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INTERNAL - HAITI QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE

REVISED MILITARY OPERATION INTO HAITI

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS: AI SECRETARY-GENERAL PIERRE SANE IS EXPECTED TO MEET UN SECRETARY GENERAL BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI TOMORROW, 20 SEPTEMBER IN NEW YORK CITY. IN THAT MEETING, SANE WILL RAISE THE ISSUE OF IMPUNITY IN THE CONTEXT OF HAITI AND THE NEW AGREEMENT THAT GIVES AN AMNESTY TO THE PERPETRATORS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS THERE. THE IS PRESS OFFICE PLANS TO ISSUE A NEWS RELEASE CONCERNING THAT MEETING AND THE MESSAGES SANE CONVEYS TO GHALL. INCLUDED IN THIS NEWS SERVICE IS A QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHEET DESIGNED TO HELP PRESS OFFICERS ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HAITI AND TOMORROW'S SCHEDULED PRESS RELEASE.

NOTE: THE SAUDI ARABIA ITEM IS AN ITEM DEVELOPED IN REACTION TO NEWS JUST RECEIVED. IT WILL BE TARGETED BY THE IS TO ARABIC-ORIENTED MEDIA.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

**** Indonesia - 0400 hrs GMT 28 September**** - PLEASE NOTE EXACT EMBARGO TIME. LAUNCH OF CAMPAIGN

France - 12 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Algeria - 25 October - PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE. SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

APEC - 3 November -SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Mali - 21 September - SEE NEWS SERVICES 212/94 AND 205/94

Egypt - 20 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

Turkey - 14 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 181/94

Iraq - 29 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

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Saudi Arabia: Suspected government opponents arrested

Hundreds of suspected Sunni Islamist opponents of Saudi Arabian government arrested between 13 and 19 September may be subjected to torture and ill-treatment, Amnesty International said today.

Among those arrested by al-Mabahith al-'Ama (General Intelligence) and other security forces were 39-year-old Salman bin Fahd al-'Awda, a religious scholar and 40-year-old Sheikh Safr 'Abdul-Rahman al-Hawali, the former Head of Shari'a Department at 'Um al-Qura University. Also arrested was a 70-year-old business man, 'Abdullah al-Jalali.

The vast majority, including religious scholars, businessmen, students and academics, were arrested in the towns of al-Buraida, al-'Unaiza and al-Bukayriya in al-Qaseem Province. They are being held in incommunicado detention in al-Hair prison, General Intelligence headquarters in al-'Ulaisha and in police stations in al-Quseem and Riyadh. The latest arrests have followed the detention of Shiekh Salman al-'Awda and Sheikh Safr al-Hawali, on 13 and 17 September respectively. Both are prominent religious figures and critics of the ruling royal family.

Since April 1994, hundreds of Sunni Islamist opponents of the government have been arrested, following the transfer to London of the headquarters of Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights-CDLR and the opening in London of the offices of another opposition group: the Advice and Reformation Committee (Hay'at al-Nasiha wal Islah) led by Sheikh Usama bin Ladin.

The CDLR was founded in Riyadh on 3 May 1993 by six prominent religious scholars and professionals. It was banned on 11 May and many of its supporters and members were arrested, but released a few months later after signing an undertaking to disband the Committee.

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INTERNAL (for AI members only)

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Amnesty International

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**TO: PRESS OFFICERS
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**THE REVISED MILITARY OPERATION IN HAITI
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

The following questions and answers sheet is designed to help press officers and others to respond to questions on this weekend's agreement concerning Haiti. Please note these guidelines are internal and the text should not be released publicly. This is an internal document, and should not be given to journalists or other members of the public.

1. What is Amnesty International's position on the new agreement arrived at over the weekend to forestall an invasion of Haiti?

AI is closely observing the developments arising from this agreement. We are aware that there now appears to be no immediate risk of wide-spread loss of life. But so far, from what we have learned of the agreement, it apparently contains no human rights plan for Haiti.

AI is therefore concerned that both in the course of the revised US military operation in Haiti and in its aftermath, the international community must keep its attention turned to Haiti, to ensure that human rights protection is foremost on the agenda, and that a program is initiated to build respect for human rights in the country. As we have repeatedly stated throughout Haiti's ongoing human rights crisis, and as remains true in the current phase of the crisis, human rights must not simply be of concern to AI and other human rights groups, but must remain the responsibility of the international community.

2. What are AI's specific immediate recommendations?

The serious abuse of human rights in Haiti is a long-term and complex problem. A long-term international commitment to institution-building in Haiti is required to overcome it. Such efforts should include the development of a fair and impartial justice system, including the provision of training for judicial officials. We also believe, as we have stated on many occasions in the past, that the police and military must be rebuilt as entirely separate institutions, and personnel of both institutions must receive human rights training to ensure that both bodies respect human rights. We also urge a clear and long-term commitment on behalf of the international community to the

promotion, support and protection of human rights groups in Haiti. We also think it essential that all paramilitary groups be immediately disbanded; any members of such groups responsible for human rights violations must be brought to justice.

Most immediately, as we have stated on many previous occasions, AI believes it is crucial to have an immediate independent international human rights monitoring presence to observe and report on the revised US military operation. This is necessary to ensure that human rights are not violated by US or other foreign forces, by the de facto Haitian military authorities, or by Haitian civilians who could now seek reprisals. For example, the Organization of American States/United Nations International Civilian Force (MICIVIH) that was expelled in July could return to resume its human rights monitoring function, but this can only take place if the security of its members is assured and other conditions created that would allow it to effectively carry out its mandate.

3. What does AI think about Haiti's de facto military leaders being given amnesty?

The agreement that we have seen so far suggests that those responsible for murder, torture and "disappearances" in Haiti would benefit from an amnesty and would be able to escape justice. This is unacceptable. AI remains convinced that respect for human rights in Haiti will not be established until those responsible for gross human rights violations are brought to justice. Violators cannot be permitted to enjoy impunity, no matter where they may flee.

4. What is AI's reaction to reports that Argentina has offered a number of Haiti's current military leadership asylum?

All states, including Argentina, have international obligations to fulfil with respect to prosecuting those who have denied the Haitian people their human rights for so long. For instance, in the case of torture, states are obliged to establish their jurisdiction over cases of torture when the alleged offenders are present in their territory.

5. Is AI going to go to Haiti?

AI will shortly be seeking a visit to Haiti to evaluate the current human rights situation. We are continuing to study the situation closely as it develops, which will assist us in determining the most appropriate time for such a visit, and the most appropriate procedures to arrange it.

6. It has been stated that by accepting the new agreement, Aristide has in effect been made into a puppet of the US. What is AI's view?

AI does not pass judgement on this issue. Our concern remains human rights protection – particularly ensuring that violators do not enjoy impunity, and that steps are taken to begin the institution building necessary to lay the foundation for human rights to be truly respected in Haiti.

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