Press release

Tuesday 26th June 2007 immediate release

Following the debate in Westminster Hall this morning Andrew Tyrie said:

Kim Howells’ wriggling to avoid saying anything that might be critical of the United States Administration on rendition was an embarrassment. He flatly refused to condemn the programme of the US Administration to transfer people to places where they might be subjected to torture, or cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment. In his efforts to avoid criticising the US he found himself forced to dismiss the huge body of evidence that a US programme of extraordinary rendition exists. At one point he implied that those who give credence to that evidence are conspiracy theorists.

The government is in a state of denial. Even the former Justice Minister, Harriet Harman, has acknowledged the legal loopholes that allow for rendition through UK territory. Yet the government refuse to take seriously the widespread concerns expressed about extraordinary rendition and the measures proposed by the All Party Parliamentary Group. This can give the public no confidence.

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Andrew Tyrie is Conservative MP for Chichester and Chairman and founder of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition. Mr Tyrie can be contacted on 0207 219 6371. His office email is marsha@parliament.uk. The website of the All Party Group is http://www.extraordinaryrendition.org