

EU Foreign Ministers: Address Human Rights Violations in Lebanon and Israel

(Brussels, 31 August) Amnesty International has appealed to the informal EU Foreign Ministers meeting in Finland tomorrow, to actively support the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in establishing a comprehensive investigation into violations of human rights in Lebanon and Israel.

“A cease-fire alone will not bring peace. A sustainable, durable solution can only take place with accountability and with full reparation being provided to the victims on both sides,” said Dick Oosting, Director of Amnesty International’s EU Office.

In a letter (available at www.amnesty-eu.org), Amnesty International asked the Foreign Ministers to ensure that the expanded UN peacekeeping operation, led by EU nations, includes a monitoring component that allows it to investigate and publicly report on violations, as well as an effective mandate to protect civilians.

“Amnesty International’s own recent findings point to war crimes having been committed on both sides. This must be addressed and this is the right time to do so. Human rights should be part of the basic design of both the short-term measures and the long-term political agenda. The EU should not miss this opportunity to set the foundations”, Oosting added.