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****NEWS FLASH****

Pinochet case

Statement made by Human Rights groups outside the High Court today

The purpose of today's hearing is to ensure that Augusto Pinochet's fitness to stand trial is decided fairly and according to law. The implications of the decision go far beyond the fate of one man.

Where any person charged with crimes against humanity seeks to escape justice, it is imperative that the grounds are scrutinized openly and with the participation of the victims and those who represent them.

We know that Mr Straw is considering representation from many people and has not made up his mind. We want him to do so as transparently as possible and we wish the court to give him suitable guidance.

ENDS.../

For further information or to arrange an interview please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on 44 171 413 5566. At the High Court today please contact Soraya on 0378 472 116/ 119.