

5 April 2002

AI Index ASA 11/009/2002 - News Service Nr. 60

Afghanistan: Amnesty International urges humane treatment of detainees

Following the arrest of possibly hundreds of people in Kabul over the last couple of days, Amnesty International is calling on the Afghan Interim Authority to ensure they are treated humanely, in accordance with international human rights standards.

"During Afghanistan's political transition process it is vital that human rights are upheld as they are key to rebuilding a peaceful country," Amnesty International said.

"All arrests and detentions must be conducted under clear legal procedures which meet international standards. Detainees should not be tortured or treated in a cruel, inhuman or degrading fashion," the organization said.

The authorities must reveal the names and location of detention of all detainees and the detainees must have access to their families, lawyers and medical professionals. The detainees must also be brought before a competent court that follows internationally recognized fair trial standards.

Background

Reports are unclear about the number detained and estimates range widely between several dozen to several hundred. These arrests were reported to have been carried out over the past couple of days. Afghan officials from the Interior Ministry are quoted as saying that those arrested were engaged in a plot against the government. However, observers suggest that internal political opposition may have motivated the arrests.

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