



House of Commons  
Chambre des communes

General W. J. Natynczyk  
National Defence Headquarters  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K2

April 20, 2010

Dear General Natynczyk,

We write to you today to formally request that you clarify whether or not Canadian officials have ever transferred Afghan detainees to the National Directorate of Security for the purpose of gathering information.

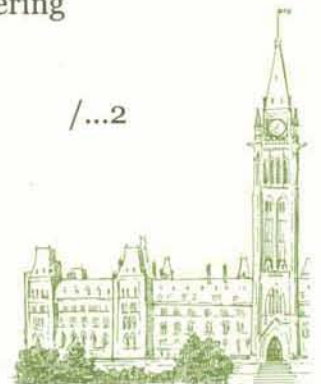
On April 16, 2010, you stated in a letter to the Special Committee on the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan that “the Canadian Forces do not transfer individuals for the purposes of gathering information”. What is not clear from this statement is whether this has been a practice throughout our mission in Afghanistan.

An October 31, 2007 detainee transfer report (attached) states:

“During the interview conducted, it is believe (sic) that all the detainees were deceptive and they have a better knowledge on TB (Taliban) activity in their area. Based upon the above, it is recommended that [names of detainees] be transferred to the National Directorate of Security (NDS) for further questioning”.

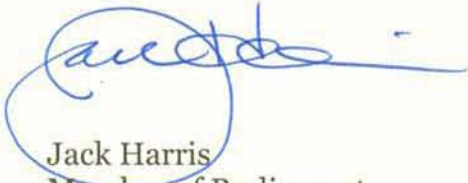
In his testimony to the committee, Mr. Ahmadshah Malgarai recognized the document as a detainee transfer report. He stated that as a former interpreter for Canadian Forces he had translated up to fifty similar reports from English to Pashto. Furthermore, he suggested that during the years he was employed by the Canadian Forces, the transfer of detainees for the stated purpose of gathering information was a common practice.

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We therefore request a clarification as to whether or not, at any point in our mission in Afghanistan, Canadian officials transferred detainees for the purposes of gathering information. Particularly, we look forward to your comments regarding the attached transfer report which clearly states that the transfer took place "for further questioning".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack Harris", with a large circular flourish on the left side.

Jack Harris  
Member of Parliament  
St. John's East  
New Democrat Defence Critic

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Dewar", written in a cursive style.

Paul Dewar  
Member of Parliament  
Ottawa Centre  
New Democrat Foreign Affairs Critic

cc. Canadian Forces Provost Marshal Colonel T.D. Grubb