

Ambassador Jean-David Levitte
President of the Security Council
Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations
One Dag Hammarskold Plaza
245 East 47th Street, 44th Floor
New York, NY 10017

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18 September 2001

Dear Ambassador Levitte,

Amnesty International is appalled by the devastating and tragic attacks carried out in the USA involving the hijacking of civilian aircraft and the death and injury of thousands of men, women and children. As an organization that works to ensure respect for human rights, to obtain reparations for victims of abuses and to bring those responsible to justice, Amnesty International condemns these attacks as a massive abuse of human rights. Our organization expresses its deepest sympathy for the victims and recognizes the profound grief and outrage brought on by such deliberate and heinous crimes.

Amnesty International welcomes the call of the United Nations Security Council in resolution 1368 of 12 September 2001 to all states to cooperate urgently in bringing the perpetrators of these attacks to justice. We strongly urge the Security Council to ensure that in the search for justice states exhaust all measures to apprehend and prosecute the suspected perpetrators without risking the lives, well-being or human rights of civilian population.

We also believe that the alleged perpetrators should be brought to justice in full accordance with international human rights standards and without the imposition of the death penalty. Amnesty International appeals to the UN Security Council to exercise its authority to bring about these goals in a manner which upholds human rights for all.

I hope you will agree that only responses based on full respect for human rights and humanitarian principles and in accordance with the United Nations Charter can promote sustained international cooperation and solidarity globally at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Irene Khan
Secretary General

cc: UN Security Council Members

