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MOROCCO: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISITS MOROCCO

An Amnesty International delegation returned from Morocco after successfully holding its first human rights education workshop in the country on 2 - 3 December.

Delegates also held talks with the Minister for Human Rights and members of the *Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme* (Consultative Council for Human Rights) which reports to King Hassan II.

In the course of their talks delegates raised issues relating to human rights education and promotion, and welcomed a series of positive developments in the field of human rights in recent years. These included the commutation of 196 death sentences, the release of hundreds of prisoners of conscience and political prisoners, as well as the release of many who had "disappeared" for years.

The organization also raised its continuing human rights concerns in Morocco which included: the lack of independent and thorough investigations into past and current human rights violations, and the absence of measures taken to bring to justice those responsible, the fate of scores of individuals who "disappeared", in some cases since the 1960s, and the cases of dozens of remaining prisoners of conscience and political prisoners sentenced after unfair trials.

Amnesty International's representatives also sought clarification as to when its groups in Morocco would receive official recognition.

During their stay in Morocco Amnesty International delegates also held meetings with non-governmental human rights organizations in the country.

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