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STATES MUST INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE ASSISTANCE
Facilitation of Extraordinary Renditions and Disappearances Violates International Law

(New York – February 28, 2006) The Center for Human Rights and Global Justice today urged Governments to end collaboration in acts of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by the U.S. In a report entitled *Enabling Torture: International Law Applicable to State Participation in the Unlawful Activities of Other States*, the Center said States’ international obligations to prevent, investigate and punish acts of torture and cruel treatment require them to bring renditions to torture to an end.

The Center released its report on the eve of a press conference to be held by Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis on European States’ involvement in renditions, CIA detentions and disappearances. “The Council of Europe must seize this opportunity to hold States to account for their unlawful collaborations” said Jayne Huckerby, Associate Research Scholar at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice.

The report demonstrates that States cannot allow the U.S. to use their territory and airspace for activities that violate their international obligations. The report also concludes that States cannot escape their duty to prevent torture by pointing to other treaties and that States must at all times act consistently with the prohibition on torture under international law.

“Every country has the ability and is duty bound to prevent use of its territory for torture or the outsourcing of torture,” Huckerby said. “At a minimum States must immediately and impartially investigate allegations that these acts are taking place,” she added.

The Center's work on human rights violations in the "War on Terror" includes cutting-edge legal analysis that exposes the practices of "extraordinary rendition," disappearances, and "proxy prisons" as violations of domestic and international law. See the Center's website (www.chrgj.org) for:

- *Torture by Proxy: International and Domestic Law Applicable to "Extraordinary Renditions"*
- *Beyond Guantánamo: Transfers to Torture One Year After Rasul v. Bush*
- *Torture by Proxy: International Law Applicable to "Extraordinary Renditions"*, Briefing Paper for U.K. All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Renditions
- *Fate and Whereabouts Unknown: Detainees in the "War on Terror"*

This Briefing Paper can be accessed at:

<http://www.nyuhr.org/docs/BriefingPaperEnablingTorture.pdf>.