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Somaliland: Amnesty International delegation begins visit

An Amnesty International delegation will be visiting Somaliland from 10 to 18 February 2002 for workshops with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and meetings with government officials.

The international human rights organization last visited Somaliland in 1998 when representatives met the Government of President Mohamed Ibrahim Egal and held a successful NGO workshop jointly with International Cooperation for Development (ICD) in Hargeisa. The late President Egal and his Council of Ministers, as well as hundreds of members of civil society, signed a "Human Rights Pledge" marking the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

On this new visit, Amnesty International will be conducting a two-day workshop for Somali Human Rights Defenders, with a wide range of participants from Somaliland, Mogadishu, Puntland and Baidoa. The organization's representatives will also be meeting Somaliland NGOs in a follow-up workshop on their human rights activities and plans.

Amnesty International's delegation comprises Professor Ghanim Al-Najjar of the University of Kuwait, who is the United Nations' Independent Expert for Somalia, and also a founder-member of Amnesty International-Kuwait; and Dr Martin Hill from Amnesty International's International Secretariat in London. Both had represented Amnesty International in Somaliland in 1998.

During their visit they will be available to meet the media and may be contacted at Ambassador Hotel in Hargeisa, tel: +25221 38895 or via ambassadorhotelhargeisa@hotmail.com.

Public Document

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566

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