



Council of Europe

Note
to Editors

tel : +33 (3)88 41 25 60 / fax : +33 (3)88 41 39 11 / e-mail : pressunit@coe.int

New Council of Europe publication on secret detentions and illegal transfers of detainees by the CIA

Strasbourg, 26.06.2008 - Has Europe become a "happy hunting ground" for foreign security services? Can we accept, in the name of public security and the fight against terrorism, that citizens were kidnapped, transferred to secret prisons and detained without any reason, and tortured on simple suspicion of terrorism and in defiance of international laws?

A new publication by the Council of Europe, "*The CIA above the laws? Secret detentions and illegal transfers of detainees in Europe*" * details the investigation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) based on two reports by Dick Marty, a Swiss member of PACE, and also the legal opinion of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (better known as the Venice Commission). These two bodies of the Council of Europe have analysed the HVD (High-Value Detainee) programme set up by the U.S. administration after the September 11 attacks. The survey reveals the "spider's web" of illegal flights woven by the CIA.

The book, published in French and English, outlines the numerous and serious violations of human rights of the "extraordinary rendition" programme. It emphasises the fact that this programme could not have functioned without the co-operation of some member states of the Council of Europe, even though they are bound by European conventions on human rights. The facts are supported by solid examples and evidence, showing the fate of the detainees and the way they were treated.

It also provides, through the work of the Venice Commission, an authoritative evaluation of the general principles of international law and the responsibility of Council of Europe member states

This book is the second title in the new collection "Viewpoint-Point of Law", launched by the Council of Europe. The aim of this collection is to bring together in one book and on the same current subject the positions of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Venice Commission. It follows "*Guantanamo: a violation of human rights and international law?*".

[Viewpoint-Point of law: the CIA above the law? \(Published June 25\)](#)

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