

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Public Statement

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### **Afghanistan: Amnesty International condemns the reported beheading of Taleban prisoners**

Amnesty International today condemned the reported extrajudicial beheading of Taleban prisoners by government soldiers in southern Afghanistan this week. The organization stated it was appalled at the grotesque and retaliatory nature of the incident which reportedly occurred during "anti-Taleban" military activities in southern Afghanistan.

"Beheadings are unjustifiable under any circumstances" said Amnesty International.

Amnesty International urges the Afghan government to initiate a full investigation into the killings. Those responsible for committing the unlawful killings must be brought to justice in trials that are consistent with international standards. The results of the investigations should be made public.

The Afghan government must take immediate action to ensure that the right to life is respected and protected. Amnesty International also appeals to foreign governments, in their contacts with the Afghan government, to stress the necessity to guarantee respect for human rights at all times and to carry out thorough investigations into the killings.