

AI Index: PRE 01/159/2013
28 March 2013

Turkey forces hundreds of Syrian refugees back across border

Up to 600 Syrian refugees have reportedly been deported by the Turkish authorities in a move that would show a shocking disregard for their safety, Amnesty International said.

Reports state that those forcibly returned had been accommodated in the Akcakale refugee camp in the Sanliurfa province that borders Syria. Others run the risk of the same treatment.

"Any forcible return of Syrian refugees would represent a deplorable act in clear violation of international law and Turkey's own laws," said Andrew Gardner, Amnesty International's researcher on Turkey.

Reports indicate that the returns occurred following violent protests at the camp.

"The Turkish authorities need to ensure that from now on no forcible returns occur and they must effectively investigate forced returns that are alleged to have taken place.

"In no circumstances whatsoever should the authorities forcibly return Syrians putting them at risk of persecution and serious human rights violations."