

JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

JUSTICE
59 Carter Lane
London
EC4V 5AQ
DX 323 Chancery Lane
(020) 7329 5100
(020) 7329 5055
admin@justice.org.uk
www.justice.org.uk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 28 February 2008

European Court of Human Rights reaffirms absolute prohibition against return to torture

JUSTICE welcomed today's unanimous judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in *Saadi v Italy* upholding the absolute prohibition on sending a person to a country where they face a real risk of torture or ill-treatment.

In particular, the Grand Chamber of the Court rejected the UK government's submissions that countries should be able to balance the risk of torture against the alleged risk that a suspect poses to national security in the expelling state.

Eric Metcalfe, JUSTICE's director of human rights policy said:

We welcome the Court's judgment upholding the fundamental principle that nobody should be exposed to torture.

When it comes to torture, there can be no balancing act. Some values are too important to compromise, even in the fight against terror.

For further information, contact Eric Metcalfe on 07939 119 369 (mobile) or 020 7762 6415 (direct line) or via email to emetcalfe@justice.org.uk.

Notes to editors

1. JUSTICE was one of a number of NGOs that intervened in the sister case of *Ramzy v Netherlands*, in which the UK government similarly intervened to argue against the absolute prohibition on returning suspects to torture. For further details, please see the attached press release from Amnesty International, the Association for the Prevention of Torture, the AIRE Centre, Human Rights Watch, INTERIGHTS, the International Commission of Jurists, JUSTICE, the Medical Foundation for the Care of the Victims of Torture, Open Society Justice Initiative, REDRESS, and the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT).