

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Public Statement

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OAS: More transparency urgently needed

Amnesty International is concerned about public allegations made by two members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). The two Commissioners have reported that a decision adopted by the IACHR at its 127th session, to re-open the search for a new Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression in March 2008, was reversed at its 130th session after political pressure by some member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) and its Secretary General.

The principle of autonomous operation of the IACHR, and its ability to act with independence and impartiality from the OAS member states and bodies, as set out by the American Convention on Human Rights and other instruments* , are crucial for the legitimacy and credibility of the Inter-American human rights system.

Amnesty International urges that a full and immediate inquiry of the facts is carried out, by an independent and impartial mechanism, and the findings made public.

*American Convention on Human Rights art. 36(1)), the Statute of the IACHR(arts. 3(1), 7 and 8(1)), the Rules of Procedures of the IACHR (arts. 1(1) and (3), 4(1), 17(2) and 52), and the provisions of the Executive Order of the General Secretariat of the OAS (No. 05-13, Rev. 4, Annex H, II B(1) and (13).