



North Carolina Stop Torture Now

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Johnston County Airport Authority
3149 Swift Creek Road
Smithfield, NC 27577

Dear Airport Authority Board Members:

We respectfully request that the Johnston County Airport Authority formally adopt the attached pledge. This pledge is aimed at preventing the use of the Johnston County Airport for illegal practices involved in the program of “extraordinary rendition.” Rendition is the enforced disappearance and removal of persons to third countries or CIA “black sites” for secret interrogation using torture.

In adhering to the pledge, the Airport Authority will – among other things -- commit itself to the following:

- maintain an up-to-date register of aircraft operators whose planes or flight crews have assisted in rendition activity;
- urge the Johnston County Sheriff and the State Bureau of Investigation to investigate gross human rights violations of torture and enforced disappearances by individuals and companies that have utilized Johnston County Airport in the past;
- request that all aircraft operators using its facilities and associated with the transport of CIA detainees Binyam Mohamed, Khaled el-Masri, Mohammed El-Zery, Ahmed Agiza, and Khaled al-Maqtari provide detailed information regarding any flights involving those detainees.

The government of Sweden has recently agreed to provide compensation of approximately \$500,000 each to two men, Ahmed Agiza and Mohammed El-Zery, who were rendered to Egypt by Aero Contractors pilots and aircraft. Three Aero Contractors pilots are still wanted in Germany for their participation in the kidnapping and illegal transport of Khaled

el-Masri, a German citizen. Information about all these cases is contained in the attached packet.

As documented in this packet, the respected international human rights organization Reprieve declared earlier this year that it had learned of at least 200 renditions conducted since 2006. Rendition-linked aircraft continue to arrive at and depart from the Johnston County Airport on a regular basis. Without intending to, the Airport may be involved in the illegal practices of enforced disappearance and torture even to this day.

Adoption of and adherence to this pledge will help protect the Airport Authority and the Board of County Commissioners against potential legal liability. North Carolina state law requires public agencies that are aware of criminal activity conducted using their facilities to refer such matters to law enforcement agencies for investigation.

As renditions may still be in progress, this is an urgent matter, and we respectfully request that the Airport Authority adopt this pledge at its regularly scheduled November meeting. We stand ready to meet with you at your convenience to answer any questions about this request.

Best regards,

Allyson Caison
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