PARLAMENTO EUROPEO

On.Claudio Fava

Relatore della Commissione ad hoc del Parlamento Europeo
sulle extraordinary renditions della CIA in Europa

Bruxelles, 2 marzo

"The silences, the reticence and the lack of cooperation that we have found at the institutional level in the first few days of our work have confirmed the absolute need for our CIA committee", says Claudio Fava, rapporteur for the Temporary Committee set up by the European Parliament on presumed secret prisons in Europe run by US intelligence.

"We have been surprised by the decision of Mr. De Vrjies, EU anti-terrorism coordinator, to refuse an audition before our committee. And we find it embarrassing that the director of Europol, Max Jurgen Storbek, did not even find the time to answer to our invitation".

"Very understandable also the irritation of the General Secretary of the Council of Europe in the face of Italy's scarce cooperation: for about two years the Italian Government has kept silent not only on the kidnapping of Milan's imam, Mr. Abu Omar, but also on the probable complicity of our secret services and on the manifest responsibilities of the CIA. Not a word also on the part of Justice Minister Castelli, who for the last several months has refused to send Interpol the request for capture and extradition of twenty two US intelligence agents, recipient of an arrest warrant by the Milan judges."

"On these bases, the first hand accounts of the victims of extraordinary renditions which have accepted to cooperate with us will become even more valuable, allowing us to reconstruct, for the first time in an institutional setting, these practices".

"We will start on the 13th March in Strasbourg with Khaled el Masri, the German citizen of Lebanese origin that was kidnapped in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, tortured for five months in a prison in Afghanistan and finally released with no charges against him. It will be the first of a series of testimonies that will allow us to reconstruct the truth and possible institutional responsibilities".