

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 14/030/2003

20 March 2003

Further Information on EXTRA 12/03 (MDE 14/006/2003, 11 February 2003) and follow-up (MDE 14/011/2003, 27 February 2003) - Fear for Safety

IRAQ

The people of Iraq and surrounding countries

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On 20 March, United States, United Kingdom and other allied forces launched military action against Iraq.

Amnesty International fears that the war may result in a human rights and humanitarian catastrophe, and is calling on all governments involved to adhere strictly to their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law.

There are, in particular, grave concerns for the safety of Iraqi civilians, including children. Civilians are in danger of being targeted by military attacks, or becoming the innocent victims of the use of indiscriminate attacks or prohibited weapons. The disruption of delivery of essential services and supplies could also have severe humanitarian consequences.

The military action may also trigger widespread human rights abuses by the Iraqi authorities, armed opposition groups and all those involved in military action. In such an environment women may be at particular risk.

For further information on Amnesty International's position on the Iraq crisis visit <http://www.amnesty.org/go/iraq>

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language, urging all governments involved in military action in Iraq to:**

- ensure that civilians or civilian objects are not targeted in any attacks;
- prohibit the use of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons or other inherently indiscriminate weapons such as anti-personnel land mines and cluster weapons;
- ensure that all civilian detainees are treated humanely and are able to challenge the lawfulness of their detention, and if not charged or tried within a reasonable time they should be released;
- ensure the security and humanitarian needs of the Iraqi population are fully met, including the provision of food, water, shelter, sanitation and medical care;
- support and facilitate the deployment of human rights monitors in Iraq as soon as the security situation permits.

**APPEALS TO: Please write to two or three of the following. You may also send appeals to your own government representatives if they are participating, or considering participating in military action.**

George W Bush, President  
The White House, Office of the President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington DC 20500, USA

**Fax:** + 1 202 456 2461  
**Email:** [President@whitehouse.gov](mailto:President@whitehouse.gov)  
**Salutation:** Dear Mr President

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld

Secretary of Defense  
Office of the Secretary  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301, USA  
**Fax:** + 1 703 697 8339  
**Email:** public@defenselink.mil  
**Salutation:** Dear Secretary of Defence

The Honorable Colin Powell  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20520, USA  
**Fax:** + 1 202 261 8577  
**Salutation:** Dear Secretary of State

Rt Hon Tony Blair MP  
Prime Minister  
Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA, UK  
**Fax:** + 44 207 9250918  
**Salutation:** Dear Prime Minister

Rt Hon Geoff Hoon MP  
Secretary of State for Defence  
The Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
Room 222, Old War Office, Whitehall  
London SW1A 2EU, UK  
**Email:** public@ministers.mod.uk  
**Salutation:** Dear Secretary of State

Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar  
Presidente del Gobierno  
Complejo de la Moncloa  
28071 Madrid, Spain  
**Fax:** + 34 913 900217  
**Email:** jmaznar@presidencia.gob.es  
**Salutation:** Dear Prime Minister

Minister of Defence Federico Trillo-Figueroa y Martinez Conder  
Ministro de Defensa  
Paseo de la Castellana 109  
28071 Madrid, Spain  
**Fax number:** + 34 913 955092  
**Salutation:** Dear Minister

Letters addressed to President Saddam Hussein should be sent directly to the Iraqi embassy in your country. If there is no Iraqi embassy in your country then you can send appeals to your country's Interests Section for Iraq. If so, please enclose a covering letter explaining your aims, asking them for assistance in obtaining a response, and requesting that your letter be forwarded to government officials in Baghdad.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**