

Torture Scandal

The American Inquisition

To most people, the torture scandal broke out following the articles by Dana Priest in the Washington Post on November 2, 2005 [1], from which a large part of this section is taken. Soon, it was attempted to change the story from the US secret torture centres to persecute the one(s) who leaked the information about the US secret torture centres [2,3], but now the avalanche was not easy to stop. The article started with "The CIA has been hiding and interrogating some of its most important al Qaeda captives at a Soviet-era compound in Eastern Europe, according to U.S. and foreign officials familiar with the arrangement." Then followed a summary of the known sites: the Guantanamo Bay, Abu Graibh and the prisons in Afghanistan. Although also shocking for a European, this could somewhat head shaking be considered a regrettable inhuman act of a 'friendly nation' towards Asian people, not directly touching us (although also European citizens are known to be, or have been held in Guantanamo for years without any legal charge).

The secret detention system was conceived after 9/11. Only 6 days later, President Bush gave the CIA broad authorization to disrupt terrorist activity, including permission to kill, capture and detain members of al Qaeda anywhere in the world [4]. It is illegal for the government to hold prisoners in such isolation in secret prisons in the United States. By unique logic, and since not all law officers have been corrupted to support illegal government practices, it was decided that the prisoners should be dealt with in other countries. There are, of course, other rules prevailing there nationally and internationally. What the prisoners of (American) warfare are concerned, these are termed 'unlawful combatants,' whereby it is strangely expected that these be not subjects to the protection of the Geneva conventions (George W. Bush, February 7, 2002). This behaviour is in strange contrast to the treatment of American prisoners of war [**POW**] during the 2nd World War in Germany, who were *all* regularly visited by the Red Cross [5], but in equation to the treatment of some German POW in Southern England, who were tortured in a similar way as currently practiced [6]. But it comes worse: it is difficult to consider civilians, abducted from the street of European or American countries as 'unlawful combatants.' Slowly, that was even too much for the American Congress, the strange collection of in majority-corrupted politicians who have just prolonged the PATRIOT act for (at least) another four years.

In October, Vice-President Cheney and CIA Director Porter J. Goss [7] asked the Congress to exempt CIA employees from legislation already endorsed by 90 senators that would bar cruel and degrading treatment of any prisoner in US custody, wherever these were held in the World. This gave leading US politicians the occasion to emphasize that torture could be justified to "save lives" of innocent civilians. I do not exclude that this might be the case if exactly those politicians were subjected to the treatment they so cordially advocate, but not a single case is so far known, where this malice has had any productive effect – unless the purpose of the torture and targeted killings were to hide other crimes of the powers really behind the terror.

Dana Priest continues: "Host countries have signed the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as has the United States. Yet CIA interrogators in the overseas sites are permitted to use the CIA's approved 'Enhanced Interrogation Techniques,' some of which are prohibited by the UN

1 [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/01/AR2005110101644.html?sub=AR)

[dyn/content/article/2005/11/01/AR2005110101644.html?sub=AR](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/01/AR2005110101644.html?sub=AR)

2 http://rawstory.com/news/2005/LEAKED_Draft_letter_prepared_to_call_1108.html

3 <http://www.baz.ch/news/index.cfm?ObjectID=7BA8F1FB-60CF-2062-F4556F46D9BC911F>

4 http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/november2005/051105torture_American_way.htm

5 Statement of Michael Rivero, <http://whatreallyhappened.com>

6 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/secondworldwar/story/0,14058,1640957,00.html>

7 http://aljazeera.com/me.asp?service_ID=10000

convention and by US military law. They include tactics such as 'waterboarding,' in which a prisoner is made to believe he or she is being drowned." Also freezing, sleep deprivation, shaking and slapping were listed [8].

Two categories are defined (not counting prisoners dealt with in Iraq and Afghanistan): **black sites** at least covering two sites in Eastern Europe, are hosting at least 30 prominent prisoners, including Mr. Binalship from the 9/11 aftermath (captured in Pakistan in the Summer of 2002) but also European victims of the rough procedure; and '**rendition,**' a strange 'outsourcing process' of the interrogation of prisoners, some of whom were originally taken to black sites, who are then delivered to intelligence services in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Afghanistan and other countries. That involves at least transport over (in this respect) neutral countries, but sometimes it even involves kidnapping from there, an absolutely criminal act.

Concerning the black sites, locations in Poland (one near the former Airbase in Masuren and a bigger one in the South [9]) and Kosovo (Camp Bondsteel South of Pristina [10]) have been named but also Rumania and Ukraine have been suspected to host such facilities. Washington Post did not mention the names of the two Eastern-European countries on request from government authorities that argued that the War against terrorism could suffer from such openness. Therefore, the article discloses other horrors from the War in Afghanistan.

A prison camp in Thailand was closed in 2003 according to Thai official demands. The prison of Guantanamo Bay was not secret enough to the CIA, which therefore gave up its small black site there in 2004. The above mentioned 100 prisoners is in utter contrast to the more than 3,000 target persons [11], which the CIA proudly announced to have 'neutralized' since 9/11, including both capture and targeted killings. The US admitted this technique, so far only acknowledged by the Israeli government, in 2005, but it has definitely been practiced before. The CIA was, however, uncertain whether the people, some might want killed, were possibly considered double agents by others. "We'd probably shoot ourselves," as a former senior CIA official said. The close cooperation with Al Qaida – at least before 9/11 – made this consideration reasonable.

Authorities in Canada, Italy, France, Sweden, Portugal [12], UK [13] and the Netherlands have opened inquiries into alleged CIA operations that secretly captured their citizens or legal residents and transferred them to the agency's prisons. Italy has even exerted arrested warrants against 22 named CIA agents [14]. Denmark has protested [15] (in weak terms) against violation of its airspace but also landing of CIA planes in Greenland [16]. Switzerland and Germany also protested of the same misdeed, in all cases weakened by the exact knowledge, if prisoners were onboard the machines. But then there was the particular scandal of the German citizen (of Lebanese origin) Khaled Al-Masri, whose crime was to bear the same name as one of the alleged suicide pilots of 9/11 – didn't he die then? We shall not forget that this is but one of the many cases, and one who was freed within some months (others have been killed or detained for years). But as a violation of national sovereignty, probably also involving Germany's own secret services, it is a case worthy a detailed exploration. Finally, this very case brought the Americans in the defensive for their malpractice towards one of their most silent European partners.

8 <http://www.timesofoman.com/newsdetails.asp?newsid=22793>

9 <http://www.baz.ch/news/index.cfm?ObjectID=0EA5AEF4-60CF-2062-F46EEA55D9156C3A>

10 <http://www.lemonde.fr/web/article/0,1-0@2-3214,36-714198@51-705638,0.html>

11 http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/17/AR2005111702070_pf.html

12 http://www.ojournal.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15659937&BRD=2677&PAG=461&dept_id=543384&rfti=6

13 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,1654539,00.html>

14 <http://www.baz.ch/news/index.cfm?ObjectID=60026548-60CF-2062-F5DC6DCD65FF673B>

15 <http://www.berlingske.dk/grid/indland/artikel:aid=649832>

16 <http://www.berlingske.dk/grid/indland/artikel:aid=660840>

Khaled al-Masri's Prolonged Nightmare

The following section is based on an article by Leonard Doyle and Tony Paterson in Independent [17] published on December 7, 2005 and supplied by later recognitions from other sources. Khaled Al-Masri took the bus from Ulm to Macedonia. On the 31 December 2003, at the Serb-Macedonian border crossing, he was hauled off the coach and handed over to three men in civilian clothes carrying handguns. The border police, who undoubtedly were prepared for his arrival, notified the local CIA station, which contacted the agency's headquarters in Langley, Virginia. The head of the CIA's counter terrorist unit had ordered Mr Al-Masri's 'extraordinary rendition' because she "had a hunch" he was involved in terrorist activities. And if she says so, Mr Al-Masri automatically loses all legal rights a normal citizen would be entitled to – a suspected terrorist is already half a convict.

The coach left without him and Mr Al-Masri was taken to a small room where his captors who asked him whether he was linked to Al-Qaida interrogated him for several hours. "I kept saying no but they did not believe me," he said. He was then taken by car to a motel outside Skopje, where he was held and interrogated for a further 23 days. The Macedonians then took a statement from him and allowed him to leave the motel. Outside a lorry pulled up and several men grabbed him and put a hood over his head. He was driven to a location he believes was near the airport and beaten, stripped naked and photographed, then knocked out with a powerful sleeping potion.

Mr Al-Masri was handcuffed, blindfolded, injected with drugs and put on a plane. He awoke several hours later in Afghanistan where he was taken to a prison cell. An English-speaking doctor arrived to take a blood sample. Guards who repeatedly punched him accompanied him. The following morning an interrogator with a thick Lebanese accent told him: "Where you are now there is no law, no rights, no one knows you are here and no one knows about you." During his incarceration, he was repeatedly beaten. In March 2004, Mr Al-Masri began a hunger strike that was broken 37 days later when guards beat him and force-fed him with a tube down his throat.

In early May, a man who Mr Al-Masri believes was German, entered his cell and asked him questions about the 9/11 hijackers. Mr Al-Masri denied any knowledge of the group and asked him whether his family knew where he was. They did not. A week later, Mr Al-Masri was blindfolded and taken to Albania. He was told he had been held because he had "a suspicious name." When the CIA finally realised they had been wrong, they decided to dump Mr Al-Masri and act as if nothing had happened. Only long after the CIA dropped him off on deserted mountain road, terrified he was about to be shot in the back, the consequences of his ordeal have turned into a full blown crisis between the US, Germany and the other European countries where a blind eye was turned to the alleged activities of CIA snatch and torture squads. Mr Al-Masri has since been reunited with his family. He is now unemployed.

Through her visit in Berlin on December 6, Condoleezza Rice, the US Secretary of State, acknowledging the CIA's mistake to the German Chancellor Angela Merkel – at least according to the latter's impression. The American diplomatic however, promptly denied this confession. In advance, Mr. Al-Masri was being declined entrance to USA and was put back on the German plane. He should have witnessed on a trial against Big Brother's state, raised on his behalf by American Civil Liberties Union [18]. This is the first legal challenge to the CIA abductions and torture malpractice. Mr Al-Masri says he now wants the US government to acknowledge its mistake and apologise in public. The economic compensation requested is, to American standards, ridiculously small. I hope he may demand compensation from the German authorities that indirectly caused his misery. Apart from a small social help, he has so far been left in the cold.

A mission in the Cold

For Mrs Rice, her mission to Europe may well have been characterized as a 'torture' in relation to her living in Washington. Before her travel, it was said: "Rice intends to

17 <http://news.independent.co.uk/europe/article331616.ece>

18 <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2005/12/08/national/w160858S48.DTL>

remind the Europeans that they are in a joint fight against an enemy that she says obeys no laws" [19]. In Europe she added:

"One of the difficult issues in this new kind of conflict is what to do with captured individuals who we know or believe to be terrorists. The individuals come from many countries and are often captured far from their original homes. Among them are those who are effectively stateless, owing allegiance only to the extremist cause of transnational terrorism. Many are extremely dangerous. And some have information that may save lives, perhaps even thousands of lives.

The captured terrorists of the 21st century do not fit easily into traditional systems of criminal or military justice, which were designed for different needs. We have to adapt. Other governments are now also facing this challenge.

We consider the captured members of al-Qaida and its affiliates to be unlawful combatants who may be held, in accordance with the law of war, to keep them from killing innocents. We must treat them in accordance with our laws, which reflect the values of the American people. We must question them to gather potentially significant, life-saving, intelligence. We must bring terrorists to justice wherever possible."

Condoleeza Rice [20]

The last sentence, "We must bring terrorists to justice wherever possible," sounds like a bitter self-sarcasm. As of December 7, 9 Guantanamo prisoner have been charged – 9 of some 540 kept there, to which must be added almost 200 who have been acquitted without any excuse or compensation to their unlawful detention and torture. Nowhere have the American authorities managed anything worthy to be called justice. In Hamburg, the German justice authorities have made a controversial conviction of Mr Motassadeq, in the first instance sentenced to 15 years for co-responsibility of 9/11 (murder of more than 3,000 persons), was reduced to 7 years this August for membership in a terrorist union [21]; the original charge of assistance in mass murder was not approved. An appeal is standing out and there are good chances that this strange sentence can be altered into an acquittal (after more than 4 years of a juridical nightmare), as it occurred to his Moroccan compatriot Mzoudi, who was immediately after expelled. In Spain, Imad Eddin Barakat Yarkas recently was sentenced to 27 years in prison for conspiracy to murder of 2,973 people [22]. There are some indications that a French citizen may soon receive a death penalty in USA for having not contributed to 9/11 while the ones in Washington who were responsible are not even subjected to tar and feather.

Mrs Rice' claim that "torture saves lives" [23] is equally unsubstantial. The controversy over secret CIA flights, torture and illegal imprisonment, continues to rage across Europe. In London, the former Law Lord and Judge Lord Steyn said, "if British authorities knew the nature of these flights they would be guilty of war crimes." The European Union has signalled hard consequences to the countries hosting the 'Black Sites' [24] – and all suspects have denied to have anything to do with that. Before Mrs. Rice's painful odyssey, the prisons were hastily removed [25]. The White House's policy, which we can expect to be elaborated 'comprehensively', is "we don't torture because we choose not to call it torture and we will fight all efforts to define torture according to its ordinary meaning" [26]. It remains, to the Americans, a matter of Words. To most other countries of the World, torture is clearly defined. The **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** defines torture as follows:

19 http://today.reuters.com/PrinterFriendlyPopup.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=uri:2005-11-28T215338Z_01_SPI878777_RTRUKOC_0_US-SECURITY-EUROPE-RICE.xml

20 <http://www.telepolis.de/r4/artikel/21/21507/1.html>

21 http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mounir_al_Motassadeq

22 <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,13509-1798941,00.html>

23 <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-1905274,00.html#cid=OTC-RSS&attr=World>

24 http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/eu_secret_prisons

25 <http://www.telepolis.de/r4/artikel/21/21507/1.html>

26 <http://www.choicechanges.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=204&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0>

"For the purposes of this Convention, the term 'torture' means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity" (1984).

Inner-German Aftermath

The German government were informed of the scandal in June 2004, as admitted [27] by the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Steinmeier, who, only few days in his new office has therefore been asked to resign (which he will certainly not do). His boss, Chancellor Schröder, the then FM, Joschka Fischer, and the then Minister of Internal Affairs, Otto Schily, all knew of the affair. Did they send a polite telegram to Washington? It shall be questioned in a secret parliamentary commission. Too secret for the public and even for the parliamentary president. The social minister, Franz Müntefering, claim that there are details in the affair, which need to be kept secret, "in the interest of the state" [28]. Is it also in the interest of the people?

Certain is, that the poor victim's well doing was not a matter of interest of the government. That may not be what they are ashamed of. The "interest of the state" probably is a confirmation of the cooperation between the American and German secret services, most probably BND, the German CIA, possibly also BKA, the German FBI. There are roomers that these organizations gave Big Brother the tip and so participated in the misery exerted upon their own citizen. Further clarification can be expected – or at least hoped for.

[December 10, 2005]

Torture Scandal, as Referred in the Coming Months

What had been disclosed was not so easy to silence, although considerable efforts were made in that direction. In **Germany**, Vice-Chancellor Franz Müntefering could not see any scandal, the war against terror required special measures [29] and the parliament declined a public investigation, referring to the damage that would be done to the friendly ties with foreign secret services – to which Telepolis answered with a double question: "Who do the secret services protect? Who protects us from the secret services?" [30]. In **Poland**, the newly elected premier declared that he would lead an investigation himself [31] and little later summarily declared, that no secret prisons were found in Poland. Other source identified one prison in Kiejkuty near Szymany Airport, which had been in use for some 5-6 years [32].

In Milan, an **Italian** court has issued Europe-wide arrest warrants for 22 suspected CIA agents accused of helping to kidnap a Muslim cleric in Milan in 2003 [33]. This person, Abu Omar', had been abducted on the open street by American agents. He was transferred to Ramstein, from where he was flown to Egypt for interrogation under torture. **Switzerland** complained to the USA over this vulneration of its airspace while Germany preferred not to bother their friends. The Agents must have lived luxuriously: according to the Italian Police, CIA's bill at the Principe for 7 operatives came to \$39,995, not counting meals, parking and other hotel services [34].

The European Parliament did what the national parliaments of its member state refused: under the chairmanship of the Swiss member Dick Marty, an investigative

27 <http://www.netzeitung.de/deutschland/371619.html>

28 <http://www.ftd.de/pw/de/33690.html>

29 <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/21/21559/1.html>

30 <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/21/21839/1.html>

31 <http://www.berlingske.dk/grid/udland/artikel:aid=668230>

32 <http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=383&sid=651476>

33 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4555660.stm>

34 [http://www.courant.com/news/yahoo/hc-
renditioncost1225.artdec25,0,2200995.print.story?coll=hc-aol-yahoo-nws-hed](http://www.courant.com/news/yahoo/hc-
renditioncost1225.artdec25,0,2200995.print.story?coll=hc-aol-yahoo-nws-hed)

commission was set up. Already in the initial phase, he spoke a clear language: CIA prisoners in Europe were apparently abducted and moved between countries illegally, possibly with the aid of national secret services who did not tell their governments [35]. He believed, however, that the US was no longer holding prisoners clandestinely in Europe but that these were moved to North Africa in early November [36]. Later, he estimated that around 150 people had been kidnapped by the CIA in Europe [37]. In a preliminary report, Marty missed cooperation from the European governments [38].

The new trend in Big Brother's reign was also adopted by other nations, so in **Greece**: the British M16 station chief in Athens and 15 Greek officers took part in the arrest and abuse of 28 Pakistani terrorism suspects after the [7/7] bombings in London [39]. The men had been seized in July, were held in secret and hooded. An investigation by the Guardian had shown that the CIA's aircraft had flown in and out of **Britain** at least 210 times after 9/11 [40] – and they were probably not empty each time.

From a completely unexpected side, the scandal received more nourishment on January 8, 2006, when *Sonntagsblick*, a Swiss boulevard magazine, published its scoop [41]: the Swiss secret service had caught a fax sent from the Egypt foreign ministry to its embassy in London. This very act being exposed was, of course, very embarrassing to the Swiss government and a scandal in itself – causing a witch-hunt for the leak, not for the actors. Thereby the government did neither deny the act, nor the content of the fax, which was: „The embassy has learned that indeed 23 Iraqi and Afghan citizens are being interrogated at the Mihail Kogalniceanu base near the [**Rumanian**] city Constanza. Similar centres are found in **Ukraine, Kosovo, Macedonia** and **Bulgaria**. ”

The Telegraph [42] revealed that the EU secretly allowed the US to use transit facilities on European soil to transport 'criminals' in 2003, according to a previously unpublished document. The revelation contradicts repeated EU denials that it knew of any 'rendition' flights by the CIA.

Further Details of the Torture Scandal in Asia

Craig Murray was the UK ambassador to **Uzbekistan**, until his complaints and protest at the use of intelligence gained by torture got too much for the Foreign Office, who set about attempting to smear him, and to successfully remove him from office [43].

Meanwhile, in **Iraq** and **Afghanistan** new details were revealed from the extreme torture met there, making the European scandal in comparison look like a dancing party. In December 2002, two men died while being held for interrogation at Bagram Air-base in Afghanistan. Both died while being shackled to the ceiling of their cells. Two soldiers pleaded guilty to assault and one was convicted of assault, maiming and other charges but then the military announced that charges against the other had been dropped [44]. And although found guilty of murder of an Iraqi general, whose mutilated body wore signs of a terrible torture before being suffocated, another American soldier was acquitted from a jail sentence in January [45]. The same week, peaceful demonstrators were sentenced to 6 months in Jail in USA for participation in an antiwar demonstration. It was revealed that since the end of 2001, 16 foreign nationals had been detained in Belmarsh prison in **Great Britain** and that these so dangerous terror suspects had never been interrogated even once [46, 47].

35 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,,1666824,00.html>

36 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,,1666433,00.html>

37 <http://www.baz.ch/news/index.cfm?ObjectID=C524F718-1422-0CEF-70CB3E6DB5BF0DD3>

38 http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&pubid=968163964505&cid=1138099626048&col=968705899037&call_page=TS_News&call_pageid=968332188492&call_pagepath=News/News

39 <http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/crime/article335337.ece>

40 <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/terrorism/story/0,,1689834,00.html>

41 <http://www.blick.ch/sonntagsblick/aktuell/artikel30413>

42 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml;jsessionid=YVFKDGFGTKXUJQFIQMFCFFWAVCBQYIV0?xml=/news/2005/12/11/wrendition11.xml&sSheet=/news/2005/12/11/ixnewstop.html>

43 <http://www.blairwatch.co.uk/node/716>

44 <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=19398&hd=0&size=1&l=x>

45 <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=19899&hd=0&size=1&l=e>

46 <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/21/21580/1.html>

47 <http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/legal/article333258.ece>

Further Development of German Torture Victims

Al-Masri was claimed to have received 500,000 \$ already, a rumour he energetically denied [48]. He went to Atlanta in a suit against CIA but was not allowed to enter USA.

Two other Germans remains in American custody after various 4th class flights around the World: Mohammed Sammar was arrested in Morocco in October 2001. The Turkish national but in Bremen born and living Murat Kurnaz was almost simultaneously arrested in Pakistan and remains among the veterans of Guantanamo. Wolfgang Schäuble, new minister of the interior, confirmed German participation in their interrogation [49].

In July 2003, German soldiers in **Bosnia**, disguised as journalists, visited Anela Kobilica, whose husband has been imprisoned in Guantánamo since January 2002 [50].

‘Guantanamo Bay Gazette

More details have emerged from what appears to be a remote concentration camp in Guantanamo Bay. Among the prisoners is Asadullah Rahman, who was captured at age 10. The majority of the prisoners, in total 332 men, were captured by Pakistan, not the US, and dumped ‘for interrogation’ before October 2002. In custody (some probably at other places) are 62 ‘al-Qaida terrorists’ though actual terrorism is only alleged for 11 of them [51].

After an interruption of 14-months, the military court against now 10 prisoners (an overwhelming challenge, it seems) was finally continued. Partly, the evidence against the alleged culprits is kept secret for them and their attorneys – for security reasons, of course [52]. Since Christmas day, the number of detainees at Guantanamo on a hunger strike has increased to 84. Medical personnel were force-feeding 32 [53].

Jose Padilla

On the background of hundreds, possibly thousands of detainees, arrested in the aftermath of 9/11 and kept in prison for more than four years without sentence or even a charge, it may raise scepticism why I am at all dealing with Mr. Padilla. He has the special hallmark of being an American citizen and his case has awoken some attention in the US. There, it had meandered from court to court with varying accusations, giving the appearance that some form of legal process is taking place but, in fact, Padilla has never been charged with a crime and, thus, has been denied all of his constitutional rights. At no point in time, has he ever been given the opportunity to challenge the terms of his incarceration before a judge [54]. Finally, in November 2005, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales announced that Jose Padilla had been indicted, charged “with providing - and conspiring to provide - material support to terrorists, and conspiring to murder individuals who are overseas” [55].

Israeli links

As an example of widespread abuse in Israel, the liberal Israeli daily Haaretz mentioned the case of Abd a-Razek Faraj [56]. He has spent 44 months in prison without trial - The original arrest warrant was issued on April 24, 2002 at Ketziot, a prison camp in the Negev. At first, the military commander issues a decision to send the detainee into administrative detention for 6 months, because they suspect that he constitutes a “threat to the security of the region and to the public.” This is then prolonged indefinitely.

48 <http://www.faz.net/s/Rub28FC768942F34C5B8297CC6E16FFC8B4/Doc~E5D26B71E0DCC4C99B F59F5447270765E~ATpl~Ecommon~Scontent.html>

49 <http://morgenpost.berlin1.de/content/2005/12/15/titel/798596.html>

50 <http://www.taz.de/pt/2005/12/23/a0106.nf/text.ges,1>

51 <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=19070&hd=0&size=1&l=x>

52 <http://www.baz.ch/news/index.cfm?ObjectID=BB4838B7-1422-0CEF-706576B2FA66368C>

53 <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=19103&hd=0&size=1&l=x>

54 <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=19017&hd=0&size=1&l=x>

55 http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/speeches/2005/ag_speech_051122.html

56 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/664952.html>

The German cooperation BND (secret service) with Mossad involves supplement with German passports for Israeli agents [57]. A spokesman for the BND confirmed that his organization is cooperating with the Mossad [58] – to my definition a terrorist organization.

America does not Torture!

Believe it or not, Bush forbids torture anywhere on the Earth! However, the official White House 'torture memos' justifies any maltreatment short of causing permanent maiming or death -- and even countenanced the latter if it was 'unintentional' [59].

Why?

Solchenitzyn complained that Gestapo had tortured in order to get information whereas the KGB simply tortured without purpose. CIA seems to act the last way. They have hardly learned anything useful, except for the weapons of mass destruction, which should be in Iraq. Remains the question: why do they do it?

January 29, 2006

Later recognitions

Concerning the CIA activities in Europe, the European Parliament commissioned an investigation, which on April 26 made its final report [60]. It concluded that the CIA has carried out more than 1,000 undeclared flights over European territory since 2001, that incidents in which terror suspects were handed over to US agents did not appear to be isolated and CIA planes made numerous undeclared stopovers on European territory, violating an international air treaty. The report specified a number of incidents, among them the Al-Masri affair.

On April 20, Pentagon released a previously secret list of the names and nationalities of 558 people held or previously held at the US military prison in Guantanamo Bay [61]. The step was the result of a court decision to the complaint of Associated Press. Not included were prisoners about to be released. According the LA Times [62], Pentagon plans to release 141 of the currently about 490 detainees held there "because they pose no threat to U.S. security," which must have been thoroughly established after four years of detainment. Of these, 119 remain jailed because the U.S. government has been unable to arrange for their return to their home countries [63]. Charges are pending against about two dozen of the remaining prisoners and only 10 of the alleged 'enemy combatants' currently detained at the facility have been charged - none of them with a capital offence. About 250 detainees have been released since the prison camps were established. That makes some 740 prisoners and therefore some 180 whose names are missing at the above mentioned list.

The CIA-officer who leaked the secret prisons story to Dana Priest was fired. The Washington Post identified her as one Mary O. McCarthy [64]. My deepest respect, Ms. McCarthy!
30.04.2006

On Sept. 6, Bush acknowledged for the first time the existence of a secret CIA prison network and said the mastermind of 9/11, allegedly Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, had been transferred to Guantánamo Bay [65]. The secret jails were too useful to close, he continued. CIA's interrogation techniques in the secret prisons were tough, but the prisons would not be closed because the system was needed to get vital information that could stop major terrorist attacks [66].
07.09.2006

57 <http://www.ksta.de/html/artikel/1137132422131.shtml>

58 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/671448.html>

59 <http://context.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2006/01/13/120.html>

60 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/eu/story/0,,1761891,00.html>

61 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,-5769345,00.html>

62 <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-gitmo25apr25,0,1113317.story?track=tottext>

63 http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2006/04/21/30-percent-of-gitmo-clear_n_19572.html

64 http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/042406Z.shtml

65 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,,1866484,00.html>

66 <http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/secret-jails-too-useful-to-close-says-bush/2006/09/07/1157222261793.html>

Suddenly, Bush agreed with some senators on a new legislation, which toward the end of September went through the congress (but may be halted by the Supreme Court [67]). The new law broaden the definition of enemy combatants beyond the traditional definition used in wartime, to include non-citizens living legally in the US as well as those in foreign countries and anyone determined to be an enemy combatant under criteria defined by the president or secretary of defense [68]. The Bush administration faced a raft of legal challenges to a sweeping new regime for Guantánamo that would deny court oversight to detainees in the war on terror, and would bar prosecution of US personnel for war crimes [69]. Water-boarding and other means of torture are now legal – remember it for the current administration’s future trial (see further: Impeachment).

Khaled Sheikh Mohammad

30.09.2006

We finally now who killed President Lincoln and committed several other malignant deeds. If we are to believe the news, first spread by all mainstream media on March 15, 2007, Khaled Sheikh Mohammad gave himself credit to an abundant amount of terrorist activities. However, honest media also mentioned that his confession was without any value since it was obtained under torture and delivered without presence of any lawyers (or news media, as if they were important).

The Americans captured Khaled Sheikh Mohammad in Pakistan in 2003. He has since then been presented to the public as ‘number 3’ in Al Qaida. Previously, it has been admitted that two of his young sons were also held prisoners by Pentagon to ‘facilitate’ a confession [70], and that he was the most resistant to the water-boarding procedure, using two and a half minute of near-drowning before he started to talk [71]. According to Bush, he was one of 14 top terrorists transferred from the American black sites around the World to Guantanamo, where they now all should be collected. But Bush is a pathological liar, why should we believe him now?

The present show is important in one aspect only: it gives us the possibility to evaluate the mainstream media. Those who hurried up to transfer the ‘confession’ of Khaled Sheikh Mohammad without any mention of the circumstances must be deemed unreliable for their purpose of news reporting. The real culprits behind 9/11 are mostly still in high esteem in the USA [72].

67 http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2006/09/30/us_terrorism_trials_face_court_challenges/

68 http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/29/washington/29detain.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

69 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,,1884351,00.html>

70 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2003/03/09/walqa09.xml>

71 http://rawstory.com/news/2007/Can_Khalid_Sheikh_Mohammeds_tortured_testimony_0315.html

72 [Who Were Responsible for 9/11?](#)