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NAMIBIA

Open letter to *The Namibian* on its 15th anniversary

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Amnesty International is honoured to congratulate *The Namibian* on 15 years telling it like it is. Amnesty International's staff have always read with interest what *The Namibian* has reported. We have found that, as a source for information on Namibia and indeed on the whole region, throughout its history *The Namibian* has been useful. *The Namibian* has consistently and bravely reported on freedom of expression issues, and indeed on the whole range of human rights issues.

During the war for independence, when reporting it "like it is" was not only a matter of principle but a life threatening activity, Amnesty International was impressed by the courage of your staff. To see the newspaper survive the arrest and harassment of its staff and even the firebombing of its offices is in all ways admirable.

Since independence we have been impressed to see the extent to which the newspaper has been loyal to the principles you upheld during the liberation struggle. The newspaper has always maintained its principles and been consistent, even when it meant criticising those whom you once defended.

Government officials and ministers and even presidents in many countries have interfered and threatened the independent media, even where there are laws protecting them. This has also been the case in Namibia. However *The Namibian* and others in the independent media have not imposed self-censorship. On the

contrary you have challenged threatening statements from officials although this has resulted in new rounds of attacks.

We hope that we will remain partners in the defence of human rights also in the coming years, and that you will always be able to uphold your slogan: “Still telling it like it is”.

For Amnesty International

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KEYWORDS:

This report summarizes a -page document (words), : NAMIBIA Amnesty International is honoured to congratulate The Namibian on 15 years telling it like it is (AI Index: AFR 42/01/00) issued by Amnesty International in 14 July 2000. Anyone wishing further details or to take action on this issue should consult the full document. An extensive range of our materials on this and other subjects is available at <http://www.amnesty.org> and Amnesty International news releases can be received by email: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/emailnws.htm>

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