



MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF WAR (AUSTRALIA)

MEDIA RELEASE

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DOCTORS SAY THAT AUSTRALIAN TROOPS MUST OBEY INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia) (MAPW) is extremely concerned at evidence that Australia deliberately tried to avoid its human rights obligations under the Geneva Convention in Iraq and Afghanistan.

MAPW supports the call for a Royal Commission by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

MAPW Vice President Dr Sue Wareham OAM, said today:

“We urge the government to adopt policies and procedures to guarantee that Australia complies with both the letter and spirit of international law in relation to the detention and treatment of captives.”

Of equal concern is the apparent intention to mislead the Australian public, as Australia had publicly stated that we would comply with international humanitarian law in Iraq and Afghanistan.

MAPW has already called for an independent public inquiry into Australia’s involvement in the Iraq war, including whether this has contravened any Australian or international laws or treaties.

- see www.causes.com/causes/475305-inquiry-into-australia-s-war-on-iraq/actions

Documents obtained under Freedom of Information by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre indicate that a US soldier was always present with ADF troops to take legal responsibility for their capture, as the US maintained that the Geneva Convention did not apply in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. This legal fiction permitted Australian troops to assist for example with transfer of prisoners to secret detention camps which contravene the Convention.

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More on MAPW:

www.mapw.org.au