

Tell Obama to stop rendition

The Obama administration has decided not to end the controversial policy of extraordinary rendition which gives **the CIA authority to abduct anyone throughout the world and secretly transfer them to another country.** (See “Obama preserves renditions as a counter-terrorism tool”, Los Angeles Times, Feb. 1, 2009)

Current and former U.S. intelligence officials said the rendition program is poised to play an **expanded role** in counterterrorism efforts. One Obama administration official said: “Obviously you need to preserve some tools, you still have to go after the bad guys.” **The European Parliament has condemned renditions as an "illegal instrument used by the United States."**

Prisoners swept up in the program have sued the CIA as well as a Boeing Co. subsidiary accused of working with the agency on dozens of rendition flights. Boeing is a Chicago based corporation.

Why Stop Rendition?

While the vast majority of Americans oppose torture and rendition (a fancy name for “kidnapping”), the Bush

administration practiced this horrible crime for years, sending kidnap victims to secret prisons around the world where they were tortured. Their argument for doing so, of course, was that the people they kidnaped were the “bad guys”, the worst of the worst. But we know that at least some of these persons were innocent victims.

A basic human right is the presumption of innocence?

The rule of law designed to prevent such arbitrary arrest and imprisonment is called *Habeas corpus*, which dates back 1000 years. Under *Habeas corpus*, a person has the inalienable right to be brought before an impartial judge to determine if their detention is warranted and whether their imprisonment is based on standard human rights.

This was true, more or less, until the Bush administration, along with the consent of congress, essentially did away with *Habeas corpus* under the Military Commissions Act of 2006 (MCA).

Opponents of the MCA warned us that unless this act was overturned and those in the Bush administration held accountable for this, and other, violations of law, the continuation of this policy would be at the whim of any new administration.

Clearly this is now the case with the Obama administration.

One argument by Obama justifying the continuation of rendition is that under his program, the kidnaped victim would be held for a limited period of time and that they would not be subject to torture. In other words, “trust me.”

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Our rule of *Habeas corpus* was designed to eliminate such arbitrary and subjective standards. Recent history shows that many persons in our own country have been brutalized in very short periods of time. What is likely to happen if they are held in an undisclosed prison in an undisclosed country?

Democracy requires participation. Take action to stop rendition.

For more info, visit http://www.democracynow.org/2009/2/5/despite_celebrated_orders_closing_gitmo_and

Note: Other peace leaflets produced by 8th Day Center can be found at www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html. You may wish to use them for your own vigils, in classrooms, etc.

ACTIONS

1. Call / write President Obama and say NO! to rendition of any kind for any reason.

Comments: 202-456-1111
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

2. Tell him to move to overturn the Military Commission's Act of 2006.

3. Urge him to pursue an independent investigation of the crimes of the Bush administration (torture, etc.)

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TELL OBAMA TO STOP RENDITION



The CIA still has the authority to abduct anyone throughout the world and secretly transfer them to another country.