

The government has repeatedly accepted US assurances that Diego Garcia has not been used to hold high-ranking members of al-Qaeda who have been flown to secret interrogation centres around the world in 'ghost' planes hired by the CIA. Interrogation techniques used on suspects are said to include 'waterboarding', a simulated drowning that Amnesty International claims is a form of torture. But now the government's denials over Diego Garcia's role in extraordinary rendition are crumbling. Senior American intelligence sources have claimed that the US has been holding terrorist suspects on the British territory as recently as two years ago.

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