

Public Statement

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Afghanistan: Amnesty International welcomes Loya Jirga procedures

Amnesty International welcomes the adoption of procedures by the Special Independent Commission for the Convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga which state that those who have committed human rights abuses and violated the laws of war will not be eligible for membership of the Loya Jirga.

The procedures for the election of the members of the emergency Loya Jirga, which were announced 1 April 2002, state that those who are elected or selected as members of the Loya Jirga must not have been involved in abuse of human rights or war crimes, including the direct or indirect "killing of innocent people".

Amnesty International urges the United Nations to provide all necessary support to ensure that these provisions of the Loya Jirga selection procedures are fully enforced.

Amnesty International has repeatedly called for suspected perpetrators of grave human rights abuses, regardless of rank or other status, to be brought to justice, in accordance with international fair trial standards, and without recourse to the death penalty or other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.

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