

## QUAKER CONCERN FOR THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE (Q-CAT)

**Briefing 26**

**August 2011**

### **The Interrogator: an education** by Glenn Carle (*Nation Books* £17.99)

A remarkable inside story of the CIA's illegal use of torture and rendition by a disaffected CIA officer who was drafted into the interrogation process. His narrative includes hundreds of redacted passages (the CIA redacted 40,000 words from his 100,000-word manuscript). *Lecture by author Glenn Carle available on [www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTAKg2TqhmK](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTAKg2TqhmK). Follow links for full lecture and question and answer session (1.15 hours)*

**Account Rendered: extraordinary rendition and Britain's role** by Andrew Tyrie MP, Roger Gough and Stuart McCracken (*Biteback* £19.99) A preliminary investigation into Britain's complicity by the founder/chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition. Over half the book is an Appendix of relevant documents, again remarkable for the many blackings out of the redactor.

### **Letter from Amnesty International UK's Director – Guardian 22/8/11**

Your report on the alleged abusive interrogation of the Kenyan national Omar Awadh Omar in Uganda last year by British and US officials (Terror suspect claims abuse by British interrogator, 18 August), is a further reminder of why we need a robust public inquiry into UK involvement in torture and other abuses of detainees overseas. It is all the more regrettable, then, that the inquiry under Sir Peter Gibson is set to be an underpowered, secretive affair that is highly unlikely to inform the public about a series of deeply troubling cases – from Pakistan and Afghanistan to Gambia and Guantánamo.

How is an inquiry that requires governmental approval of information disclosure, has no intention of seeking evidence from overseas, and lacks powers to compel witnesses to attend, ever likely to get to the bottom of this murky affair? We need a revamped inquiry that is truly capable of restoring public confidence in our security services. **Kate Allen** *Director, Amnesty International UK*

### **Evil as a common goal - Alex Haslam** *guardian.co.uk, 17/8/11*

Fifty years ago, in August 1961, social psychologist Stanley Milgram conducted an experiment that changed our understanding of the human propensity for evil for ever. Participants were invited into his laboratory at Yale, supposedly for a study looking at the effects of punishment on memory. Asked to assume the role of the "teacher", they were then told to administer an electric shock to a "learner" every time he made a mistake. The shocks started at 15 volts but increased in 15-volt increments every time an error was made, going right up to 450 volts – enough to kill someone twice over.

In fact, the learner was an actor, and the electric shocks weren't real. The question that Milgram was really interested in was how willing people were to follow instructions. Would they stop at 150 volts (where the learner demanded to be let out, because his heart was starting to bother him), or at 300 volts (where he let out an agonised scream and then stopped answering)? How far would you go? ...

### **Campaigners to shun UK inquiry into detainee 'torture' – BBC News 4/8/11**

Campaigners and lawyers acting for former detainees say they will boycott an inquiry into the alleged torture and mistreatment of UK terror suspects. Sir Peter Gibson's detainee rendition inquiry is due to start at the end of an ongoing police investigation. But 10 campaign groups said the process lacked credibility and transparency, and too much would remain secret. An inquiry spokeswoman said the decision was regrettable but it would still go ahead...

### **British Army faces further inquiries into systemic abuse of prisoners – Ian Cobain - Guardian 29/8/11**

The Baha Mousa report is not the only one to look into the question of the "systemic" abuse of Iraqi prisoners. A second inquiry is to open later this year, examining disputed allegations that up to 20 men were tortured and murdered in British custody after a gun battle in southern Iraq in 2004. That inquiry became inevitable after the high court severely criticised the Royal Military Police's investigation into the affair and said that courts should be wary of evidence given by the RMP's second in command.

The court of appeal is currently considering whether to order a third inquiry, into the military's entire detention and interrogation policy, after hearing arguments on behalf of more than 150 men who allege they were systematically tortured by the British army in south-east Iraq between 2003 and 2008. The complaints include 59 allegations of detainees being hooded, 11 of electric shocks, 122 of sound deprivation through the use of ear muffs, 52 of sleep deprivation, 131 of sight deprivation using blackened goggles, 39 of enforced nakedness and 18 of being kept awake by pornographic DVDs played on laptops.

The Ministry of Defence's lawyers have conceded that the individual allegations "raise an arguable case of breach of Article 3" of the European convention on human rights, which prohibits torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. But, in its attempts to persuade the courts that a third inquiry is not needed, the MoD has set up a team of 80 investigators, half of them former civilian detectives, to examine the allegations.

The Iraq historic allegations team (Ihat) is now scouring MoD records, including hundreds of video recordings of military interrogations, and interviewing the complainants. Many of the complaints centre on a secretive Intelligence Corps facility known as the joint forces interrogation team, or JFIT. Already, three men who served at the JFIT have been referred to the director of service prosecutions, who has been asked to consider war crimes charges under the 2001 International Criminal Court Act.

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