

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE INVITATION

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Côte d'Ivoire: Arms to shatter a society

Amnesty International and the United Nations Correspondents Association are pleased to invite you to a press conference on Tuesday 19 March at the United Nations to launch the new report, *Communities shattered by arms proliferation and abuse in Côte d'Ivoire*.

This report focuses on the catastrophic long-term consequences of a series of irresponsible international arms transfers made by a host of countries to the government and opposition armed groups in Côte d'Ivoire immediately before the imposition of a UN Security Council arms embargo in November 2004.

Those weapons contributed to grave human rights abuses, including during the post-election conflict in 2011 and the current armed violence in the country.

The report is being published as all UN Member States meet to negotiate the final text of a historic Arms Trade Treaty that could stop such irresponsible arms transfers in the future.

WHAT: Report launch – Communities shattered by arms proliferation and abuse in Côte d'Ivoire

WHEN: Tuesday, 19 March, 1:30-2:30pm EDT

WHERE: Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium, United Nations Secretariat

WHO:

- Salil Shetty, Secretary General, Amnesty International
- Salvatore Saguès, Amnesty International's West Africa Researcher
- Brian Wood, Amnesty International's Head of Arms Control and Human Rights

NOTE: Copies of the full report, which is under embargo until after the press conference, will be available in English and French.

Photographs and video footage taken in Côte d'Ivoire in late February will be on display and can be made available on request.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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