

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE INVITATION

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## **Côte d'Ivoire: Arms to shatter a society**

Amnesty International and the United Nations Correspondents Association are pleased to invite you to a press conference on Tuesday 19 March at the United Nations to launch the new report, *Communities shattered by arms proliferation and abuse in Côte d'Ivoire*.

This report focuses on the catastrophic long-term consequences of a series of irresponsible international arms transfers made by a host of countries to the government and opposition armed groups in Côte d'Ivoire immediately before the imposition of a UN Security Council arms embargo in November 2004.

Those weapons contributed to grave human rights abuses, including during the post-election conflict in 2011 and the current armed violence in the country.

The report is being published as all UN Member States meet to negotiate the final text of a historic Arms Trade Treaty that could stop such irresponsible arms transfers in the future.

**WHAT: Report launch – Communities shattered by arms proliferation and abuse in Côte d'Ivoire**

**WHEN: Tuesday, 19 March, 1:30-2:30pm EDT**

**WHERE: Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium, United Nations Secretariat**

**WHO:**

- Salil Shetty, Secretary General, Amnesty International
- Salvatore Saguès, Amnesty International's West Africa Researcher
- Brian Wood, Amnesty International's Head of Arms Control and Human Rights

*NOTE: Copies of the full report, which is under embargo until after the press conference, will be available in English and French.*

*Photographs and video footage taken in Côte d'Ivoire in late February will be on display and can be made available on request.*

**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

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