

# EXHIBIT

# F

## Yemenis Freed After Transfer From Secret Prisons, Report Says

By SCOTT SHANE and MARGOT WILLIAMS  
Published: April 5, 2006

WASHINGTON, April 4 — Three Yemeni men who were held for well over a year in secret American prisons overseas were quietly released last month after being transferred to their home country, where a court concluded they had no terrorist ties, according to a report released Tuesday by Amnesty International.

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The report says evidence promised by the United States was apparently never transferred to Yemeni authorities. It also adds other new details to accounts of the Central Intelligence Agency's program of holding terrorist suspects in secret detention centers or transferring them to other countries, where some said they were tortured.

The Yemenis said their American jailers, whom they do not accuse of abusing them, took great care to keep them from surmising the detention centers' location, keeping windows covered and removing wrappers and labels from food, clothing and water bottles, the report says.

In the report — which includes information on the web of companies the C.I.A. uses to own and operate its fleet of aircraft for moving the suspects — Amnesty International officials call for an end to the C.I.A.'s practice of rendition, in which suspects are seized and transported without judicial process.

"The bottom line is that secretly sending individuals to unknown locations where they are likely to be tortured or treated inhumanly is unlawful, and the C.I.A. must stop," said William F. Schulz, executive director of Amnesty International U.S.A.

A C.I.A. spokesman declined to comment on the report.

The report came one day after the Pentagon released 2,700 pages of documents from hearings for detainees held by the United States military at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. The new documents, the second major installment released since last month in response to a lawsuit filed by The Associated Press, are a window on the frustration of both prisoners who claim they are innocent and the American military officers who must judge whether they are lying.

"Your story sounds like about 500 others," an unidentified colonel declared while questioning a Guantánamo detainee arrested in Pakistan in December 2001. "Everybody has their passport stolen; everybody is in Afghanistan and Pakistan doing charity work."

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American and Afghan soldiers are dying, but according to the detainees' stories, "nobody is killing them," the exasperated officer said. He told the detainee, "Your story doesn't ring true. Help us help you."

Amnesty International first described the cases of the Yemeni prisoners — Muhammad Bashmilah, Salah Ali Qaru and Muhammad al-Assad — late last year.

Mr. Bashmilah and Mr. Qaru were arrested in Jordan and transferred to American custody in October 2003, while Mr. Assad was arrested in Tanzania and turned over to American officials in December 2003, Amnesty International said.

They were kept in at least four secret facilities that likely are situated in at least three countries, probably including Djibouti, Afghanistan, and somewhere in Eastern Europe, Amnesty International concluded after studying the men's descriptions of transfer flights and other data.

After months of interrogation by Americans, they were flown to Yemen in May 2005. "The U.S. authorities effectively instructed the Yemeni officials to detain the men, apparently promising to transfer their case files," the report says.

But it says the files never arrived. In February, Yemeni authorities finally charged the men with forging travel documents, sentenced them to two years and ruled that they had served their time, the report says.

Mr. Assad was freed March 14, and Mr. Bashmilah and Mr. Qaru on March 27, the report says.

If American authorities appear to have struggled over whether the three Yemenis posed a threat, the voluminous transcripts released by the Pentagon suggest similar difficulties assessing some prisoners held at Guantánamo.

One detainee, Abdul Majid Mohammadi, described himself as an Iranian Christian — an anomaly in a counterterrorism campaign usually described as focusing on Islamist extremism. Swearing by "Jesus and God," he admitted to having been a drug dealer and having obtained papers to cross the Iran-Afghanistan border from an Afghan with ties to a pro-Taliban group.

Several detainees from Afghanistan are described as having worked for the Afghan government under Hamid Karzai, the pro-American politician who led the interim administration after American-led forces toppled the Taliban and who was elected president in 2004.

Muhammad Aman, for example, said he was a clerk for the military under the pro-Soviet Communist government, under the Taliban and finally under Mr. Karzai. Like other prisoners, he said the Taliban had forced him to work for them.

"All the workers that you see in the current government of Afghanistan worked for the Taliban too," Mr. Aman told the review board.

*Scott Shane reported from Washington for this article, and Margot Williams from New York.*

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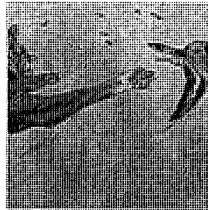


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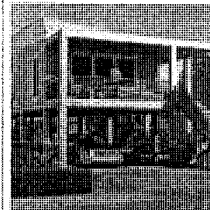
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April 6, 2006 Thursday  
Final Edition

**SECTION:** A Section; All

**LENGTH:** 511 words

**HEADLINE:** 3 U.S.-Detained Yemenis Freed, Rights Group Says

**BYLINE:** Josh White, Washington Post Staff Writer

**BODY:**

Three Yemeni nationals who say they were held captive for more than two years in secret U.S. detention facilities have been released in Yemen without facing charges related to terrorism, according to Amnesty International officials who have been working with the former detainees.

In a report released yesterday in London and in previous statements, Amnesty International cites the three detainees' cases as a window on what the organization believes is part of the covert CIA system designed to hide prisoners. Amnesty officials say they cannot be certain exactly where the detainees were held, but they contend, based on the captives' accounts, that the prisons were probably in Afghanistan, Djibouti and somewhere in Eastern Europe.

Muhammad Bashmilah, 38, and Salah Ali Qaru, 29 -- who were living in Indonesia when they were arrested in 2003 -- were released last week after a Yemeni judge convicted them of forging personal travel documents and sentenced them to time served in the U.S. facilities. Both men claimed they were tortured in a Jordanian prison before being transferred into U.S. custody.

Muhammad al-Assad, 43, was arrested in his longtime home of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in December 2003 and ended up in what Amnesty International officials believe was a CIA "black site" prison. He was released from a Yemeni prison on March 14.

Anne FitzGerald, senior adviser on research policy for Amnesty International, said the men have never been given information about why they were arrested or why they were being held secretly.

The men do not allege that their American captors abused or tortured them,

but if they were held incommunicado after being shifted to different countries, as they claim, that practice could violate international laws regarding detentions. The men were not allowed contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross and did not have access to lawyers, and their families thought they had disappeared.

A CIA spokeswoman declined to comment. Mohammed Albasha, press officer for the Yemeni Embassy in Washington, said Tuesday that he was not able to confirm the specific cases identified by Amnesty International. In general, Albasha said, "the Yemeni government will not release any convicts unless they are found to be . . . not directly or indirectly involved with a terrorist organization."

Amnesty International is calling on the United States to stop shifting detainees to other countries outside of judicial norms and to cease holding detainees in secret facilities where human rights organizations are unable to have contact with them. In its 37-page report, the organization asks governments worldwide to ensure they are not parties to secret detention and to prevent their airspace from being used for such activity.

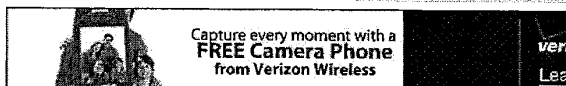
The American Civil Liberties Union last week urged the United Nations human rights investigative body to open an inquiry into the U.S. program, saying what the CIA calls "rendition" is in violation of federal and international law.

Staff writer Dan Eggen contributed to this report.

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## Amnesty demands public inquiry on rendition flights

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Amnesty International today calls for an independent public inquiry into all aspects of British involvement in secret CIA "extraordinary rendition" flights. The call comes as it reports details of more than 200 CIA flights passing through British airports.

It also reveals US efforts to ensure conditions and locations where detainees were held were kept secret. Four of the CIA's 26 planes have landed and taken off more than 200 times from British airports over the past five years, Amnesty says. They include Stansted, Gatwick, Luton, Glasgow, Prestwick, Edinburgh, Londonderry and Belfast. Others used are RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, Biggin Hill in Kent, and RAF Leuchars in Scotland, as well as the Turks and Caicos islands, a British overseas territory in the Caribbean.

Amnesty's report - *Below the Radar: Secret Flights to Torture and "Disappearance"* - shows a pattern of nearly 1,000 flights directly linked to the CIA through "front" companies, most of which, it says, have used European airspace. A further 600 CIA flights were made by planes hired from US aviation companies.

Amnesty says detainees were abducted or handed over to US guards by other law enforcement agencies before being "disappeared". In what it says is the only detailed information to emerge from an Eastern European or Central Asian "black site" prison, detainees had described being prepared for transportation by black-masked "ninjas".

It describes the case of three Yemeni men - Muhammad al-Assad, Muhammad Bashmilah and Sala Qaru - held for more than a year at a suspected "black site". After cross-referencing prayer schedule data and the position of the sun and flight times, Amnesty believes the likely location of the prison is Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Macedonia, Albania, Georgia or Azerbaijan.

Information on the numbers and whereabouts of all terror suspects rendered should be publicly available, detainees should be brought before a judicial authority within 24 hours of being held, and any plane carrying detainees, or suspected of doing so, should be identified to the aviation authorities of the country where it lands, Amnesty says.

Jack Straw, the foreign secretary, has said the US would not render a detainee through Britain without the government's permission. He says the Clinton administration asked four times and the UK twice declined

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its request; there is no evidence the Bush administration had asked.

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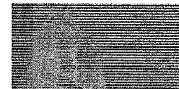
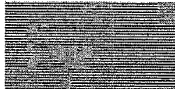
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3 December 2007 20:07

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## Revealed: the plight of prisoners caught up in US rendition

By Andrew Buncombe in Washington

Published: 05 April 2006

Three Yemeni prisoners who were apparently seized and held in secret jails by the CIA for 18 months have spoken for the first time about their detention - providing important new details about the systematic "rendition" of prisoners.

The three men, none of whom was ever charged with any terrorism-related offence, were seized in 2003 and then held in four secret locations by "black-masked ninja" US operatives who made considerable efforts to ensure the prisoners did not know where they were being held. They were eventually released about a month ago.

While it remains unclear where exactly the men were held, human rights campaigners who interviewed them believe they were held in Djibouti, Afghanistan and somewhere in eastern Europe. It was alleged last year that the CIA had been operating covert "black site" prisons in Romania and Poland.

The three men - Muhammad Bashmilah, Salah Qaru and Muhammad al-Assad - are now struggling to rebuild their lives. Mr Assad told Amnesty International, which today publishes the men's testimony in a new report: "For me now, it has to be a new life, because I will never recover the old one."

Mr Bashmilah and Mr Qaru were arrested in Jordan in October 2003 and handed over to the US authorities. Mr Assad was arrested in Tanzania the same year. They were returned in May 2005 to the Yemeni authorities, who charged them with obtaining false travel documents. The men pleaded guilty but were released after the judge decided their time held by the US was sufficient time served.

The Amnesty report details how the men's US guards removed all labels from the food and clothing they were given to make it difficult for them to know where they were. Campaigners narrowed down the likely location of their internment based on the length of their rendition flights, the changing position of the sun when the men were allowed outside to pray, and the winter temperature.

"Labels were usually removed from their clothes and their bottles of water. They had some blankets and T-shirts made in Mexico, while their water cups, although made in China, had the name and telephone number of a US company embossed on the bottom," says the report.

Controversy over the rendition of suspects has been growing since it emerged last year that the CIA has been regularly seizing prisoners and flying them to third countries for interrogation. Sometimes the interrogations are carried out by foreign security personnel, sometimes by US operatives. Suspects' families cannot find out what is going on. Some prisoners said they were tortured while in custody.

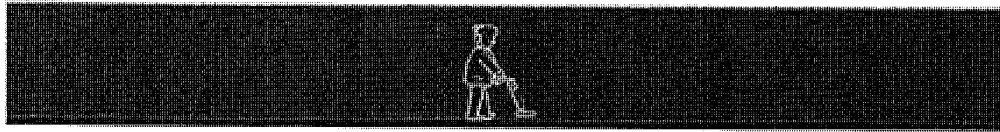
Britain and other European countries have been accused of complicity in rendition by allowing the CIA to use their airports to refuel and land. Human Rights Watch claimed last year that since the 11 September attacks, planes operated by the CIA for the transfer of prisoners had made at least 300 stops in European countries. Amnesty says the planes have made at least 185 landings at UK airports, including British facilities in the Caribbean. Where the US holds its prisoners, especially those considered "high value" targets, is unknown though a number of possible locations have been identified by campaigners, including Afghanistan, Iraq and Morocco. The British government has persistently denied reports that prisoners have been held on the Indian Ocean islands of Diego Garcia, home to a US air base.

Kate Allen, director of Amnesty International UK, said: "With mounting evidence of illegal CIA rendition flights through European airspace - and multiple landings and take-offs of CIA planes at UK airports - there must be an independent inquiry into all aspects of UK involvement in these sinister practices."

A spokeswoman for the CIA yesterday refused to comment.

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IN DEPTH

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IRAQ IN CRISIS

### Amnesty links rendition flights with torture

By Daniel Dombey in Brussels and Demetri Sevastopulo in Washington  
Published: April 5 2006 00:34 | Last updated: April 5 2006 00:34

Three Yemeni men abducted and mistreated by the US were probably held in eastern Europe, Amnesty International said in a new report.

A study by Amnesty, based on interviews with the former captives, is intended to cast light on Washington's practice of rendition, or extra-legal abduction, which the human rights group says often paves the way to torture or maltreatment.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Washington insists it never sends detainees to places where they would be at risk of torture - but it also defines torture much more narrowly than do other governments.

The study said Muhammad Bashmilah, Salah Ali Qaru and Muhammad al-Assad were held in at least four secret US-run facilities...from the information subsequently provided by the men [about the climate, food and prayer schedules] it is likely they were held in Djibouti, Afghanistan and somewhere in eastern Europe.

Both Poland and Romania, named last year as likely centres of CIA "secret prisons" by Human Rights Watch, another campaigning organisation, have denied hosting any such facilities.

Wednesday's report adds that after being arrested and transferred to US custody in 2003, the men were brought back to Yemen in 2005 and released in February this year. Although all were sentenced for forgery in connection with false travel documents, none was charged with any terrorism-related offences. The report also says they had been shackled, kept unaware of their location and not allowed to see daylight for months.

While CIA renditions have stirred controversy in Europe, criticism in the US has been relatively muted, particularly on Capitol Hill. John McCain, the Republican senator who was tortured in Vietnam, pushed through legislation banning torture, but other senior Republicans have avoided the renditions debate.

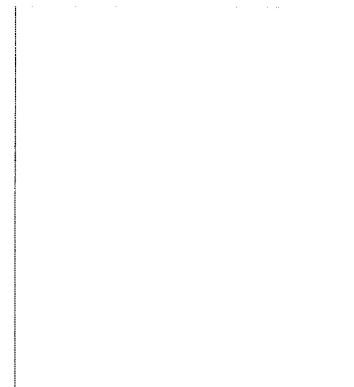
Patrick Leahy, the senior Democrat on the Senate judiciary committee, and Edward Markey, a Democratic congressman, have introduced legislation that would compel the secretary of state to assure Congress that the administration would only transfer prisoners to countries where it believes they would not be tortured, but the legislation stands little chance of approval.

Jennifer Daskal, advocacy director at Human Rights Watch, says Democrats have been unwilling to push the issue because of the lack of Republican support and concerns they could be painted as soft on national security.

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April 4, 2006 Tuesday 7:01 PM EST

**SECTION:** NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DESKS, DAYBOOK EDITOR

**LENGTH:** 852 words

**HEADLINE:** CIA Exploited Aviation Practices to Unlawfully Transfer Detainees to Countries that Torture, According to New Amnesty Int'l. Report

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, April 4

**BODY:**

Amnesty International today released a new report documenting how the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) used private aircraft operators and front companies to preserve the secrecy of rendition flights and "black site" detention.

The report, *Below the Radar: Secret flights to Torture and 'Disappearance'*, reveals how the CIA exploited aviation practices to hide behind the identity of private plane operators and circumvent authorities. Countries that allow CIA planes to cross their airspace and use their airports often cite the Convention on International Civil Aviation, also known as the Chicago Convention. These states claim that they do not have the authority to question the reasons for the flight because there is a clause in the Convention that allows private, non-commercial flights to fly over a country, or make technical stops there, without prior authorization or notification. However, the Convention makes clear that every nation has the right to require inspection if there are "reasonable grounds to conclude that it (the aircraft) is being used for any purpose inconsistent with the aims of the convention." Given that rendition violates international law, and there are many credible reports of such practices, countries have the right -- and duty -- to stop any aircraft on "reasonable grounds" of suspicion.

The report also details dozens of destinations around the world where planes associated with rendition flights landed and took off. In addition, the report lists the private airlines with permission to land at U.S. military bases worldwide.

"Are there any laws that the U.S. government will not break to continue its practice of denying people their human rights in the name of national security?"

said Dr. William F. Schulz, Amnesty International USA's Executive Director. "The covert nature of the rendition operation has made it impossible to know how many persons have been abducted, transferred across borders, held in secret detention or tortured in the 'war on terror.' The bottom line is that secretly sending individuals to unknown locations where they are likely to be tortured or treated inhumanly is unlawful, and the CIA must stop."

The transfer of any detainee to another country must take place with proper safeguards, including judicial oversight, and the use of official aircrafts.

Three Yemeni men recently released after a two-year rendition ordeal have provided Amnesty International with new information about "black site" detention, which raises the possibility that they were held somewhere in eastern Europe or Central Asia. Their ordeal is outlined in an earlier Amnesty International report, Secret Detention in CIA 'Black Sites', November 2005.

Muhammad Al-Assad, Muhammad Bashmilah and Salah 'Ali Qaru spent 13 months in one secret facility before being flown to Yemen in May 2005 and eventually released in late March 2006.

"The men's captors worked very hard to conceal every aspect of detention but our research assessing information about climate, prayer schedules and flight times suggests that these men may have been held in Eastern Europe or Central Asia," said Schulz.

Rendition is the extralegal transfer of people from one country to another in ways that bypass all judicial and administrative oversight. Since September 11, 2001, Amnesty International believes that the United States government has rendered perhaps hundreds of individuals for the purposes of interrogation and detention to countries with dubious human rights records. Mounting evidence suggests that rendition is part of an elaborate clandestine detention regime that includes the use of "black sites" and "disappearances," as well as torture and inhuman treatment.

Amnesty International is calling on the aviation sector to immediately stop secret rendition flights and governments to stop facilitating the practice of rendition and receiving rendition victims.

"Rendering people to countries with a proven record of torture -- as documented by the U.S. State Department -- violates U.S. and international law as well as core principles of justice. Amnesty International is urging Congress to create an independent commission to investigate all aspects of U.S. detention and interrogation practices," added Schulz.

For a copy of Below the Radar: Secret flights to Torture and 'Disappearance', please contact the AIUSA media office at 202-544-0200, ext. 302.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

1. Estimated numbers of rendition victims: The Egyptian prime minister noted in 2005 that the United States has transferred some 60-70 detainees to Egypt alone, and a former CIA agent with experience in the region believes that "hundreds" of detainees may have been sent by the U.S. to prisons in Middle Eastern countries. The United States has acknowledged the capture of about 30

CIA Exploited Aviation Practices to Unlawfully Transfer Detainees to  
Countries that Torture, According to New Amnesty Int'l. Report U.S. Newswire  
April 4, 2006 Tuesday 7:01 PM EST

"high value" detainees whose whereabouts remain unknown, and the CIA is reportedly investigating some three dozen additional cases of "erroneous rendition," in which people were detained based on flawed evidence or confusion over names

<http://www.usnewswire.com/>

Contact: Sharon Singh of Amnesty International, 202-544-0200, ext. 289

LOAD-DATE: April 5, 2006

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UPI

April 5, 2006 Wednesday 5:50 AM EST

**LENGTH:** 326 words

**HEADLINE:** U.K.: Rendition report prompts probe calls

**DATELINE:** LONDON, April 5

**BODY:**

An Amnesty International report claiming over 200 CIA rendition flights passed through Britain prompted calls for a public inquiry Wednesday.

The report -- 'Below the Radar: Secret Flights to Torture and "Disappearance"' -- says that four of the CIA's 26 planes have landed and taken off from British airports more than 200 times in the past five years.

It also details almost 1,000 flights directly linked to the U.S. intelligence agency through civilian front companies, most of which, it claims, passed through European airspace. A further 600 flights were made using planes hired from U.S. aviation companies, Amnesty says.

The human rights group claims that detainees were either abducted or handed over to CIA agents by other law enforcement agencies, before being transported to prisons elsewhere. Former prisoners described how they were transported wearing blindfolds, earplugs, hoods, masks and headphones.

The report includes testimony from three Yemeni men who claim they were held for over a year at a secret prison or "black site," likely located in Eastern Europe or Central Asia. Muhammad al-Assad, Muhammad Bashmilah and Sala Qaru said staff were either American, English speakers with European accents or native Arabic speakers. Most wore masks at all times.

British ministers have consistently denied that any U.S. rendition flights have passed through the country since 2001.

But Amnesty International U.K. Director Kate Allen said: "With mounting evidence of illegal CIA rendition flights through European airspace -- and multiple landings and take-offs of CIA planes at U.K. airports -- there must be

an independent inquiry into all aspects of U.K. involvement in these sinister practices."

Conservative Parliamentarian Andrew Tyrie, chairman of Britain's all-party parliamentary group on rendition, echoed Amnesty's call, adding: "The British government has been walking along the side of the street, looking the other way, for far too long."

**LOAD-DATE:** April 6, 2006



**Agence France Presse -- English**

**Amnesty asks if CIA held Yemenis in Djibouti, Afghanistan, and east Europe**

**April 5, 2006**

Amnesty International said Wednesday it had indications that jails in Djibouti, Afghanistan and eastern Europe were part of a secret US-run prison system for suspected terrorists.

The London-based human rights organization said the signs came from three Yemeni men who "disappeared" in US custody and were held in secret for more than 18 months before being returned to Yemen in May 2005.

Muhammad Abdullah Salah al-Assad, Muhammad Bashmilah and Salah Nasir Salim 'Ali Qaru, all Yemenis, are the only terror suspects to have spoken publicly about being held in illegal "black sites," Amnesty said in a report.

It said Bashmilah and 'Ali Qaru had been arrested in Jordan before being sent to US custody in October 2003, while Assad was arrested in Tanzania and immediately turned over to US custody the same year.

Amnesty said it first reported on their cases last year and returned to Yemen to follow up in February and March, with the three of them released last month.

They "were kept in at least four different secret facilities, likely to have been in at least three different countries, judging by the length of their transfer flights and other information they have been able to provide," it said.

"Although not conclusive, the evidence suggests that they were held at various times in Djibouti, Afghanistan and eastern Europe," it added.

Amnesty said it needed further information from the US and European authorities to verify the locations.

Bashmilah and Salah Qaru were "apparently taken from Jordan to Afghanistan in October 2003; other prisoners there managed to get word to them that they were in Afghanistan," it said.

"The two men have separately described a transfer flight of about four hours from Jordan, which is consistent with a flight to Afghanistan," it added.

Circumstantial evidence such as climate and prayer schedules also "suggest that they may have been held in eastern Europe or Central Asia," said Amnesty senior advisor Anne FitzGerald.

The Yemenis' cases were part of an Amnesty report accusing the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of using private aircraft firms and front companies to secretly transfer terror suspects in violation of international law.

*Amnesty asks if CIA held Yemenis in Djibouti, Afghanistan, and east Europe*, AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, April 5, 2006

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The Irish Times

April 5, 2006 Wednesday

**SECTION:** WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 12

**LENGTH:** 435 words

**HEADLINE:** 'Rendition' aircraft used Irish airports - Amnesty

**BYLINE:** Ruadhán Mac Cormaic

**BODY:**

**IRELAND:** Four aircraft believed to have been chartered by the CIA landed and took off on 81 separate occasions from Shannon and Dublin airports in the past five years, Amnesty International has claimed.

In a report to be published today, the organisation claims the four aircraft passed through Shannon 78 times and Dublin on three occasions since 2001. The same aircraft used Belfast's international and Derry airports five times in the same period.

One of the aircraft, which has passed through all four Irish airports - a Gulfstream jet that can carry up to 19 people - has made over 100 trips to Guantánamo Bay in the same period, according to the report.

All four aircraft "are known to have rendered prisoners to illegal detention and torture," an Amnesty spokesman said.

"With renditions shrouded in secrecy, it is extremely difficult to gauge the true extent of its operation, though is likely to involve hundreds of detainees, dozens of planes and thousands of flights," he added.

Tracing the worldwide movements of the four aircraft over a five-year period, the report lists almost 1,000 flights it alleges are "directly linked" to the CIA through "front" companies, as well as 600 CIA flights by aircraft leased from US aviation companies.

The report, *Below the Radar: Secret Flights to Torture and "Disappearance"*, cites a number of individual cases where detainees were abducted or handed over to US officials before being "disappeared". The cited testimony of three Yemeni men - Muhammad al-Assad, Muhammad Bashmilah and Sala Qaru - describes their detention for more than a year at a suspected "black site".

After cross-referencing prayer-schedule data, daylight-saving time practice, the position of the sun and flight times, Amnesty believes the likely location of the prison to be Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Macedonia, Albania, Georgia or Azerbaijan.

The men were held in isolation, constantly monitored and permanently shackled to a ring fixed in the floor of their cells, according to the report.

The authors call for information on the numbers and whereabouts of all terror suspects rendered to be made publicly available, while detainees should be brought before a judicial authority within 24 hours of being held. Any aircraft carrying detainees, or suspected of doing so, should be identified to the aviation authorities of the country where it lands, they say.

A Department of Transport spokeswoman last night reiterated that the Government has raised this issue with the US authorities, "and the Government has been assured that Irish airports are not being used for the purposes of rendition".

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**Paper:** Houston Chronicle  
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**Section:** A  
**Page:** 16  
**Edition:** 3 STAR

**'Black site' prisons may have been in Eastern Europe / Yemeni detainees detail accounts of journeys that may have been secret CIA flights**

By JENNIFER QUINN  
 Associated Press

LONDON - In its most detailed report yet on alleged secret rendition flights of terror suspects, Amnesty International said three former detainees have lent support to the idea that eastern European countries may have been involved in secret CIA flights to so-called "black site" prisons.

The report provides detailed accounts of the experiences of three Yemeni men - Muhammad Bashmilah, Muhammad al-Assad and Salah Nasser Salim Ali - who believe they were taken by U.S. authorities to secret prisons following lengthy journeys through different climates and time zones.

Bashmilah said he was detained in Jordan in October 2003 while on a trip to visit his mother. Ali said he was detained in Indonesia in August 2003 and then flown to Jordan, where he was taken into custody. Al-Assad said he was detained in Tanzania in 2003. None of the three could say with confidence where they were taken next.

In statements from February and March, they described travel times, changing climates, temperatures and daylight hours in detailed descriptions Amnesty says indicates they may have been held in Eastern Europe.

The men were allegedly held for 13 months at a so-called "black site," a clandestine facility believed to be run by the CIA, before they were returned to Yemen, where they were charged with forging travel documents, Amnesty said.

"Their captors went to great lengths to conceal their location from the men, but circumstantial evidence such as climate, prayer schedules and flight times to and from the site suggest that they may have been held in Eastern Europe or central Asia," Anne FitzGerald, a senior adviser with Amnesty, said in the statement. "But without further information from the U.S. government and European authorities, it's impossible to verify exactly where."

The CIA declined to comment on the report.


...

**RULES QUESTIONED**


At Guantanamo Bay Naval Base: Courtroom rules in military trials of terrorist suspects came into question Tuesday during a pretrial hearing for a suspected al-Qaida member charged in a March 2002 grenade attack that wounded three journalists in Afghanistan. Abdul Zahir did not enter a plea, but his U.S. military defense counsel almost immediately began asking the judge, Marine Col. Robert Chester, what laws he would follow in presiding over the trial. The Guantanamo Bay trials - held inside a cinderblock building perched on a hill on this naval base - are the first U.S. military tribunals since the World War II era. Chester refused to be pinned down by the defense on the rules for the trial.

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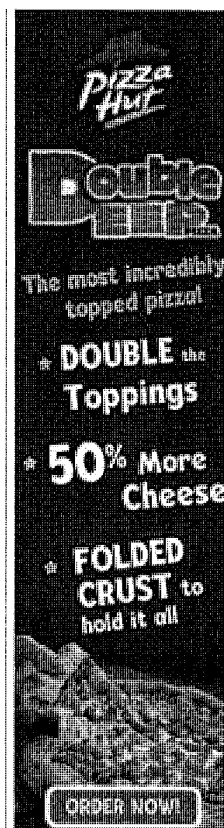
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Belfast Telegraph

April 5, 2006 Wednesday

**LENGTH:** 624 words

**HEADLINE:** Yemeni rendition prisoners shed light on secret CIA incarceration

**BODY:**

Three Yemeni prisoners who were apparently seized and held in secret jails by the CIA for 18 months have spoken for the first time about their detention - providing important new details about the systematic "rendition" of prisoners.

The three men, none of whom was ever charged with any terrorism-related offence, were seized in 2003 and then held in four secret locations by "black-masked ninja" US operatives who made considerable efforts to ensure the prisoners did not know where they were being held. They were eventually released about a month ago.

While it remains unclear where exactly the men were held, human rights campaigners who interviewed them believe they were held in Djibouti, Afghanistan and somewhere in eastern Europe. It was alleged last year that the CIA had been operating covert "black site" prisons in Romania and Poland.

The three men - Muhammad Bashmilah, Salah Qaru and Muhammad al-Assad - are now struggling to rebuild their lives. Mr Assad told Amnesty International, which today publishes the men's testimony in a new report: "For me now, it has to be a new life, because I will never recover the old one."

Mr Bashmilah and Mr Qaru were arrested in Jordan in October 2003 and handed over to the US authorities. Mr Assad was arrested in Tanzania the same year. They were returned in May 2005 to the Yemeni authorities, who charged them with obtaining false travel documents. The men pleaded guilty but were released after the judge decided their time held by the US was sufficient time served.

The Amnesty report details how the men's US guards removed all labels from the food and clothing they were given to make it difficult for them to know where they were. Campaigners narrowed down the likely location of their internment based on the length of their rendition flights, the changing position of the sun when the men were allowed outside to pray, and the winter temperature.

"Labels were usually removed from their clothes and their bottles of water. They had some blankets and T-shirts made in Mexico, while their water cups, although made in China, had the name and telephone number of a US company embossed on the bottom," says the report.

Controversy over the rendition of suspects has been growing since it emerged

last year that the CIA has been regularly seizing prisoners and flying them to third countries for interrogation. Sometimes the interrogations are carried out by foreign security personnel, sometimes by US operatives. Suspects' families cannot find out what is going on. Some prisoners said they were tortured while in custody.

Britain and other European countries have been accused of complicity in rendition by allowing the CIA to use their airports to refuel and land. Human Rights Watch claimed last year that since the 11 September attacks, planes operated by the CIA for the transfer of prisoners had made at least 300 stops in European countries. Amnesty says the planes have made at least 185 landings at UK airports, including British facilities in the Caribbean. Where the US holds its prisoners, especially those considered "high value" targets, is unknown though a number of possible locations have been identified by campaigners, including Afghanistan, Iraq and Morocco. The British government has persistently denied reports that prisoners have been held on the Indian Ocean islands of Diego Garcia, home to a US air base.

Kate Allen, director of Amnesty International UK, said: "With mounting evidence of illegal CIA rendition flights through European airspace - and multiple landings and take-offs of CIA planes at UK airports - there must be an independent inquiry into all aspects of UK involvement in these sinister practices."

A spokeswoman for the CIA yesterday refused to comment.

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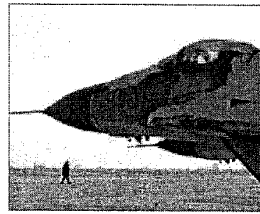
## NEWS GLOBALNEWS

### Amnesty report probes CIA jails

Human rights group Amnesty International says it has further evidence that eastern European countries may have been involved in secret CIA flights to transport terror suspects to clandestine prisons.

The report, released on Wednesday, provides detailed accounts of the experiences of three Yemeni men who believe they were taken by US authorities to secret prisons following lengthy journeys through different climates and time zones.

The 15,000-word report includes testimony taken in February and March from Muhammad Bashmilah, Muhammad al-Assad and Salah Nasser Salim Ali, also known as Salah Qaru.



Amnesty says eastern European military bases are used

Bashmilah said he was detained in Jordan in October 2003 while on a trip to visit his mother. Ali was detained in Indonesia in August 2003 and then flown to Jordan where he was taken into custody. Al-Assad claimed he was detained in Tanzania in 2003. However, none of the three could say with confidence where they were taken next.

In their statements, they described travel times, changing climates, temperatures, and daylight hours in detailed descriptions Amnesty says indicates that they may have been held in eastern Europe.

The men were allegedly held for 13 months at a so-called black site, a clandestine facility believed to be run by the CIA, before they were returned to Yemen where they were charged with forging travel documents, Amnesty said.

#### Location concealed

In a statement released with the report, Amnesty International said new information from the men raised "the possibility that they were held somewhere in Eastern Europe or Central Asia".

"Their captors went to great lengths to conceal their location from the men; but circumstantial evidence such as climate, prayer schedules, and flight times to and from the site suggest that they may have been held in Eastern Europe or Central Asia," Anne FitzGerald, a senior adviser with Amnesty, said in the statement.

"But without further information from the US government and European authorities, it's impossible to verify exactly where."

The CIA declined to comment on the report.

The US government has said that the transfer of terror suspects is carried out according to US and international law.

The Council of Europe, the continent's top human rights watchdog, is investigating US operated flights sometimes referred to as "renditions" where terror suspects are allegedly transferred to third countries for interrogation.

Amnesty said in its report that the CIA is exploiting

**"Their captors went to great lengths to conceal their location from the men; but circumstantial evidence such as climate, prayer schedules, and flight times to and from the site suggest that they may have been held in Eastern Europe or Central Asia"**

Ann FitzGerald,  
Senior Adviser,

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a loophole that allows private aircraft to land at foreign airports without having to inform local authorities - unlike government or military planes - and called for inspections of planes suspected of being involved.

Amnesty International

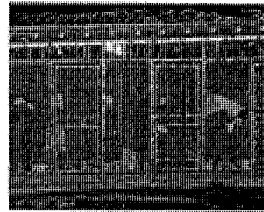
### Twenty landings

Amnesty's branch in the Czech Republic said three planes made a total of 20 landings in the capital Prague as part of the rendition programme.

"We asked the Czech government to make sure that airports in the Czech Republic will not be misused for illegal transfers of people that is in breach of international law," said Martin Kryl, Amnesty's chair of the board in the Czech Republic.

"This practice does not ensure justice nor safety but makes torture possible."

Discussing the Amnesty International report on Wednesday, Fawaz Gerges, a professor at Sarah Lawrence College in New York, told Al Jazeera: "The report has exposed the the US administration's conduct and put pressure on it to reveal the truth."



However, he said "it is more a moral crisis than a political one".

Gerges pointed out that the US secretary of state, in the past, had declared that no secret prisons existed outside of the US.

**The US says the transfer of terror suspects is legal**

He said he believes the American people will punish their government for such acts and European publics too will question their governments to ascertain whether or not they were aware of these activities.

Gerges said the report would have a negative impact on the European governments concerned as well as on their relations with the US administration.

Source: Aljazeera + Agencies



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Nat Hentoff

### CIA Secret Prisons Exposed

The disappeared: Are they dead? Are they alive? Ask Congress. Ask the president.  
by Nat Hentoff  
May 7th, 2006 7:59 PM

*CIA officers soon learned one thing for sure—prisoners sent to Bright Light and [other CIA secret prisons] . . . were probably never going to be released. "The word is that once you get sent to Bright Light, you never come back," said the CIA's Counterterrorism Center veteran. James Risen, State of War: The Secret History of the CIA and the Bush Administration*

May is the month that the United States has been summoned to Geneva by the United Nations Committee Against Torture to, as Reuters reported on April 18, "provide information about secret detention facilities and specifically whether the United States assumed responsibility for alleged acts of torture in them."

The committee also wants a list of all these secret prisons. So do I—along with every major human rights organization and some members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. However, Kansas Republican Pat Roberts, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, rigidly keeps refusing to authorize an investigation into these "black sites," as they are called in CIA internal communications. (The United States is a faithless signatory to the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and is now being called to account.)

Meanwhile, Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte said the prisoners in these hidden gulags will be there as long as "the war on terror continues." He added, in an April 12 *Time* interview: "I'm not sure I can tell you what the ultimate disposition of those detainees will be." As far as their families are concerned, these "detainees" have vanished from the face of the earth.

*Time* says that Negroponte's comments "appear to be the first open acknowledgement of the secret U.S. detention system" (authorized



Illustration: Matthew Leake

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by the president soon after 9-11).

Actually, when the CIA recently fired senior official Mary O. McCarthy—for allegedly providing classified information about CIA secret prisons in Eastern Europe to *The Washington Post's* Dana Priest—that public accusation also officially revealed the existence of the "black sites." (McCarthy denies that she was a source for Priest.)

The cover has long ago been blown on these dungeons by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, and the ceaseless researchers at NYU law school's Center for Human Rights and Global Justice. And in the *Voice*, I've been writing on what I can find out about them since the end of 2002.

But the CIA, the president, Alberto Gonzales, Condoleezza Rice, and Donald Rumsfeld have nothing to say about these gulags, which are wholly removed from American law and the international treaties we have signed.

Now, however, in an explosive, documented April 5 Amnesty International report—"Below the Radar: Secret Flights to Torture and 'Disappearance'"—there is direct testimony, for the first time, from three men who have been salted away in these secret CIA prisons.

This 41-page report, currently reverberating throughout Europe, also includes a wide range of detailed information about the CIA's kidnapping and "renditions" of suspects to countries known for torturing prisoners. But most revealing are Amnesty International's interviews with the three men from Yemen who were "held in at least four secret US-run facilities . . . probably in Djibouti, Afghanistan, and somewhere in Eastern Europe."

In their last "black site," where they were disappeared for 13 months, Muhammad Bashmilah, Salah Ali Qaru, and Muhammad al-Assad were imprisoned—they believe it was in Eastern Europe—where "they were never allowed to look outside. . . . And for month after month, the men had no idea whether it was day or night . . . or whether their torment of spending endless days staring at blank walls, or being interrogated, would ever end."

Why they were finally returned to Yemen is unknown; but there—where they were first arrested two and a half years ago before falling into CIA crevasses—they were charged on February 13, 2006, with having forged a travel document. Amnesty International emphasizes:

"None was charged with any terrorism-related offense; [and] the Chief of Special Prosecution in Yemen told Amnesty International that they were not suspected of any such involvement."

On the old forgery charge, the judge in Yemen sentenced them to time served, the trial record notes, "in an unknown place by the USA."

They were then released. But, AI adds, "All continue to suffer the dire mental and physical health consequences of torture and ill-treatment, including the prolonged periods in isolation."

As Eric Olson, acting director of government relations at Amnesty International USA, says, their long-term solitary imprisonment can, by international standards, "be considered cruel and inhuman treatment," and two "were in a facility where they were chained to a ring on the floor permanently."

But what of the others who have been disappeared in the CIA's secret prisons? In the *Voice* nearly two years ago, I quoted Jack Cloonan, a 27-year veteran of the FBI who, in New York, as senior agent on the FBI's bin Laden squad, headed the investigation of the master Al Qaeda strategist Khalid Shaikh Mohammed. Cloonan had been directing the interrogation of Mohammed in a once secret CIA

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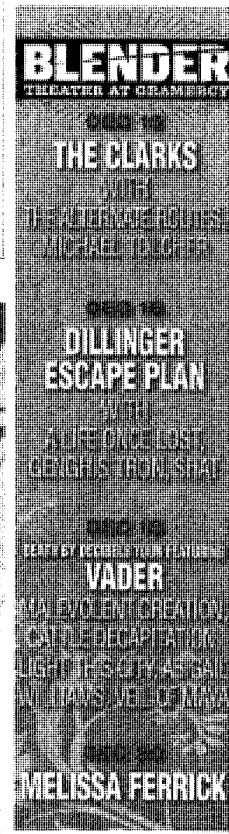
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interrogation center at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan (which Dana Priest exposed in *The Washington Post*).

Concerned at the time about the network of still hidden CIA interrogation centers around the world, Cloonan asked: "What are we going to do with these people when we're finished . . . with them? Are they going to disappear? Are they stateless? . . . What are we going to explain to people when they start asking questions about where they are? Are they dead? Are they alive? What oversight does Congress have?"

Will the elite Washington press finally ask this question of presidential press secretary Tony Snow—and Senate Intelligence Committee chairman Pat Roberts? And especially George W. Bush at his next press conference? What are these American values, Mr. President, we stand for against the terrorists?

More Nat Hentoff

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