

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Lebanon: Amnesty International condemns Tripoli bomb attack

Amnesty International condemns this morning's bomb attack on a commercial bus containing civilians in Tripoli, north Lebanon. Reports suggest that at least 14 people, both civilians and soldiers, were killed and tens of others were injured. The bomb exploded while the bus was near a bus-stop on a busy street. The casualties included people on the bus and others about to get on to it, as well as bystanders.

The Tripoli area has witnessed considerable violence over the last year. This summer more than 20 people were killed in battles between two rival political groups there, and last year more than 40 civilians and 170 soldiers were killed during fighting between Fatah al-Islam, an Islamist armed group, and the Lebanese Armed Forces in and around the Nahr al-Bared Palestinian refugee camp, north of Tripoli. On 12 December last year, General Francois el-Hajj, the Lebanese Army's chief of operations during the fighting in Nahr al-Bared, and a bodyguard, were killed in a car bomb attack in Ba'abda, outside the capital Beirut.

Amnesty International condemns all attacks on civilians and calls for the incident to be investigated promptly, effectively and impartially. The organization calls for those found responsible to be brought to justice in accordance with international fair trial standards.