

DIVULGUÉ EN VERTU DE LA LOI SUR L'ACCÈS À L'INFORMATION
CLASSIFIÉSSECRET (CANADIAN EYES ONLY)

National Defence

Défense nationale

Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

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Ottawa, (Ontario)
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MAR 30 2010

The Minister

BRIEFING NOTE ON ADDITION OF FIFTH FACILITY FOR CANADIAN-
TRANSFERRED JUVENILE DETAINEES IN AFGHANISTAN

1. Please find enclosed a briefing note on the addition of a fifth facility, the Kandahar Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, to the list of facilities where Canadian-transferred detainees in Afghanistan may be held. This change to the facilities list was necessary due to a change in Government of Afghanistan policy and ongoing construction at Sarpoza prison. This may draw attention to the role of juveniles in the Afghan conflict.
2. The CF follow special procedures when any juveniles are detained. These procedures are in line with NATO policy and consistent with international norms.

Robert Fonberg

Enclosure: 1



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BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE MINISTER**ADDITION OF FIFTH FACILITY FOR CANADIAN-TRANSFERRED JUVENILE DETAINEES IN AFGHANISTAN****ISSUE**

- DFAIT has added the Kandahar Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre to the list of facilities where Canadian-transferred detainees in Afghanistan may be held. This change may draw attention to the role of juveniles in the Afghan conflict.
- juveniles are presently in the CF detainee transfer facility at KAF and are scheduled to be transferred in the coming days.

BACKGROUND

- The CF is from time to time required to detain juveniles who are participating in the insurgency in Afghanistan. Since 2006, juveniles have been detained, of whom were transferred into Afghan custody and were released. juveniles are presently in the CF detainee transfer facility at KAF.
- CF operating procedures include special provisions for juvenile detainees. Juvenile detainees are held separately from detained adults and are processed as expeditiously as possible for transfer to the Afghan authorities or released. CF procedures are in line with NATO policy and consistent with international norms.
- Previously, the Afghan Government held juvenile detainees at a dedicated wing of Sarpoza prison. However, due to a change in Afghan policy and ongoing construction, juveniles can no longer be held at Sarpoza. The Afghan government has designated the Kandahar Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre (JRC) as the permanent facility for juveniles in Kandahar province.
- Following consultations with ICRC and UNICEF, DFAIT and Corrections Service Canada experts have conducted an assessment of the JRC and have confirmed that the detention conditions are satisfactory. Furthermore, DFAIT is prepared to expand Canada's detainee monitoring regime to include the JRC.
- On 18 March 2010, Canada and the Government of Afghanistan agreed to add the JRC to the list of facilities where Canadian-transferred detainees may be held.
- On this basis, JTF-Afghanistan is preparing to transfer the juveniles presently in custody, as a result of this situation, been in CF custody for a significant period (since).

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CONSIDERATIONS

- The original facilities list is available online at afghanistan.gc.ca. DFAIT and PCO are presently considering how best to to the Canadian public. It is likely that the updated list will be posted online alongside the previous list and DFAIT is drafting media lines accordingly.

COMMENT

- This change may draw attention to the role of juveniles in the Afghan conflict.

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