

MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Date:

Dear

Re: Enforced removals process

I am alarmed to learn that there have been allegations of excessive use of force by private security contractors during the enforced removals process. Private security escorts have reportedly employed dangerous and improper use of control and restraint techniques which, in at least one case, appear to have resulted in the death of a person, Jimmy Mubenga in October 2010.

I am sure you will agree that it is vital that the UK government take all necessary measures to ensure enforced removals from the UK are carried out in line with international standards and that those being removed are afforded the dignity and respect to which they are entitled.

I am therefore urging you to write to the Immigration Minister, Damian Green MP, pressing him to reform the current enforced removal process to enable the UK Government to meet its obligations to protect people being removed against human rights abuses.

To this end Amnesty International is calling for a complete overhaul and reform of the current enforced removal process. Reforms must drastically improve the training, monitoring and accountability employed during enforced returns and include the following:

- Government trainers should be used to accredit private security escorts. Handcuff and mechanical restraint training must form mandatory elements of the accreditation process. Realistic scenario training for use on board aircraft and safe restraint techniques developed for these situations.
- All removals must be independently monitored by a competent independent body who should accompany, monitor and report on all stages of the removal process, including transport from the place of detention, escorting through airports and on-board aircraft.
- All allegations of harm on removal must be subject, where necessary, to independent investigation by competent body acting with integrity, impartiality and independent from company, government or the complainant's influence.

Yours sincerely,