
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 210/94

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - MALI (This item is being sent to international media by the IS)

PLEASE NOTE: The dates for the Mali and Egypt news releases have been reversed, please see new dates on schedule below.

PLEASE NOTE: Maud Bredero, the press officer at the Dutch section has sent out the information sheets about the European Press Officers meeting and these should be with you this week. She has asked if press officers could fill out the accommodation application form and return it to her at the Dutch section as quickly as possible so that she can confirm the hotel bookings. Thanks.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

** Kosovo - 19 September 1200 hrs GMT - PLEASE NOTE EXACT EMBARGO TIME AND AMEND YOUR NEWS RELEASES ACCORDINGLY. SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Indonesia - 28 September - LAUNCH OF CAMPAIGN

France - 12 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

** Algeria - 25 October** - PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE. SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

** APEC - 3 November ** - For further details please see internal note on Indonesia and East Timor sent out in News Service 208/94.

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Zaire - 14 September - Targeted for French-speaking news agencies and French-speaking African media only, as well as sent by IS to Reuters.

Togo - 15 September - See news service 168/94

** Mali - 21 September** - SEE NEWS SERVICE 205/94

** Egypt - 20 September** - A news release is being written to go with a document about human rights defenders under threat (AI INDEX: MDE 12/15/94)

Turkey - 14 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 181/94

** Iraq - 29 November ** - A news release will be written to accompany a document on NGE abuses in Iraqi Kurdistan since 1991.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS ARE CENTRAL IN ANY INTERVENTION IN HAITI

With a possible invasion of Haiti looking more likely every day, Amnesty International called upon the United States and the international community to ensure full transparency during any military intervention in Haiti.

While Amnesty International neither supports nor condemns the invasion, the organization says it is essential that during this military operation there be a high degree of access for independent human rights observers.

Despite the difficulties in reporting on human rights violations by all parties in an armed conflict, it is vital that impartial information on allegations of human rights violations is quickly documented and released.

"There is a real risk that in the chaos that could ensue during a confrontation between an invasion force and the de facto Haitian military, innocent lives would be lost," Amnesty International said. "Only with monitors present in Haiti will the truth be known about what happens."

Amnesty International urged possible intervening forces that an independent human rights monitoring mission -- such as that by the United Nations and the Organization of American States, or by other international bodies -- should be allowed to undertake on-site monitoring of the human rights situation.

"In addition, all personnel involved in the military operation should report any human rights violations in Haiti that they witness or serious allegations they hear," Amnesty International said.

Also, all those responsible for human rights violations -- whether they are the former Haitian military leaders, personnel of the invading force, or Haitian civilians seeking reprisals -- should be brought to justice, Amnesty International said.

"The international community, including countries neighbouring Haiti, should guarantee that if the Haitian military leaders flee, they will be fully accountable for the killings, torture and "disappearances" committed during their bloody reign of terror," Amnesty International said.

Amnesty International reminds the governments who might be involved in an eventual multinational presence in Haiti that the serious abuse of human rights in Haiti is a long-term issue, which will require long-term solutions. "Building a society in which human rights are respected requires both a moral and financial commitment from any intervening nations."

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