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**RWANDA: ARMS SUPPLIES MUST NOT CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

Governments worldwide should ensure that arms supplies to Rwanda do not contribute to further human rights violations, Amnesty International said today after the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution to lift the arms embargo on the government of Rwanda, initially until 1 September 1996.

Amnesty International reiterated that while the organization takes no position on embargoes as such, all governments have a responsibility to ensure that transfers of military, security and police equipment do not contribute to human rights violations. Amnesty International is calling on the Rwandese Government to make a commitment to prevent the use of arms against unarmed civilians.

Amnesty International is concerned about a range of human rights violations involving the use of lethal weapons against unarmed civilians by the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA), since the current government came to power in July 1994.

"Though these violations are not nearly on the same scale as the genocide and other crimes against humanity committed by the forces of the former government of Rwanda, they nevertheless form a worrying pattern of abuses, including arbitrary arrests, "disappearances", extrajudicial executions and torture," the human rights organization said.

The findings of the Rwandese Government's own inquiry into the killing of up to several thousand unarmed civilians in April 1995 at the internally displaced persons' camp at Kibeho have still not been published and those responsible have not been brought to justice.

Amnesty International also continues to be concerned about human rights abuses committed by the forces and militia of the former government of Rwanda, particularly those based in eastern Zaïre.

The organization appeals to the United Nations and its member states to:

- recognize and condemn ongoing human rights violations in Rwanda and the lack of effective action by the government to curb them;
- request the UN Security Council to establish mechanisms to monitor weapons and other military, security and police transfers to Rwanda to ensure that they do not contribute to human rights violations.

Amnesty International notes that the UN Security Council resolution requests the UN Secretary General to make recommendations on the establishment of a commission to investigate arms flows to former Rwandese government forces in the Great Lakes region. Amnesty

International calls for such a commission to be thorough and independent and to include sending UN military observers to monitor arms supplies to neighbouring countries such as Zaïre.

Amnesty International is urging the UN to send such observers to Zaïre without delay to reduce the likelihood of arms reaching the perpetrators of the genocide in Rwanda and to pursue negotiations with the relevant authorities in Zaïre to facilitate their deployment.

The organization published a report on 13 June 1995 asking all governments to prevent further transfers to the forces responsible for crimes against humanity in Rwanda.

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