
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 219/94

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - HAITI (This is an updated version of the news release sent out yesterday in News Service 218/94. Based on discussions between the IS and AIUSA we have made some alterations to the text in order to fully clarify our message. I have highlighted these changes in bold. There is no need to re-release this item to your media, but please amend your copies or translations for the record. Thanks - Dina S.)

PLEASE NOTE EDAI & EFAI: Please would you send me the translation of the amended text of the enclosed item on Haiti as soon as it is done. Thanks - Dina S.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Indonesia - 0400 hrs GMT 28 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 215 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PANEL AT PRESS CONFERENCE LAUNCH

France - 12 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

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

APEC - 3 November -SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Mali - 21 September - SEE NEWS SERVICES 212/94 AND 205/94

Turkey - 14 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 181/94

Iraq - 29 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

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HAITI: STEPS IN RIGHT DIRECTION SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY THE DISBANDING AND DISARMING OF PARAMILITARY FORCES

Amnesty International called upon the United States authorities and the de facto military authorities of Haiti to disarm and disband Haiti's paramilitary forces, which are implicated in the torture, "disappearance" and killing of thousands of Haitians.

President Bill Clinton's promise yesterday to send some 1,000 US military police to Haiti to prevent the excessive use of force by Haitian law enforcement personnel is a step in the right direction, but only that, Amnesty International said.

"This **military police presence** is just a first step in developing a full plan to protect the human rights of Haiti's population," Amnesty International said. "It should be followed immediately by an international observer mission to add stability to the human rights situation there."

The US and the de facto Haitian military authorities should **help expedite the reestablishment of an independent and international civilian human rights monitoring presence** in that country, Amnesty International said.

"This is a crucial time in Haiti, when an independent and impartial third party, **such as civilian monitors**, should be scrutinizing the law enforcement activities of the Haitian military and the foreign forces, as well as making sure that human rights violations are properly investigated and addressed," Amnesty International said.

The Organization of American States/United Nations International Civilian Force (MICIVIH), which was forced to leave Haiti in July of this year, should return to resume its human rights monitoring duties, since some mission members remain on standby.

"The mission must have the complete cooperation of all those exercising authority in Haiti and their safety must be guaranteed," Amnesty International said.

Prisoners who are still detained by the Haitian military regime remain a matter of urgent concern, Amnesty International said. An impartial review of the physical safety and legal status of prisoners should be conducted immediately, to guarantee the detainees' human rights.

"Will the US military police have the authority to look into prison conditions and take preventive action if detainees are in danger?" Amnesty International asked.

Amnesty International reiterated its call for guidelines to be disseminated on the internationally accepted standards of conduct in law enforcement. The human rights organization insists on strict adherence to those international standards and that all those who enforce Haitian law must be trained to respect such standards.

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