

San Jose State University

From the Selected Works of Gil J. Villagran

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Rendition: A Film Review

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RENDITION: A film review by Gil Villagrán, MSW

"RENDITION," a movie currently being shown in San Jose, CA., is a reality-based account of the C.I.A.'s clandestine program of abducting foreign nationals (so far) suspected of terrorist ties to transport them by airplane to detention facilities outside the U.S. where international human rights and the Geneva Convention Against Torture and Inhumane Treatment safeguards are not respected. These detention sites are located in countries including Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Afghanistan, and at the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

At these and other secret bases the "rendered" suspects are interrogated either by U.S. personnel or are handed over to the custody of foreign or contract agents. The interrogation methods include the use of torture by waterboarding (simulated near drowning), electric shock, beatings, lack of sleep, prolonged stress positions, and sexually degrading treatment such as photographed at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

This practice is known as "extraordinary rendition." "Rendition" means "to hand over." In reality, as practiced by the C.I.A., it is kidnapping for the purpose of torture. Bush administration denials notwithstanding, the practice is illegal, a clear violation of U.S. federal law, the Geneva Convention (the U.S. is a signatory), and other International Law. Yet these illegal practices are happening every day, and **THERE IS A SAN JOSE CONNECTION TO THE CIA'S RENDITION PROGRAM** in our community.

As was first reported by the 10/30/06 New Yorker Magazine, and then by the Seattle Post Intelligence, Washington Post, San Jose Mercury-News and El Observador, **Jeppesen Dataplan**, a subsidiary of Boeing Corporation, has a contract with the CIA to plan and register logistical & navigational details for all their secret "extraordinary rendition" flights. Most of the planes used in these flights are owned & operated small private charter airlines by contract with the CIA or by front companies that are totally owned and operated by the CIA, such as "Air America" (infamous for past secret wars in Central America), that function as CIA front companies.

The reported connection of Jeppesen to these "torture flights" is not denied by Jeppesen representatives, although they have had ample opportunity to do so. Following concerns regarding Jeppesen's activities presented to the San Jose Human Rights Commission, a letter was sent by the Commission to Jeppesen Managing Director Bob Overby, inviting him to attend its 3/15/07 hearing on the matter. Overby replied, citing "client confidentiality" as the reason he must decline the commission's invitation.

Jeppesen Dataplan, is located at 225 West Santa Clara St., Suite 1600.

Their toll-free tel. # is 800-358-6468, or 408-961-2825, fax # is 408-961-5365.

Through its partial sponsorship of City of San Jose events, such as "Skate Under the Palms" and "Music in the Park," Jeppesen enjoys subsidized public advertising. It also benefits from the support of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, funded by San Jose taxpayers.

Is Jeppesen's "Rendition" involvement the kind of business you want transacted in your community?
Let your City Council & County Board of Supervisors hear from you.

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men (and women) do nothing.”

■ Edmund Burke

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