

JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 16 January 2006

UK claims Security Council resolution trumps Human Rights Act

On Monday 16 January, the Court of Appeal began hearing an appeal from a British national who is being detained indefinitely by British forces in southern Iraq. The hearing is scheduled to last until Wednesday.

The government is claiming that its authority to order internment of individuals under UN Security Council Resolution 1546 takes precedence over the right to liberty under the Human Rights Act 1998.

JUSTICE has been granted permission to intervene in the case, arguing that a Security Council resolution cannot be used to override individual rights guaranteed by an Act of Parliament.

Eric Metcalfe, JUSTICE's Director of Human Rights Policy, said:

Rights guaranteed by an Act of Parliament cannot simply be set aside using the fig leaf of UN authority.

The right to liberty is too important to be brokered away in a session of the Security Council.

For further information, ring Eric Metcalfe on 07939 119 369 (mobile) or 020 7762 6415 (direct line) or via email to emetcalfe@justice.org.uk

Notes for editors

1. The case of *Al Jedda v Secretary of State for Defence* will be heard in the Court of Appeal from 16 to 18 January.
2. JUSTICE, the UK section of the International Commission of Jurists, has been granted permission to intervene in the case. A copy of JUSTICE's written submissions is attached.

Chairman of Council **Lord Steyn**

Director **Roger Smith**

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