

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/133/99

18 August 1999

Further information on EXTRA 101/98 (AMR 51/110/98, 16 December 1998) and follow-ups (AMR 51/112/98, 17 December 1998; AMR 51/114/98, 18 December 1998; AMR 51/117/98, 23 December 1998; AMR 51/31/99, 18 February 1999; AMR 51/40/99, 3 March 1999; AMR 51/81/99, 19 May 1999) - Fear of indiscriminate mass killings of civilians in Iraq

US/UK/IRAQ

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Air strikes by US and UK forces against Iraqi targets inside the southern and northern air exclusion zones have continued and reportedly resulted in the deaths of more than 50 civilians since the beginning of June 1999. Scores were said to have been injured.

In the latest incident, on 17 August 1999, 14 people, all members of the same family and including five women and five children, were killed when a missile reportedly hit their house in the town of Jassan in southern Iraq, said to be outside the air exclusion zone. A further eight civilians were said to have been killed in northern Iraq.

Amnesty International continues to receive replies from UK government officials in response to Urgent Action network appeal writers, stating that US and UK forces had been acting in self-defence and that great efforts were being made to avoid civilian casualties. In spite of these assurances civilian deaths continue to be reported and more than 130 civilians are believed to have been killed since the beginning of 1999.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/e-mails/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:**

To the US and UK Governments:

- expressing concern at the continuing reports of loss of civilian life as a result of US and UK air strikes;
- expressing concern that despite all assurances received those responsible for the airstrikes do not seem to have given the utmost consideration to the proximity of civilians;
- asking them to urge their forces to refrain from attacks expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life "which would be excessive in relation to the direct military advantage anticipated."

**APPEALS TO:**

President

Bill Clinton

The White House

Office of the President

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington DC 20500

USA

**Telegrams: President, Washington DC, United States America**

**Faxes: + 1 202 456 2461**

**E-mails: president@whitehouse.gov**

**Salutation: Dear President Clinton**

Prime Minister

Tony Blair

10 Downing Street

2

London SW1 2AL  
United Kingdom

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, London, United Kingdom**

**Telephone: + 44 171 270 3000**

**Faxes: + 44 171 925 0918 / 270 0196**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of the US and UK accredited to your country.

Those in the US and UK are asked not to write appeals to their own governments.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 September 1999.