criticized by the UN Committee against Torture in 2011.

### DENMARK

New data in 2008-2011 linked suspect flights through Denmark to other European countries which hosted secret prisons. A narrow inquiry established in 2011 released its report in May 2012, but it only reviewed documents made available during a 2008 parliamentary inquiry, and focused only on flights linked to Greenland.

### NORWAY

Information released by the Norwegian Civil Aviation Authority and the media in November 2011 and January 2012 exposed at least two new suspect landings between 2004 and 2006. Besides diplomatic contact with US officials who deny any wrongdoing, there has been no independent, impartial, thorough and effective investigation.

### SWEDEN

In 2008, two Egyptian asylum-seekers were financially compensated after being sent from Stockholm to Egypt, where they were tortured. Despite parliamentary investigations and two UN treaty bodies concluding Sweden acted in violation of its laws and human rights obligations, no inquiry or criminal investigation initiated to establish individual responsibility.

### FINLAND

Up to November 2010, there were at least nine suspect flight landings, according to Amnesty International's research. New data released in 2011 suggested many more such flights – including a link to Lithuania, which hosted secret prisons. No independent, impartial, thorough and effective investigation so far.

### UNITED KINGDOM

An inquiry was established in July 2010, but protocol fell short of human rights standards. In 2011 the inquiry concluded early, following announcement of new criminal investigations into evidence of British complicity in renditions to Libya. The government promised to hold new independent inquiry following conclusion of all criminal investigations.

### IRELAND

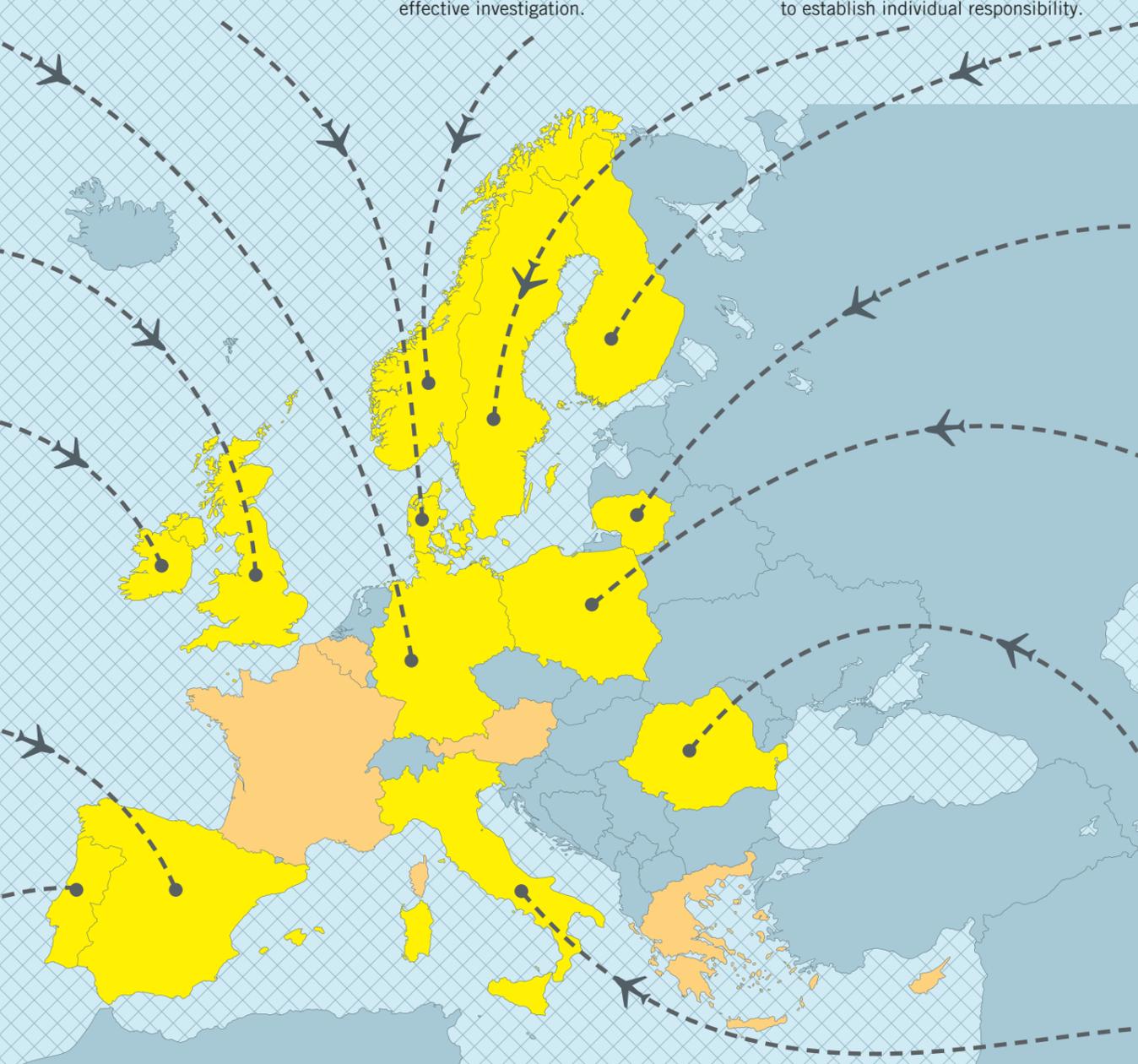
In 2009, the government established a Cabinet Committee to strengthen the search and inspection of aircrafts potentially engaged in renditions. No investigative powers into past suspect flights were included in its remit, no report was released before its closure in 2011 and no inquiry has taken place.

### SPAIN

In 2010, a Spanish prosecutor asked for authorization to arrest 13 CIA agents for their alleged role in the rendition of German citizen Khaled El-Masri. El-Masri was abducted in Macedonia, detained by the CIA and tortured in Afghanistan.

### PORTUGAL

In 2008, a criminal investigation launched in February 2006 by the General Prosecutor and head of the Central Investigation and Penal Action Department was closed with no charges. No independent, impartial, thorough and effective investigation to date.



### LITHUANIA

The government admitted in 2009 to hosting two secret CIA secret prisons between 2002 and 2006 and allowing the landing of a number of suspect flights. A criminal investigation into the matter was closed prematurely in 2011 without disclosing any information, despite the discovery of new flight data.

### POLAND

Poland reportedly hosted a secret CIA prison on its territory. An ongoing criminal investigation, lacking transparency, resulted in two individuals – Abu Zubaydah and 'Abd al Rahim Hussayn al-Nashiri – being granted victim status and charges being brought against a high-ranking Polish official for colluding in the CIA operations.

### ROMANIA

In 2011, media reports identified the location of "Bright Light", a secret CIA prison in the centre of Bucharest. Romania denies any involvement and a secret internal inquiry carried out in 2007 concluded that the accusations were "groundless".

### ITALY

In 2009, 25 US and Italian nationals were convicted in connection with the illegal abduction and rendition of Egyptian national Abu Omar in 2003. The Italian government refused to forward the extradition requests of US defendants. No independent, impartial, thorough and effective investigation into other suspect flights so far.

Countries where new information has emerged since the 2007 European Parliament report  
 Other countries previously linked to the rendition and secret detention programmes between 2001 and 2006

For more details see [www.unlockthetruth.org](http://www.unlockthetruth.org)