



PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Argentina: WTO summit must not exclude civil society

Amnesty International is gravely concerned by the denial of credentials to members of civil society organizations who sought to attend the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 10 December to 13 December 2017.

The civil society organizations that had been duly authorized by the WTO to participate in the Ministerial Conference regularly attend events such as these as standard practice. By doing so they seek to promote transparency in the forum's decisions and pluralism in its debates. However, their credentials were cancelled and they have been denied entry visas to Argentina.

"This action by the Argentine government is imposing an undue restriction on the exercise of free expression and on the work of defending human rights that these organizations undertake," said Michelle Kissenkoetter, Amnesty International's Deputy Director for the Americas.

Amnesty International calls on the Argentine government to remove these administrative obstacles and guarantee full participation for people in public policy debates. These debates should be pluralistic and the Argentine government should not impose discriminatory limitations on the work of activists or human rights defenders.