Media Advisory

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Racism and the Administration of Justice Press Conference

Ahead of the UN World Conference against Racism (WCAR)*, Amnesty International will launch a new report, *Racism and the Administration of Justice,* at a press conference on Wednesday 25th July 2001.

The experiences of millions of people worldwide testify to a simple fact -- racism undermines all human rights. Racism infects, to varying degrees, and in various forms, every country in the world and all too often justice systems perpetuate racism by mirroring the prejudices of their society.

The report emphasizes that where there is racism there can be no justice. It highlights particular countries and cases of relevance to the administration of justice, focusing on law enforcement by security forces, the operations of the judicial system, and abuses in the context of asylum determination procedures.

Amnesty International will also be calling on governments to resolve political disputes which are marring preparations for the WCAR. Disagreements over reparations for slavery and colonialism and issues related to Israel risk undermining the whole conference.

Time: 10.30 am BST, Wednesday 25 July

Venue: The Foreign Press Association 11 Carlton House Terrace London SW1Y 5AJ Speakers: Kate Gilmore, Chief Executive, Amnesty International's International Secretariat Samkelo Mokhine, Amnesty International South Africa Claudio Cordone, Program Director, Amnesty International's International Secretariat

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*The UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance is due to be held in Durban, South Africa, between 30 August and 7 September this year.

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