

Classified Statement for the Record

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

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Director, Central Intelligence Agency

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(U) Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

(~~TS//NF~~) On 14 February 2007, we discussed renditions, one of the key tools the Central Intelligence Agency uses in the Global War on Terror; today, I have come to speak with you in more depth about a related program, our detention of key members and associates of al-Qa'ida. The Committee may remember that I have spoken with you in some detail on the subject of the CIA Rendition, Detention and Interrogation program in September 2006.

(~~TS//NF~~) This Statement for the Record will focus on the detention program authorized by the [redacted] and established in the wake of the March 2002 capture of senior al-Qa'ida lieutenant Abu Zubaydah, expanding on my oral remarks with details about the history of the program, the safeguards we have built into it, the reasons CIA is best placed to manage this high value detainee interrogation and debriefing effort:

(~~TS//NF~~) History of the Detention Program

(~~TS//NF~~) As I mentioned in my 14 February statement on the renditions program, in the wake of the 11 September attacks on this country—which represented the most devastating single assault on our territory in the nation's history—the President directed all agencies of the US Government to work to assure that no such barbaric act could happen again. The

(~~TS//NF~~) it was not until the capture of key al-Qa'ida lieutenant Abu Zubaydah in March 2002 that the need for a CIA program became clear. Abu Zubaydah was an up-and-coming lieutenant of

Usama Bin Ladin (UBL) who had intimate knowledge of al-Qa'ida's current operations, personnel, and plans. Because of the importance of his information to protecting the United States, it was necessary for US officials to interrogate Zubaydah to ensure that: 1) the US Government had timely access to actionable intelligence, 2) all US Government intelligence, homeland security, and law enforcement questions were asked, 3) there was no filter between Zubaydah's information and the US Government.

~~(TS//NF)~~ While FBI and CIA continued unsuccessfully to try to glean information from Abu Zubaydah using established US Government interrogation techniques, all of those involved were mindful that the perpetrators of the 11 September attacks were still at large and, according to available intelligence reportedly, were actively working to attack the US Homeland again. CIA also knew from its intelligence holdings that Abu Zubaydah was withholding information that could help us track down al-Qa'ida leaders and prevent attacks. As a result, CIA began to develop its own interrogation program, keeping in mind at all times that any new interrogation techniques must comply with US law and US international obligations under the 1984 UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

~~(PS//NF)~~ A handful of techniques were developed for potential use; these techniques are effective, safe, and do not violate applicable US laws or treaty obligations. In August 2002, CIA began using these few and lawful interrogation techniques in the interrogation of Abu Zubaydah. As stated by the President in his speech on 6 September 2006, "It became clear that he (Abu Zubaydah) had received training on how to resist interrogation. And so the CIA used an alternative set of procedures...the procedures were tough, and they were safe, and lawful, and necessary."

- Prior to using any new technique on Abu Zubaydah, CIA sought and obtained from the Department of Justice an opinion confirming that none of these new techniques violated US statutes prohibiting torture or US obligations under the UN Convention Against Torture.