

EDWARD J. MARKEY

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January 24, 2006

Chairman Henry Hyde
House International Relations Committee
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Ranking Member Tom Lantos
House International Relations Committee
B-360 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Hyde and Ranking Member Lantos,

As you know, I submitted a resolution of inquiry (H. Res. 593) on December 8, 2005 which was referred to the Committee on International Relations. My resolution directs that the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and requests that the President provide certain information to the House of Representatives relating to extraordinary rendition of foreign persons to countries where they may face torture.

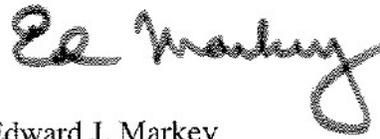
This resolution is particularly timely because currently many European governments are holding their own investigations of the CIA's use of European soil to carry out this practice. In fact, today Dick Marty, the Swiss Senator appointed to lead the investigation for the Council of Europe, said that there was "a great deal of coherent, convergent evidence pointing to the existence of a system of relocation or outsourcing of torture". He further added that "It has been proved – and in fact never denied – that individuals have been abducted, deprived of their liberty and transported ... in Europe, to be handed over to countries in which they have suffered ... torture."

I urge the Committee on International Relations to hold hearings on my resolution, and on the larger issue of the CIA's extraordinary rendition practices. I have become convinced that current extraordinary rendition practices are effectively "outsourcing torture" – something which is not permissible under Article III of the Convention Against Torture. The Congress of the United States has a solemn obligation to be investigating and uncovering the details of the CIA's illegal program before the rest of the world exposes all of the embarrassing details for us.

As you know, if the International Relations Committee does not take action on this resolution by February 28, 2006, then I can move to discharge the Committee from

further consideration of the Resolution, thereby forcing a House floor vote on this matter. I am willing to take this step, if necessary, but would prefer that the Committee instead hold hearings and approve my resolution so that the House can obtain the information it needs to fully evaluate the Administration's rendition policies and practices. I am also hopeful that if such an investigation did occur, that bipartisan action might be forthcoming to halt further extraordinary renditions from taking place whenever there is a reasonable likelihood that the person being rendered would face torture or other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed Markey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Edward J. Markey