

25 May 2000

AFR 51/025/2000

Sierra Leone: Amnesty International Secretary General to hold press conference in Freetown after meeting President Kabbah

Pierre Sane, Secretary General of Amnesty International, and Tessa Kordeczka, the organization's researcher on Sierra Leone, currently in Freetown, will brief the media on their discussions with the President of Sierra Leone and other government officials at a press conference to be held in Sierra Leone tomorrow Friday 26 May at 10:00 am.

*Amnesty International Press Conference
Christian Health Association Sierra Leone Hall (CHASL)
Council of Churches Sierra Leone (CCSL) Compound
King Haman Road, Brookfield
Freetown
ph +232 241 374
Friday 26 May 10:00 am*

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 or on international mobile +44 7778 472 119.

Mr Sane and Ms. Kordeczka have held meetings with Sierra Leone's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Sama Banya, UNAMSIL officials and Sierra Leonean human rights organizations.

Today the delegation is meeting President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and other government officials including the Minister of Justice and

Attorney General, Mr Solomon Berewa. In addition, they will also meet Commander of UK troops and the Nigerian and British High Commissioners.

During these meetings 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.

Amnesty International Public document - AI Index AFR 51/025/2000 - News Service Nr. 98

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5810 or on international mobile +44 7778 472 119.
Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW