

## **Canada: Americas Summit -- right to peaceful demonstration must be respected**

*In the run-up to the Americas Summit scheduled to take place in Québec City between 20 and 22 April Amnesty International is urging the Canadian authorities to ensure that freedom of expression and peaceful demonstration is guaranteed.*

*"A recent surge of worldwide demonstrations around international intergovernmental meetings has been met with a brutal response by police forces in many countries -- most recently at Davos, Switzerland, and Prague," Amnesty International said.*

*"The Canadian authorities must ensure that similar incidents of brutality will not take place," the organization added.*

*"As the eyes of the world turn to Canada for the Summit, the peaceful expression of different opinions must be allowed. Any police handling of demonstrators must be carried out with full respect to human rights standards, including the U.N. Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials," Amnesty International said.*

*Amnesty International will be closely monitoring the situation and will be sending an observer to Québec City.*

### **Background**

*For Amnesty International's concerns on police response to demonstrations in Prague, please see *Arbitrary detention and police ill-treatment following September 2000 protests*, available on the web at <http://www.web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/index/eur710012001>*

*For concerns at Davos, please visit*

*<http://www.web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/index/eur43002102>*

*<http://www.web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/index/eur430022001>*

Amnesty International's concerns in the Americas are summarized in a document issued on the occasion of the Summit, available on the web at <http://www.web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/index/amr010012001>

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