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Media Advisory

Sierra Leone: Amnesty International Secretary General to meet President Kabbah in Freetown

Pierre Sane, Secretary General of Amnesty International, and Tessa Kordeczka, the organization's researcher on Sierra Leone, arrived in Freetown on Tuesday 23 May.

Mr Sane and Ms. Kordeczka met Sierra Leone's Minister of Justice, Mr Solomon Berewa, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Sama Banya today.

A meeting with the President, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, is scheduled for Thursday 24 May. During this meeting Amnesty International's delegates will convey the following messages among others:

***impunity:** all those responsible for human rights abuses, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, which have occurred during the internal armed conflict and since the signing of the peace agreement must be brought to justice;*

***military assistance:** any arms or military equipment received by any party of the current conflict must not be used to commit human rights abuses;*

***child combatants:** children under the age of 18 must not be recruited or used by parties to the conflict. The use of child combatants is a war crime and those responsible for recruiting and using child soldiers must be brought to justice;*

diamond trade: the role of the trade in diamonds from areas under rebel control in the supply of military assistance to rebel forces must be fully and immediately investigated.

Details of a press conference to be held in Freetown will be distributed tomorrow. Meanwhile, to arrange interviews please contact Amnesty International Sierra Leone in Freetown on + 232 22 22 73 54 or the Press Office in London on +44 20 7354 3689.

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