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PUBLIC STATEMENT

Amnesty International sends representatives to Equatorial Guinea

Two Amnesty International delegates will visit Equatorial Guinea next week to collect information about the human rights situation in the country.

Nicolas Ulmer, a lawyer, and Salvatore Saguès, a member of staff at Amnesty International's International Secretariat in Paris, will start their one-week visit in Equatorial Guinea on 24 May.

The representatives are intending to observe the trial of more than 100 defendants detained since January 1998 in connection with attacks on military barracks on Bioko Island. The trial is due to begin on 25 May.

The representatives will also meet government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations, churches and political parties. They expect to visit Malabo, the capital city located on Bioko Island, as well as the mainland province of Río Muni.

Amnesty International's last visit to Equatorial Guinea was in July 1994. In September 1997, the human rights organization was planning to send a research mission to the country but one of its delegates was refused access by the authorities.

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