

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

13 March 2002

AI Index - News Service Nr. 44

AI Index: MDE 15/021/2002

Israel/Occupied Territories: Start of an Amnesty International research mission

As the human rights situation is increasingly deteriorating on an unprecedented scale, an Amnesty International delegation is leaving today on a research mission to Israel and the Occupied Territories.

The Amnesty International mission -- the ninth of its kind since the beginning of the intifada -- will focus on the Israeli Defence Forces' actions in the Palestinian refugee camps over the last ten days. Amnesty International's continuing concerns include the unlawful killings of civilians, arbitrary and mass arrests, the excessive and disproportionate use of force, house demolitions and closures affecting residents of villages and towns in the Occupied Territories, in addition to killings carried out by armed groups.

The delegation is composed is of David Holley, a military expert, and Elizabeth Hodgkin, a staff member of the International Secretariat of Amnesty International.

\ENDS

public document

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

Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW web : <http://www.amnesty.org>

Last updated : March 12