

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

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## **Afghanistan: Human rights commission a great development**

Amnesty International warmly welcomed the establishment of Afghanistan's first human rights commission. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of the Interim Administration of Afghanistan, today signed into law the Decree on the Establishment of the Independent Afghan Human Rights Commission.

"The commission will be fundamental to the promotion and protection of human rights for all people in Afghanistan, both in addressing the abuses of the past and promoting protection in the future," Amnesty International said.

The organization calls on the Afghan authorities and the international community to work together to ensure that the Commission will form part of a wider system of human rights protection and promotion. The Commission should go hand-in-hand with the re-building of a criminal justice system which respects the right to a fair trial, and does not impose the death penalty, or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments.

The terms of reference for the commission look very promising and the choice of commissioners includes a significant number of women (four out of 11) and people of different ethnic backgrounds.

"The international community should pledge sufficient funding and expertise to ensure that the Commission becomes a reality," Amnesty International said.

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