



## **Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URGES VIGILANCE AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS EROSIONS IN U.S. FOLLOWING TERRORIST ATTACKS**

(WASHINGTON) -- Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) today called on the US government and individual Americans to uphold and respect human rights protections for all individuals and groups of people as our nation seeks justice for the abhorrent terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

"Amnesty International condemns the original attacks as a massive human rights violation," said William F. Schulz, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA. "We also firmly oppose the senseless violence against innocent Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans and others who are being wrongly scapegoated. Americans must seek justice through legitimate avenues, not vengeance on the streets."

As Congress and the President negotiate anti-terrorism legislation, Amnesty International is urging them to ensure that proposed new security measures do not restrict important rights. The organization is particularly concerned with several provisions in the Mobilization Against Terrorism Act (MATA) that would expand the use of the death penalty and limit the rights of immigrants.

"Amnesty International is concerned that the MATA would expand the application of the federal death penalty, which we oppose in all instances," said Schulz. "We're also disturbed that the provisions on detention and deportation of immigrants would be a sharp departure from current protections."

Specifically, Amnesty International is concerned about changes that would permit immigrants, even if they reside in the United States legally, to be detained and deported without any judicial review, and without any obligation on the part of the US government to inform those detained of the charges against them, let alone the evidence that substantiates those charges.

"The nation must guard against responding to terrorists by eroding human rights protections," Schulz concluded.

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