

EXTERNAL - FOR RESPONSE ONLY

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Amnesty International News Flash

As events in Kosovo move from war to negotiations, Amnesty International urges that any peace plan incorporate effective steps to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law.

Among those steps are:

1. Ensure all civilians, including local human rights defenders, are protected from reprisals.
2. Any international peace-keeping presence in Kosovo to take steps to prevent further violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and preserves evidence of past violations.
3. Investigators of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and representatives of international human rights organizations be given access with the entry of the first personnel of the international presence.
4. The international peace-keeping presence honour its duty to arrest persons suspected of violations of human rights or international humanitarian law.
5. The return of refugees should respect the principle of *non-refoulement*. Returns should only take place if voluntary and when it is safe to do and be based on independent and impartial human rights monitoring.

ENDS.../

