

PRM Guidance
May 6, 2004

ICRC Access to Detainees

Q: Does the International Committee of the Red Cross have access to detainees in Iraq?

A: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has had regular access to detention facilities in Iraq, including Abu Ghraib. They have had the ability to raise concerns with the Coalition Provisional Authority and the U.S. Government.

-- ICRC plays this role around the world.

Q: Has the ICRC discussed their concerns about prison abuse with us?

A: Yes. They have made recommendations and we have acted on some of them.

Q: What are the recommendations?

A: ICRC communications with governments worldwide are based on the principle of confidentiality.

PRM Guidance
May 7, 2004

ICRC: Access to Iraq Detainees, Visits to Prisons

Key Points

- The February 2004 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) report was provided to CPA and U.S. military authorities in Baghdad in February. The State Department first saw a copy of the report in March.
- The ICRC indicated that Coalition Forces were taking the report seriously.
- The Secretary of State, as I (A/S Boucher) said yesterday, was made aware in January 2004 of the launch of the DoD investigation into the allegations of abuse at Abu Ghraib.
- The State Department is not aware of other ICRC reports on Iraq.
- We would note that ICRC communications with governments worldwide are based on the principle of confidentiality, a point that was reiterated today by ICRC HQs in Geneva.

Background: The ICRC usually begins a prison visit by coordinating with the local commander or official in charge of the facility and reports orally and in writing on principal findings after the visit. ICRC then addresses a written formal report of the visit or series of visits, along with recommendations, based on a pragmatic determination, to the appropriate level in a government ministry/department. Over the past 24 months, ICRC has sent reports to the NSC, DOD, relevant military commands and the State Department on the handling of detainees in Guantanamo and Afghanistan.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK E SCHMELZER
DATE/CASE ID: 23 SEP 2004 200303827

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

A. Rogers-Harper, 3-1071

H:\PRM Offices\MCE\Public Affairs\Guidance\MCE\050704 ICRC Guidance.doc

Clearances:

PRM:	R. Greene	ok
PRM:	M. McKinley	ok
PRM/MCE:	M. Pollack	ok
NEA:	G. Sullivan/R. Shore	
IO/SHA:	J. Perry	ok
S/WCI:	A. Sagor	
D:	K. Reider	ok
P:	J. Carpenter	ok
DOD (OCJCS/LC):	R. Gade	
S/P:	M. James	
G:	R. Schwartz	ok
SA:	S. Stryker	ok
RMA:	P. Cambell	ok
NSC:	S. McCormack	

UNCLASSIFIED