

January 2005

## **Statement by AI International Executive Committee on Tsunami Tragedy**

Dear Friends

It is with great sorrow that we have received news of the devastating consequences of the earthquake which occurred on 26 December off the coast of Sumatra / Aceh Province, causing tsunami waves which then broke at the shores of most of the countries off the Indian Ocean. More than one hundred thousand people have lost their lives and many more have seen their homes utterly destroyed.

On behalf of the International Executive Committee and the Secretary General, I would like to express our deepest sympathy with all those who have been directly or indirectly affected by this terrible disaster and express our condolences to those who have suffered the loss of loved ones.

We know that around the world, but especially amongst our Asia Pacific sections and structures, that our membership, our partner NGOs and other human rights activists may have lost or may still be searching for family members or friends who were present in the affected areas. We are attempting to assess this impact on our members, partners and supporters and will provide you with information as this comes to hand.

We will keep you updated as further information emerges.

Yours sincerely

Jaap Jacobson

Chair

International Executive Committee, Amnesty International