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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 24/95

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ALGERIA: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNS YESTERDAY'S BOMBING

Amnesty International strongly condemns yesterday's deliberate and arbitrary killing of civilians in a bombing in the centre of Algiers believed to have been carried out by an armed political opposition group.

"This latest carnage is yet another example of the arbitrariness of the violence which has claimed thousands of civilian lives; there can be no justification for such crimes," Amnesty International said today. "Urgent measures must be taken to end this spiral of violence."

At least 38 people were killed and more than 250 injured by a car-bomb explosion in a busy street outside Algiers' central police station yesterday afternoon. This is the latest of several bombings which have claimed scores of civilian lives and injured hundreds.

The first bomb exploded in Algiers' airport in August 1992, killing 10 people and injuring more than 100. Other bomb attacks were carried out in 1994, the most recent in November 1994 when a bomb exploded in a cemetery in Mostaganem killing four children.

Amnesty International is reiterating its call to all armed political opposition groups in Algeria to immediately cease their attacks on civilians.

The organization is also renewing its call on the Algerian Government to respect human rights and to bring to an end violations, including torture and extrajudicial executions.

The human rights situation in the country has dramatically deteriorated over the past three years. Widespread human rights violations such as torture and extrajudicial executions by the security forces and deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians by armed Islamist groups have created a growing atmosphere of fear among the civilian population.

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