

14 July 2014

Cori Crider
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Secretary of State

Dear Cori Crider,

Thank you for your letter of 26 June 2014 to me about detentions on Diego Garcia.

I regret that you do not find the repeated assurances given to Parliament and set out to you in my letter of 8 May adequate. With regard to the specific questions you list I reiterate:

- (1) & (2) The US has assured us they did not have a detention facility on Diego Garcia nor detain anyone there. Other than the two occasions in 2002 no aircraft carrying a detainee transited Diego Garcia.
- (3) The British Indian Ocean Territory hold various different types of record about flights entering and leaving the Territory. Though we feared some of these might have been water damaged recently, we now believe only a small number of immigration cards completed by civilians entering the Territory (i.e. leaving the airport) have been irretrievably damaged. I am satisfied that for the period you are asking about, we have a complete set of information about types of aircraft, passenger and crew numbers landing and departing Diego Garcia. Additionally, US assurances cover all flights for the period being referred to in our statements, and as I say, I have seen no evidence that casts doubt on those.
- (4) Mr Abdul-Hakim Belhaj and Ms Fatima Bouchar were not transferred via Diego Garcia.
- (5) The discussions with the US about any possible continuation of the 1966 Exchange of Notes governing their presence in Diego Garcia will cover all aspects of the use of the site.
- (6 & 7) The UK government has not sought to influence the content of the Senate report. We have made representations to seek assurance that ordinary procedures for clearance of UK material will be followed in the event that UK material provide to the Senate Committee were to be disclosed. As my colleague has stated, the release of the Committee's report is a matter for the United States.

*Yr sincerely
William Hague*

WILLIAM HAGUE