

AI INDEX: AFR 32/62/97
24 NOVEMBER 1997

MEDIA ADVISORY

KENYA

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL APPEALS TO ALL PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

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Amnesty International today appealed to all presidential and parliamentary candidates in the forthcoming Kenyan elections to publicly commit themselves to specific measures to improve human rights in Kenya.

In open letters to both parliamentary and presidential candidates, Amnesty International has expressed concern about human rights in Kenya in the past. In recent months there have been some legislative reforms to amend or repeal laws which breach fundamental human rights standards agreed by the entire international community. However, while these reforms were being debated in parliament the authorities continued to use violence to break up peaceful pro-democracy rallies. Every Kenyan has the right to live in a society where basic rights are respected in law and in practice, Amnesty International does not believe the recent reforms go far enough to making this a reality.

The measures Amnesty International is suggesting are aimed at preventing human rights violations by increasing the accountability of Kenyan institutions such as the security forces, not by weakening them. More accountability and less arbitrary use of power by these institutions would enhance their effectiveness.

For further information, please refer to the attached open letters: *A human rights agenda for the Presidential election: open letter to all candidates* and *A human rights agenda for the Parliamentary election: open letter to all candidates*