

Chairperson's draft

Statement by the Committee against Torture

The Committee against Torture, being particularly conscious that human dignity requires the total eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, has become aware of numerous acts prohibited by the Convention that have reportedly been committed in Iraq by the armed forces making up the Coalition Provisional Authority.

As the treaty body responsible for monitoring compliance with the Convention by the States that are party to it, which include the States supposedly responsible for the acts reported, the Committee:

1. Expresses its extreme concern over the acts reported, which might constitute serious violations of the basic rules of general international law and the 1984 Convention;
2. Recalls that, consistent with general international law and article 2, paragraph 2, of the Convention, no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture;
3. Urges the States under whose authority those responsible for the acts committed may have been acting to mount a thorough, prompt and impartial investigation in conformity, in particular, with article 12 of the Convention, so that the truth of the matter can be fully ascertained, all those responsible can be held to account, and the victims can be guaranteed the right to reparation.
