

Wednesday, 5 July 2006 - Strasbourg

Extraordinary rendition (debate)

Ana Maria Gomes (PSE). - (PT) The Martin and Fava reports confirm that a gang that does not care how it achieves its aims and disrespects the essential values of justice and human rights has infiltrated the Administration of our US ally and has managed to forge the active and passive complicity of our governments and state services in the practice of rape, kidnapping, torture, and other crimes against people suspected of acts of terror, but who have yet to have charges brought against them, let alone face trial.

The US Supreme Court has recently said that in the prisons of Guantánamo and Kabul, where so-called unlawful combatants are festering, Washington is not only holding them unlawfully, it is keeping them in prison in breach of both US and international law. It is in breach of laws that have been used, and continue to be used to try and pass sentence on the most odious criminals, including the Nazis.

When it accused the Bush Administration, the Supreme Court also accused European politicians and agents of appalling complicity.

This committee of inquiry, led with professionalism by Mr Coelho and Mr Fava, can and should demand the parliamentary oversight of the Member States' security services and detailed inspections of airport authorities in order to stop extraordinary rendition. This committee of inquiry will help to clarify how far and to what level of political authority Europe's complicity went. The courts can and must do justice, by compensating the innocent people who suffered and by punishing those who twisted rather than promoted the rule of law, and who, worse still, by violating the law and human rights were failing to serve Europe's security and defence; instead, they were sinking to the terrorists' level.