



# The Center for Victims of Torture U.S. Must Stop Extraordinary Rendition

---

**The United States must end the practice of extraordinary rendition.**

**BACKGROUND** Extraordinary rendition means "above the ordinary measures to render a subject from one country to another". In layman's terms, extraordinary rendition is the practice of sending terrorist suspects to countries to be tortured for information. The Clinton administration was the first to grant the CIA permission to use rendition, although very few uses were documented during that time. The practice has grown sharply since 9/11. The United States seeks written guarantees—so-called "diplomatic assurances"—that a suspect will not be tortured if transferred. However, a growing number of cases suggest that such guarantees do not prevent the use of torture.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Extraordinary Rendition is un-American.**

Kidnapping people while they are switching planes in the U.S. or secretly taking people to torture cells half a world away threaten the American commitment to freedom, the rule of law and our Constitution. Suspects rendered to countries that torture are not given physical protection or legal representation. When government does not follow the rule of law, our personal freedoms are threatened and no one is safe from government abuse.

### **Diplomatic assurances are insufficient.**

The Administration justifies sending suspects to countries known to use torture because they have diplomatic assurances that the suspects will not be tortured. Yet our own State Department documents the routine use of physical and psychological torture in these same countries. Although there is little public information about individuals rendered to foreign governments, those we know of have been tortured. The entire process of extraordinary rendition occurs outside the law, without legal representation or independent judicial oversight. In essence, individuals handed over to foreign governments or secret prisons are "disappeared," without access to their families or the International Committee of the Red Cross.

### **Extraordinary rendition violates international obligations**

The nonrefoulement provision of the Convention Against Torture is clear that governments cannot force a person to return to a country against their will when he or she may be tortured or persecuted. The United States has ratified this treaty and endorsed this principle. The policy of extraordinary rendition is in clear violation.

## **SUMMATION**

- End extraordinary rendition of detainees in countries that use torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- Prohibit any activities that attempt to evade the U.S. ban on torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.