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Open Letter from Amnesty International's Secretary General to European Union leaders on human rights crisis in Israel and the Occupied Territories

Amnesty International's Secretary General Irene Khan today called on European Union Heads of State and Government to urgently address the downward spiral of human rights abuses in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

In an open letter published on International Human Rights Day and ahead of next week's meeting of the European Council (15 December), Irene Khan made a series of concrete recommendations including the deployment of international human rights monitors to the region.

Irene Khan is currently leading an Amnesty International mission to Israel and the Occupied Territories during which she has discussed human rights concerns with government officials and members of civil society. The letter's recommendations are elaborated on in a briefing also published today, *Israel and the Occupied Territories - Road to nowhere*.

Amnesty International's recommendations include:

- o Deployment of an effective international human rights monitoring mechanism;
- o The investigation and prosecution through the exercise of universal jurisdiction of those responsible for crimes under international law;
- o Immediate halting of the sale or transfer of weapons to all parties in the conflict;
- o Concrete provisions to ensure the removal of Israeli settlements from the Occupied Territories, the dismantling of the fence/wall inside the West Bank, ending the closures and in the long term a fair solution to the refugee question.

For a copy of the open letter please see: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engmde150952006>

For the briefing, *Israel and the Occupied Territories - Road to nowhere*, please see:
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engmde150932006>

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