

SECRET // U.S. ONLY // EXCEPT LIBYA

SUBJECT: RENDITION OF LIFG DEPUTY EMIR ABU MUNTHIR

OUR SERVICE HAS BECOME AWARE THAT LAST WEEKEND LIFG DEPUTY EMIR ABU MUNTHIR AND HIS SPOUSE AND CHILDREN WERE BEING HELD IN HONG KONG DETENTION FOR IMMIGRATION/PASSPORT VIOLATIONS. WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT YOUR SERVICE HAD BEEN COOPERATING WITH THE BRITISH TO EFFECT ABU MUNTHIR'S REMOVAL TO TRIPOLI, AND THAT YOU HAD AN AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE IN THE MALDIVES.

OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE HONG KONG SPECIAL WING (SW) ORIGINALLY DENIED PERMISSION FOR YOUR AIRCRAFT TO LAND IN HONG KONG TO ENABLE YOU TO ASSUME CONTROL OF ABU MUNTHIR AND HIS FAMILY. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE REASON FOR THE REFUSAL WAS BASED ON INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS OVER HAVING A LIBYAN-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT LAND IN HONG KONG. ACCORDINGLY, IF YOUR GOVERNMENT WERE TO CHARTER A FOREIGN AIRCRAFT FROM A THIRD COUNTRY, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT MAY BE ABLE TO COORDINATE WITH YOU TO RENDER ABU MUNTHIR AND HIS FAMILY INTO YOUR CUSTODY.

IF PAYMENT OF A CHARTER AIRCRAFT IS AN ISSUE, OUR SERVICE WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST FINANCIALLY TO HELP UNDERWRITE THOSE COSTS. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IF WE PURSUE THAT OPTION, WE MUST HAVE ASSURANCES FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT ABU MUNTHIR AND HIS FAMILY WILL BE TREATED HUMANELY AND THAT HIS HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE RESPECTED; WE MUST RECEIVE SUCH ASSURANCES PRIOR TO ANY ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IS GOVERNED BY A VARIETY OF LEGAL CONSTRAINTS REGARDING DEPORTATION AND CUSTODY OF ALIENS. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT DETAIL ON ABU MUNTHIR (E.G., HIS TERRORIST/CRIMINAL ACTS, WHY HE IS WANTED, PERHAPS PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP). IT IS ALSO OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT HONG KONG OFFICIALS HAVE INSISTED THAT PRIOR TO TURNING ABU MUNTHIR OVER TO YOUR CUSTODY, THEY MUST RECEIVE CLEAR ASSURANCES FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT ABU MUNTHIR AND HIS FAMILY WILL BE TREATED HUMANELY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

Source: Human Rights Watch

