

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

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Iraq: Amnesty International Week's Round-Up

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Use of cluster bombs by US and UK forces have effected civilians

Amnesty International this week condemned both the US and UK forces for the use of cluster bombs. The organisation expressed its deep concern about the high toll of civilian casualties.

"If the US and UK are serious about protecting civilians, it must publicly commit to a moratorium on the use of cluster weapons. Using cluster munitions will lead to indiscriminate killing and injuring of civilians," the organization added.

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."

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>

US must act on calls to investigate civilian deaths

Amnesty International continues to be concerned at the increasing number of incidents in the conflict in Iraq which have led to civilian deaths and casualties.

"Anyone suspected of unlawfully killing civilians must be brought to justice."

Amnesty International stressed that US and UK forces must take all necessary precautions to protect civilians, regardless of any violations by Iraqi forces.

"The duty to protect one's own soldiers cannot justify any violation of international humanitarian law. The military must implement measures that will safeguard the lives of civilians and other non-combatants and ensure that incidents like this are never repeated."

Irene Khan interviews

To see the video clip of Irene Khan talking about civilian casualties, go to http://emedia.amnesty.org/civilian_deaths.ram

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

Public Document

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