
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 158/94

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UNITED KINGDOM: FORTHCOMING INQUIRIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Amnesty International welcomes the announcement by the Home Affairs Select Committee to launch an investigation into the private security industry.

The role and accountability of immigration officers and private security firms in deportation cases should be included as part of this inquiry; the restraint techniques and equipment as well as the authorization for these methods of restraint should also be examined, according to Amnesty International.

In its report released on 14 July 1994, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment during Forcible Deportation, Amnesty International documented its concerns regarding allegations of ill-treatment of asylum-seekers and immigrants who were deported from the United Kingdom, in some instances, by private security guards hired by the Home Office.

"The government should hold all individuals and agencies who participate in the deportation process to the same high international standards applicable to law enforcement officials, whether they belong to the public or private sector" Amnesty International said today.

"The government should create a statutory authority to regulate the Immigration Service and the private security firms it employs, as neither are currently accountable for their actions to an independent body."

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