



12 March 2012

Mr Clayton M. Jones
Chairman of the Board
Rockwell Collins
400, Collins Road NE
Cedar Rapids
IA 52498
USA

By Post and Fax to +1 319 295 1523

Re: Zero Tolerance for Torture

Dear Mr Jones,

I am a Legal Director at Reprieve, a UK-based charity that opposes the use of torture as part of the 'war on terror'.

I am writing because the name of your company has surfaced in a recent investigation by Reprieve into the CIA's 'extraordinary rendition' programme, which operated from 2002 until at least 2007.

No doubt you will be aware of the nature of this programme from public reporting, but in brief, this scheme involved the CIA contracting with numerous aviation companies – including operators, planners, service providers and brokers – to transport prisoners to secret sites around the world to be tortured. Regrettably, Rockwell Collins's subsidiary Air Routing International appears to have been party to this.

You will recall that this programme was outlawed by President Obama in Executive Order 13451 (22 January 2009).¹ It is on record that Air Routing International played a significant logistical role in this programme. For example, Air Routing International assisted in organizing the rendition of Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri from Dubai to Afghanistan between 8 and 11 November 2002 on Gulfstream jet N85VM, operated by Richmor Aviation. Mr al-Nashiri's subsequent torture is described in the International Committee of the Red Cross's Report on the Treatment of Fourteen 'High Value Detainees' in CIA Custody (14 February 2007). You can refer to this document in detail at <http://www.nybooks.com/media/doc/2010/04/22/icrc-report.pdf>. Briefly, however, the report notes that he, and others, were subjected, in particular during the early stages of their detention, lasting from some days up to several months, to a harsh regime employing a combination of physical and psychological ill-treatment with the aim of obtaining compliance and extracting information. This regime began soon after arrest, and included transfers of detainees

¹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/ensuring-lawful-interrogations>

Reprieve, PO Box 52742 London UK, EC4P 4WS	T +44 (0)20 7353 4640 F +44 (0) 7353 4641	info@reprieve.org.uk www.reprieve.org.uk
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to multiple locations, maintenance of the detainees in continuous solitary confinement and incommunicado detention throughout the entire period of their undisclosed detention, and the infliction of further ill-treatment through the use of various methods either individually or in combination, in addition to the deprivation of other basic material requirements.²

During the transfer of Mr al-Nashiri, facilitated by Air Routing International, he was stripped, dressed in a diaper and tracksuit, goggles and earphones, and had his hands and feet shackled. In his initial period of detention, to which Air Routing International had helped to transfer him, he was subjected to a sustained programme of ill-treatment which included prolonged shackling and stress positions, beatings, sleep deprivation, exposure to cold, nakedness, restriction of food, threats and other forms of ill-treatment.

It is on record that Air Routing International organized most elements of Mr al-Nashiri's transfer to torture. In particular, Air Routing International organized services including handling, landing and parking fees, communications, permit assistance, navigation, catering and crew transportation; services without which Mr al-Nashiri's illegal transfer would never have happened.

Documents on file with Reprieve show that Air Routing International also provided services facilitating the flight which transferred the mistakenly imprisoned German citizen Khaled el-Masri from secret detention in Afghanistan to Albania on 28 May 2004. Having belatedly concluded after months of torture and interrogation that they had imprisoned the wrong man, the CIA, via Computer Sciences Corporation and with logistical support from Air Routing International, arranged for Richmor Aviation jet N982RK to transfer Mr el-Masri from an Afghan "black site" to a remote roadside in Albania. As he later stated, he found himself "in unfamiliar, mountainous terrain, in the dark, instructed to walk along an isolated path without looking over his shoulder. He said he feared that he was 'about to be shot in the back and left to die,' with nobody having any idea of how he had got there."³

These are only two examples of such cases from this sad era. Some prisoners subjected to extraordinary rendition – such as Mr el-Masri – have been released without charge, compensation, or apology. Some are still imprisoned in Guantánamo and Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan. Others have vanished entirely.

The purpose of this letter is not to seek to punish Air Routing International, or its current owner, Rockwell Collins. Nor is it a notice that any of the affected people of whom we are aware preparing to sue Air Routing International or Rockwell Collins - although that, of course, will ultimately be a matter for each victim. We do not even ask that you admit any wrongdoing by Air Routing International or by its current or former employees in connection with the extraordinary rendition programme.

All we ask is that Rockwell Collins pledge that neither it, nor Air Routing International nor any of its other subsidiaries will be involved in torture in the future.

² ICRC Report, p.4.

³ <http://assembly.coe.int/documents/workingdocs/doc07/edoc11302.pdf> at para. 277.

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I have enclosed with this letter a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Pledge, 'Zero Tolerance for Torture', that I am asking you to sign. As you will see, it sets out in plain terms that your company policy shall be henceforth never to condone torture; to monitor Air Routing International's business for consistency with this commitment, and never to engage in any activity where there is a perceivable and realistic risk that torture might result; and to conduct an annual review of your compliance with Zero Tolerance for Torture, to be published prominently on Rockwell Collins and Air Routing International's website.

This is the least that Rockwell Collins and Air Routing International should be prepared to do. As Attorney General John Ashcroft himself once said, history will judge the CIA's post-9/11 torture programme harshly. This is a real opportunity for Rockwell Collins to see to it that the public judge it, and its involvement, in a better light.

I would be grateful for a reply within 14 days.

Very sincerely yours,



Cori Crider
Legal Director
Reprieve
cori@reprieve.org.uk

Enclosures (1)

Cc: ombudsman@rockwellcollins.com

Reprieve, PO Box
52742
London UK, EC4P 4WS

T +44 (0)20 7353
4640
F +44 (0) 7353 4641

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