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PRESS RELEASE

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**REPRIEVE REPORT DOCUMENTS OVER 700
PRISONERS ILLEGALLY RENDERED TO
GUANTANAMO BAY WITH THE HELP OF PORTUGAL**

UK charity *Reprive* have today released a report – the ‘*Journey of Death*’ – which conclusively shows that Portuguese territory and airspace has been used to transfer over 700 prisoners to torture and illegal imprisonment in Guantanamo Bay.

Reprive can reveal that 728 of 774 prisoners processed into Guantanamo, were transported through Portuguese jurisdiction. The report was compiled by comparing flight logs obtained from Portuguese authorities, information from the US Department of Defence showing dates of arrival of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, and unclassified testimony from many of the prisoners themselves. In the report *Reprive* has detailed for the first time the names of these prisoners and their stories.

Flight logs obtained from Portuguese authorities in 2006 reveal that on at least 94 occasions aircraft crossed Portuguese airspace en route to or from Guantanamo Bay between 2002-2006. On at least 6 occasions rendition aircraft flew directly from Lajes in the Azores to Guantanamo.

A significant number of prisoners transported through Portuguese jurisdiction had been severely tortured in secret prisons around the world before their arrival in Guantanamo Bay.¹ For instance *Reprive*'s client Binyam Mohamed, prior to his transportation to Guantanamo, had been subjected to 18 months of torture in a Moroccan black site, which included being repeatedly cut on his penis with razors and threatened with rape, electrocution and death.

Clive Stafford Smith *Reprive*'s Legal Director said:

"The Portuguese government needs to do some serious soul-searching. None of these prisoners could have reached Guantanamo - and upwards of six years of abuse - without Portuguese complicity, and there are still several dozen men who may face the death penalty after being rendered by the US through Portuguese jurisdiction. Portugal must hold a full, public inquiry and get to the bottom of these breaches of international law."

Moazzam Begg, former Guantanamo prisoner and spokesman of Cage Prisoners said:

"The nations of Europe openly, and rightly, disassociate themselves with Guantanamo Bay. Indeed, even very powerful American voices, like that of former US Secretary of State, Colin Powell now call for its closure. It is somewhat sobering therefore, to discover that I, and hundreds of others like me, were transported in chains, faces masks, ear muffs and hoods over Portuguese territory before we arrived at the world's most notorious prison."

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Reprieve is a British legal action charity providing frontline investigation and legal representation to prisoners denied justice by powerful governments across the world.

To obtain a copy of the 'Journey of Death' contact Chloe Davies at *Reprieve* chloe@reprieve.org.uk or visit *Reprieve's* website www.reprieve.org.uk.

For media enquiries contact Laura.brodie@champollion.co.uk or call 0044 207 131 3609.