

CIA Report Admits Agency Had Wrong Man, But Imprisoned Him Anyway



Washington, July 2 (RHC)-- A newly-released internal CIA report has revealed how the agency arrested, imprisoned and interrogated German citizen Khalid El-Masri at a secret prison in Afghanistan, even though the CIA knew he was not the man they had been looking for.

The report chronicles how the CIA seized El-Masri after Macedonian agents accused him of being a member of al-Qaeda traveling on a false passport. Yet no one from the CIA even looked at El-Masri's passport for the first three months of his imprisonment, at which point agents determined his passport was real and that there was, as CIA agents wrote: "no basis to justify the continued detention of al-Masri."

Yet the agency continued to hold El-Masri for months because it could not decide on an "exit strategy." Finally, CIA agents dumped him in Albania and told him to go home.

El-Masri says he was tortured while imprisoned by the CIA and is seeking an apology from the U.S. government -- which doesn't seem to be forthcoming.

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