

# JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

JUSTICE  
59 Carter Lane  
London  
EC4V 5AQ  
[www.justice.org.uk](http://www.justice.org.uk)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday 9 May 2006**

## **Parliament to debate US extradition amendments**

On Wednesday 10 May, the House of Commons will debate amendments to the Police and Justice Bill aimed at safeguarding the rights of people sought for extradition by the United States and other nations. The amendments would require the US to provide evidence for their requests and require the court to block extradition requests for crimes alleged to have been partly committed in the UK, unless trial in the requesting state would be in the interests of justice.

Under the 2003 Extradition Act as it currently stands, the US does not have to supply any evidence to justify its extradition request. Similarly, the US can seek extradition for a crime alleged to have been committed mostly in the UK even if UK prosecutors have decided that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute in the UK.

Sally Ireland, Senior Legal Officer (Criminal Justice) said:

**'If you are accused of a crime committed mostly in the UK but our authorities decide not to prosecute you for it, then another country can second-guess that decision and extradite you without having to justify why they should try you abroad, and in the case of the USA, without even providing any evidence against you. That cannot be right.'**

For further information please contact Sally Ireland at [sireland@justice.org.uk](mailto:sireland@justice.org.uk) or on (020) 7762 6414.

### **Notes for editors:**

1. The UK and USA signed an extradition treaty in 2003 that provided that the USA did not have to provide evidence against a person with an extradition request to the UK. Although the treaty is not in force as a matter of international law because it has not

been ratified by the USA, this provision has been enacted in the UK as a result of the Extradition Act 2003 (Designation of Part 2 Territories) Order 2003 (SI 2003/3334).

- 2 154 MPs have signed an Early Day motion proposed by Boris Johnson MP (EDM 241) which states:

That this House urges the Government to defer approving the extradition to the United States of any British subjects until such time as the United States Senate ratifies the Extradition Treaty of March 2003; further calls upon the Government to amend the Extradition Act 2003 (Designation of Part 2 Territories) Order 2003 and replace it with a new Order which requires the United States to supply prima facie evidence to accompany its extradition requests to the United Kingdom, as the UK has to do in relation to an extradition from the US; and further calls upon the Government to amend the Extradition Act 2003 to reflect the terms of Article 7 of the European Convention of Extradition on Place of Commission.

3. A letter and briefing note from JUSTICE is being circulated to MPs outlining our concerns about UK-US extradition arrangements and urging them to support the Early Day Motion and the amendment of the Extradition Act 2003 to satisfy our concerns. Copies of the letter and briefing note are attached.