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List of further flights between Guantánamo and the EU (up to December 2007)

Last week a new list of flights from or to Guantánamo was published and the Portuguese Government admitted that 26 flights whose destination or origin was the US base at Guantánamo passed through Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom between July 2005 and December 2007(1). The flights which made stopovers in Spain include two which were previously unknown, according to information provided by the Spanish authorities (this concerns two flights originating in Spain, at the Rota naval base: flight 21101A, which departed for Guantánamo on 22 June 2007, and flight 21098A, which departed on 30 September 2007). The Spanish Government has still not provided any information on the existence of flights carrying people illegally detained by the CIA and the United States army, even though AENA revealed in the report it forwarded to the Spanish High Court that eight flights from or to Guantánamo flew over Spain in 2002, seven in 2003, 12 in 2004, nine in 2005, nine in 2006 and two up to February 2007. A further 11 flights landed at Spanish airports(2). In December 2006, after sending several requests to the Portuguese authorities and receiving no response, the European Parliament's Temporary Committee on the alleged use of European countries by the CIA for the transport and illegal detention of prisoners obtained a list of flights (virtually all of them military flights) from or to Guantánamo which passed through Portuguese territory between 11 January 2002 and 24 June 2006.

Bearing in mind the recommendations made in the reports by the Council of Europe and the European Parliament on the CIA's use of European territory for the illegal detention or transport of people being held prisoner, can the Council certify that all the civil and military flights from or to Guantánamo that appear on the Portuguese lists, and which flew over or landed in European countries, were authorised (by Portugal, Spain or other European countries) only after having obtained guarantees that they did not involve the illegal transport of prisoners, in accordance with the recommendations of the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the Venice Commission? If not, will the Council instigate an investigation?

In the context of transatlantic relations, and recalling that Parliament has called for Guantánamo to be closed on many occasions, what is the Council's position in view of the evidence that the US is continuing to use EU territory to fly to or from Guantánamo?

(1) Flights from Morocco, Iraq and Afghanistan, inter alia.

(2) Six flights at Rota (Cádiz); two at Morón de la Frontera (Seville); two at Torrejón de Ardoz (Madrid) and one at Tenerife North.

You can find the answer here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2008-3312&language=EN>

www.anagomes.eu