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Editor  
The New York Times  
229 West 43rd Street  
New York, New York 10036

Dear Sir:

An article by Raymond Bonner published in the New York Times on 25 July contained misleading implications about Amnesty International and its recent report on secret arms shipments to the perpetrators of Rwanda's genocide that need to be corrected immediately.

In a democratic movement such as Amnesty International, with more than a million members worldwide, there will continue to be different opinions on how most effectively to address human rights violations. There's no disagreement in the movement, however, about the importance of maintaining the highest standards of accuracy.

Contrary to the article's assertions, Amnesty International meticulously researched the flow of arms to the former army of Rwanda and associated militia in its effort to wake up the international community which failed to act to prevent the re-arming of those known to have committed mass killings. The accuracy of the document has never been challenged.

In writing its 13 June report, *Rwanda: Arming the perpetrators of the genocide*, Amnesty International used eyewitness testimonies, field research, accounts from organizations in the region and journalists' reports in establishing the pattern of arms transfers. The same standards for accuracy applied to this report as for all other Amnesty International reports. This organization has documented that such weapons continue to be used to commit human rights violations.

The document was designed to get immediate action from governments to save lives. Pressure by Amnesty International and other human rights organizations, such as Human Rights Watch, contributed to greater scrutiny by the international community.

What some critics may perceive as harmful disagreements within Amnesty International, we see as healthy expressions of a democratic, multicultural and global grassroots movement. As our organization gathers on 10 August in Slovenia for the international council of this movement, it is the representatives from 150 countries around the world who will decide, ultimately.

Amnesty International will continue to focus its energies on promoting and protecting human rights and exposing violations around the world in the most effective manner possible.

Sincerely yours,

Pierre Sané  
Secretary General  
International Secretariat  
Amnesty International