

Human Rights Group Files Criminal Complaint over Bush Torture Program



Berlin, December 17 (RHC)-- A human rights group in Berlin, Germany, has filed a criminal complaint against the architects of the George W. Bush administration's torture program.

The European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights has accused former Bush administration officials, including CIA Director George Tenet and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, of war crimes, and called for an immediate investigation by a German prosecutor.

The move follows the release of a U.S. Senate report on CIA torture which includes the case of a German citizen, Khalid El-Masri, who was captured by CIA agents in 2004 due to mistaken identity and tortured at a secret prison in Afghanistan. So far no one involved in the CIA torture program has been charged with a crime except the whistleblower John Kiriakou, who exposed it.

In a statement today, Wolfgang Kaleck, general secretary of the group which filed the complaint, said, "By investigating members of the Bush administration, Germany can help to ensure that those responsible for abduction, abuse and illegal detention do not go unpunished."

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