

TORTURING THE FACTS: BUSH FACT CHECK ON RENDITION:

BUSH CLAIM: We “arrest people and send them back to their country of origin with the promise that they won't be tortured.”

FACT: Canadian Citizen Maher Arar was not returned to his country, Canada, but instead was sent to Syria via Jordan even though he pleaded to be returned to Canada for fear he would be tortured in Syria. Mr. Arar was reportedly tortured in Syria. He was released without ever being charged.¹

FACT: Australian Citizen Mamdouh Habib was detained in Pakistan and sent to Egypt, not to Australian. Mr. Habib was reportedly tortured while in Egypt. Mr. Habib was also transferred to Afghanistan and Guantanamo and was recently released after 40 months of detention. Mr. Habib was never charged to with any crime.²

FACT: German Citizen Khaled el-Masri, was detained at the border of Serbia and Macedonia. He was sent to Afghanistan where he was beaten. He was released 5 months later without being charged with any crime.³

BUSH CLAIM: “This country does not believe in torture.”

FACT: The Bush Administration signed a directive expanding executive authority to engage in rendition without restriction and speeding up the procedures for sending prisoners overseas.⁴

FACT: Former Government Officials place the number of rendered persons around 150 since 9/11.⁵

FACT: “Several individuals who were transferred by the United States into the hands of foreign officials were reportedly tortured during detention and interrogation and have since been released without charge. Amnesty International - www.amnestyusa.org

BUSH CLAIM: “We seek assurances that nobody will be tortured when we render a person back to their home country.”

FACT: The Bush Administration signed a directive expanding executive authority to engage in rendition without restriction and speeding up the procedures for sending prisoners overseas.⁶

¹ “His Year in Hell,” *CBS News*, January 21, 2004.

² “Rule Change Lets C.I.A. Freely Send Suspects Abroad to Jails,” *New York Times*, March 6, 2005

³ “Rule Change Lets C.I.A. Freely Send Suspects Abroad to Jails,” *New York Times*, March 6, 2005

⁴ “Rule Change Lets C.I.A. Freely Send Suspects Abroad to Jails,” *New York Times*, March 6, 2005

⁵ “Rule Change Lets C.I.A. Freely Send Suspects Abroad to Jails,” *New York Times*, March 6, 2005

⁶ “Rule Change Lets C.I.A. Freely Send Suspects Abroad to Jails,” *New York Times*, March 6, 2005

FACT: American Officials say they sought assurances from Syria that they would not torture Mr. Maher Arar prior to sending him to Syria. Mr. Arar was reportedly tortured anyway.⁷

⁷ His Year in Hell," *CBS News*, January 21, 2004.