

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC
WASHINGTON SQUARE LEGAL SERVICES, INC.**

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December 28, 2007

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail:

Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505
(Ph.) 703-613-1287
(Fax) 703-613-3007

Re: Request Under the Freedom of Information Act for Specific Records Concerning
Information on Secret Detention And Rendition

Dear Freedom of Information Act Officer:

This letter constitutes a request (“Request”) pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (“FOIA”). The request is submitted by the International Human Rights Clinic of Washington Square Legal Services¹ (“WSLS”), on behalf of WSLS, Amnesty International (“AI”), and the Center for Constitutional Rights (“CCR”). We are currently engaged in litigation with your agency concerning two requests filed on April 25, 2006 by WSLS and AI, and one request filed on December 21, 2004 by CCR, all of which seek records pertaining to rendition and secret detention in connection with the U.S. Government’s anti-terrorism efforts.² The attorneys representing the U.S. Government in this litigation are being sent copies of this request.

We seek the opportunity to inspect and copy, if necessary, the specific records listed below, or, in the event that any of the specified records have been destroyed, any records which are integrally related to, summarize, or are interchangeable with said records. We seek records in the possession of the Central Intelligence Agency, including any officers, divisions, or bureaus thereof. We further request that you expedite processing pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(e)(i).

Records Requested

For the purpose of this request, the term “records” includes any and all reports, statements, examinations, memoranda, correspondence, designs, maps, photographs, microfilms, computer tapes or disks, audio or videotapes or transcripts thereof, rules, regulations, codes, handbooks, manuals, or guidelines.

Please disclose the following records, or, in the event that they have been destroyed, any records that are integrally related to, summarize, or are interchangeable with said records.

¹ WSLS is the corporation that supports the International Human Rights Clinic (“the Clinic”) of the New York University School of Law. The Clinic is a project of NYU School of Law’s Center for Human Rights and Global Justice.

² Amnesty International USA et al. v. CIA, No. 07-cv-5435 (S.D.N.Y.).

1. The spring 2004 report by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) on the CIA's compliance with the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The existence of this document was publicly revealed in October 2007 by the *New York Times*.
 - "A report by Mr. Helgeson's office completed in the spring of 2004 warned that some C.I.A.-approved interrogation procedures appeared to constitute cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, as defined by the international Convention Against Torture." Mark Mazzetti and Scott Shane, *C.I.A. Watchdog Becomes Subject Of C.I.A. Inquiry*, N.Y. Times, October 12, 2007, at A1.
2. The list of "erroneous renditions" compiled by the CIA's OIG. This list was described by several intelligence officials in a December 2005 article in the *Washington Post*.
 - "The CIA inspector general is investigating a growing number of what it calls 'erroneous renditions,' according to several former and current intelligence officials. One official said about three dozen names fall in that category; others believe it is fewer. The list includes several people whose identities were offered by al Qaeda figures during CIA interrogations, officials said." Dana Priest, *Wrongful Imprisonment: Anatomy of a CIA Mistake*, Wash. Post, December 4, 2005, at A1.
3. The fax sent by the CIA to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Criminal Intelligence Directorate (RCMP CID) in the afternoon or evening of Oct. 3, 2002, asking a number of questions about Maher Arar. The existence of this document was publicly acknowledged in the official report of the Canadian Government's inquiry into the rendition of Mr. Arar.
 - "Late in the afternoon of October 3, the CIA sent a fax to RCMP CID, asking a number of questions about Mr. Arar." Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar, Report of the Events Relating to Maher Arar, Addendum: Disclosure of Information Authorized by the Federal Court of Canada in accordance with Sections 38.04 and 38.06 of the Canada Evidence Act 157 (2006) (based on 2005 testimony of Gar Pardy, Director General of the Consular Affairs Bureau of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT)) (Transcripts of Testimony available at <http://www.ararcommission.ca/eng/14b.htm>).
4. The document sent by the CIA to the RCMP CID, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), and Project A-O Canada on Nov. 5, 2002 in response to requests for information on the whereabouts of Mr. Arar. The existence of this document was publicly acknowledged in the official report of the Canadian Government's inquiry into the rendition of Maher Arar.
 - "On November 5, the CIA sent CSIS and Project A-O Canada a written response to CSIS' [sic] October 10 request for information about the circumstances of Mr. Arar's removal." Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar, Report of the Events Relating to Maher Arar, Addendum: Disclosure of Information Authorized by the Federal Court of Canada in accordance with Sections 38.04 and 38.06 of the Canada Evidence Act 307 (2006). "An identical reply was also sent to RCMP Headquarters." *Id.* at 180

(based on testimony of Dan Livermore of the Security and Intelligence Branch of DFAIT).

5. The cables between the Deputy Director of Operations (or other agency official(s)) at the CIA and the operative(s) in the field discussing and/or approving the use of a slap on detainee Abu Zubaydah (Zein al Abideen Mohamed Hussein). The existence of such cables was acknowledged by former CIA employee John Kiriakou during an ABC News program on Dec. 10, 2007.
 - “There was discussion: ‘Should we slap him? What’s to be gained if we slap him?’ . . . The Deputy Director for Operations says, ‘Yes, you can slap him.’ The cable goes out. They slap him.” “*CIA – Abu Zubaydah*”: Interview with John Kiriakou (ABC News broadcast Dec. 10, 2007), available at http://abcnews.go.com/images/Blotter/brianross_kiriakou_transcript1_blotter071210.pdf and http://abcnews.go.com/images/Blotter/brianross_kiriakou_transcript2_blotter071210.pdf
6. The cables between the Deputy Director of Operations at the CIA (or other agency official(s)) and the operative(s) in the field discussing and/or approving the use of a slap on detainee Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. The existence of such cables was acknowledged by former CIA employee John Kiriakou during an ABC News program on Dec. 10, 2007. *Id.*
7. The cables between the Deputy Director of Operations (or other agency official(s)) at the CIA and the operative(s) in the field discussing and/or approving the use of an ‘attention shake’ on Abu Zubaydah. The existence of such cables was acknowledged by former CIA employee John Kiriakou during an ABC News program on Dec. 10, 2007.
 - “[W]e had these trained interrogators who were sent to his location-- to use the enhanced techniques as necessary to get him to open up... [T]hese enhanced techniques included everything from-- what was called an attention shake where you grab the person by their lapels and sha[ke] them.” *Id.*
8. The cables between the Deputy Director of Operations at the CIA (or other agency official(s)) and the operative(s) in the field discussing and/or approving the use of an ‘attention shake’ on Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. The existence of such cables was acknowledged by former CIA employee John Kiriakou during an ABC News program on Dec. 10, 2007. *Id.*
9. The cables between the Deputy Director of Operations at the CIA (or other agency official(s)) to the operative(s) in the field discussing and/or approving the use of sleep deprivation on Abu Zubaydah. The existence of such cables was acknowledged by former CIA employee John Kiriakou during an ABC News program on Dec. 10, 2007. *Id.*
10. The cables between the Deputy Director of Operations at the CIA (or other agency official(s)) and the operative(s) in the field discussing and/or approving the use of sleep deprivation on Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. The existence of such cables was

acknowledged by former CIA employee John Kiriakou during an ABC News program on Dec. 10, 2007. *Id.*

11. The cables between the Deputy Director of Operations at the CIA (or other agency official(s)) and the operative(s) in the field discussing and/or approving the use of waterboarding on Abu Zubaydah. The existence of such cables was acknowledged by former CIA employee John Kiriakou during an ABC News program on Dec. 10, 2007. *Id.*
 - “Two people were water boarded, Abu Zubaydah being one.” *Id.*
12. The cables between the Deputy Director of Operations at the CIA (or other agency official(s)) and the operative(s) in the field discussing and/or approving the use of waterboarding on Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. The existence of such cables was acknowledged by former CIA employee John Kiriakou during an ABC News program on Dec. 10, 2007. *Id.*
 - “It’s my understanding that he [Khalid Sheikh Mohammed] was—that he was also water boarded.” *Id.*
13. Video tapes, audio tapes, and transcripts of materials related to interrogations of detainees that were acknowledged to exist during the case of *United States v. Zacharias Moussaoui* and described in a letter from United States Attorney Chuck Rosenberg to Chief Judge Karen Williams, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and Judge Leonie Brinkema, United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, dated October 25, 2007, including, but not limited to two video tapes and one audio tape of interrogations of detainees, the transcripts of those tapes submitted for the court’s review in the *Moussaoui* case, and the intelligence cables summarizing the substance of those tapes.
 - Letter from Chuck Rosenberg, U.S. Attorney, to the Honorable Karen J. Williams and the Honorable Leonie Brinkema, (Oct. 25, 2007), *available at* http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/world/20071207_intel_letter.pdf.
14. The Sept. 13, 2007 notification (described in a letter from Chuck Rosenberg to Judges Williams and Brinkema, dated October 25, 2007) from the attorney for the CIA informing the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia that the CIA had obtained a video tape of an interrogation of one or more detainees. *Id.*
15. The communications between the CIA and the U.S. Embassy in Sana’a, Yemen, relating to the apprehension, transfer and/or detention of Mohamed Farag Ahmad Bashmilah (Muhammad Bashmilah). These communications likely occurred on or around March 5, 2005, and were preparatory to a communication between the U.S. Embassy in Sana’a and the Government of Yemen that has been acknowledged by the Government of Yemen.
 - “On March 5, 2005, the United States, through the Liaison Officer in Sanaa [sic], informed the Central Organization for Political Security in Yemen that Mr. Mohamed Bashmilah was being held in their custody.” Letter from the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in France to Mr. Dick Marty, Council of Europe (Mar. 27, 2006) (filed as Exhibit G to Declaration of Mohamed Farag Ahmad Bashmilah in *Mohamed et al. v. Jeppesen Dataplan, Inc.*, No. 5:07-cv-02798 (N.D.Cal. Dec. 14, 2007)).

16. The communications between the U.S. Government and the Government of Yemen, and/or any documents pertaining to the transfer of Mohamed Farag Ahmad Bashmilah from U.S. custody to the custody of the Government of Yemen on or near May 5, 2005. The Government of Yemen has acknowledged the existence of communications between the U.S. Government and the Government of Yemen concerning Mr. Bashmilah's transfer. *Id.*
17. A copy of the files relating to Salah Nasser Salim Ali and Mohamed Farag Ahmad Bashmilah provided to the Government of Yemen on Nov. 10, 2005 by the United States Government. The Government of Yemen has acknowledged the existence of these files.
 - o Letter from Ghalib Mathar al-Qamish, Chief of the Central Department of Political Security, Yemen, to the Special Rapporteur on the question of Torture and the Special Rapporteur on the question of Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism (Dec. 20, 2005) (filed as Exhibit V to Declaration of Mohamed Farag Ahmad Bashmilah in *Mohamed et al. v. Jeppesen Dataplan, Inc.*, No. 5:07-cv-02798 (N.D.Cal. Dec. 14, 2007)).

Fee Waiver

The requesters qualify as “representatives of the news media” and the records sought are not for commercial use. Moreover, this Request “is likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester[s].” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

The International Human Rights Clinic of WSLs is a project of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (“CHRGJ”) and an official program of NYU School of Law, composed of students and directed by clinical professors who engage in research and advocacy on human rights issues. CHRGJ is a research center at NYU School of Law. CHRGJ aims to advance human rights and respect for the rule of law through advocacy, scholarship, education, and training. CHRGJ publishes reports and also disseminates information through its website, www.chrgj.org.

Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization and a world-wide movement of members who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. AI publishes reports, press-briefings, newsletters, and urgent action requests informing the public about human rights, including torture and disappearances. AI also disseminates information through its website, www.amnesty.org.

The Center for Constitutional Rights is a legal and public education not-for-profit organization that engages in litigation, legal research, and the production of publications in the fields of civil and international human rights. CCR also publishes newsletters, know-your-rights handbooks, and other similar materials for public dissemination. These materials are available through CCR's Development and Education & Outreach Departments. CCR also operates a website, www.ccr-ny.org, that addresses the issues on which CCR works. The website includes material on topical civil and human rights issues and material concerning CCR's work. All of this material is freely available to the public.

The requesters plan to disseminate the information disclosed as a result of this FOIA request through the channels described above. This Request aims generally to further public understanding of government conduct; and particularly to contribute to the current debate around the rendition and secret detention policies and programs put in place by the CIA.

Expedited Processing

Expedited processing is warranted under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(i)(I), as there is a “compelling need” for the records sought in this request: the requesters are primarily engaged in “disseminating information” and there is an “urgency to inform the public concerning the actual or alleged Federal Government Activity” under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II). There is also a “compelling need” because failure to obtain the records on an expedited basis “could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(I).

CHRGJ is engaged in disseminating information about human rights, including in particular, the Federal Government’s role in upholding human rights. As indicated above, this information is disseminated through published reports and CHRGJ’s website. The Clinic actively supports this work, and WSLs houses the clinic. AI is primarily engaged in disseminating information about human rights, through its reports, newsletters, press-briefings, urgent action requests, and on its website. CCR disseminates information through newsletters, publications, handbooks, and through its website. All three organizations seek the documents listed in this request to educate the public about the CIA’s secret detention and rendition program, which is currently the subject of high-profile debate.³

Moreover, failure to obtain the records can reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the physical safety of individuals undergoing or at risk of undergoing ongoing unlawful detention and abuse with the involvement of or at the behest of U.S. agents abroad. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(I). Allegations of torture and ill-treatment have surrounded the secret detention and rendition program. Failure to publicly expose and thereby halt the practices prompting this Request could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the physical safety and lives of at least one individual. CIA director Michael Hayden recently admitted that the secret detention and rendition program remains in operation.⁴

³ See, e.g., Joby Warrick & Dan Eggen, *Waterboarding Recounted: Ex-CIA Officer Says It 'Probably Saved Lives' but Is Torture*, Wash. Post., Dec. 11, 2007, at A1; Pamela Hess, *Congress Wants Answers on CIA Tapes*, Wash. Post., Dec. 11, 2007, available at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/10/AR2007121000087.html>; Mark Mazetti, *CIA Destroyed Two Tapes Showing Interrogations*, N.Y. Times, Dec. 7, 2007, at A1; CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL JUSTICE, *SURVIVING THE DARKNESS: TESTIMONY FROM THE U.S. "BLACK SITES" (2007)*, available at <http://www.chrgj.org/projects/docs/survivingthedarkness.pdf>.

⁴ CIA Director Hayden recently discussed the secret detention and rendition program on the *Charlie Rose Show*, explaining that as of 2007, the U.S. program of “rendition” and CIA detention continued. *The Charlie Rose Show: Interview with Director Michael Hayden* (PBS television broadcast Oct. 22 & 23, 2007) (transcript available at <https://www.cia.gov/news-information/press-releases-statements/interview-with-charlie-rose.html>).

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If this request is denied in whole or part, we ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the FOIA. We expect release of all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. We also reserve the right to appeal a decision to withhold any information.

We look forward to your reply to the Request **within twenty (20) days**, as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i).

Thank you for your prompt attention. Should you have any questions in this matter, please contact Margaret L. Satterthwaite, International Human Rights Clinic, Washington Square Legal Services, Inc., New York University School of Law, 245 Sullivan Street, New York, NY 10012; tel.: (212) 998-6657.

Sincerely,



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