

11 December 2001

AI Index ASA 11/003/2001 - News Service Nr. 219

News Flash

Afghanistan: Clean surrender needed

Following reports that significant numbers of Al-Qaeda fighters are surrendering in the Tora Bora region of southern Afghanistan, Amnesty International called for appropriate arrangements to be made for the processing and protection of prisoners, many of whom are likely to be non-Afghan nationals.

"The recent events at the Qala-i-Jhangi fort near Mazar-i-Sharif, where several hundred captured Taleban fighters and others were killed in disputed circumstances, and news reports today that dozens of others apparently suffocated in sealed shipping containers, while being transported to a prison in Shibarghan, heighten concerns for the treatment of any other surrendering combatants."

"The key role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in overseeing the processing and treatment of prisoners must be facilitated to ensure that people are properly protected."

For the latest information on the 11 September Crisis visit:

<http://web.amnesty.org/11september.htm>

\ENDS

public document

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566 or press officer in Pakistan on +92 300 954 4320 or +44 (0) 7778 472 126.

Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW web : <http://www.amnesty.org>