

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

AI Index: MDE 14/068/2003 (Public)
News Service No: 080
3 April 2003

Iraq: Amnesty International Daily Digest - April 3 2003

1545 BST

UK forces should not use cluster bombs

Amnesty International today condemned the British Government for using cluster bombs in Iraq.

Responding to an admission from Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon that these weapons had been used in Iraq, Amnesty International said: "We had asked the US and UK governments to confirm that they would not use such indiscriminate weapons because of the threat they pose to civilians. Now we understand why they were silent."

"In the face of the glaring evidence of how these weapons affect civilians, we reiterate our call on both governments to undertake not to use them again for the sake of the civilians of Iraq."

"They must also explain where and why the weapons were used."

For more information, download Amnesty International's previous press releases on the use of cluster bombs:

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/ainsf/recent/mde140652003>

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/ainsf/recent/act790062003>

<http://www.web.amnesty.org/ainsf/recent/mde140502003>

To see an interview with Amnesty International's military expert, go to <http://emedia.amnesty.org/mines.ram>

To see an interview with Secretary General Irene Khan on cluster bombs go to http://emedia.amnesty.org/IK_clusterbombs.ram

**For more information on the Iraq Crisis go to http://web.amnesty.org/pages/iraq_summary
and for latest news releases and 24 hour media contacts go to <http://news.amnesty.org>**

Public Document

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566

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