

Center for Constitutional Rights

Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://ccrjustice.org/home/get-involved/tools-resources/inside-ccr/diplomatic-assurances-against-torture-are-not-enough>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

March, 27, 2015 - Today, CCR and other human rights organizations submitted an [amicus brief](#) to the Fourth Circuit U.S. Appeals Court in a case concerning the governments international law obligations to protect people from being deported to a country where they will be tortured (known as non-refoulement obligations). The issue concerns one at the heart of CCRs work, whether the government can avoid its non-refoulement obligations under the Convention Against Torture (CAT) prohibiting an otherwise lawful transfer of an individual (in this case, through the removal process) where an individual faces a risk of torture in the home country by obtaining diplomatic assurances from the home country that there will be no torture. This notion of diplomatic assurances was outrageously abused during the Bush Administration in its extraordinary rendition program, as if diplomatic assurances from countries we sent detainees to be tortured at our behest could ever be trusted. Our own CCR client Maher Arar was rendered to Syria in secret, through JFK airport with assurances from Syria and brutally tortured as a result. (The court dismissed [our suit seeking accountability](#) against US government officials for their role in Mahers torture-by-proxy).

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