

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

AI Index: AMR 41/039/2007 (Public)
News Service No: 139
24 July 2007

Mexico: Amnesty International Secretary General visits the country -- Itinerary

Amnesty International Secretary General Irene Khan will lead a High Level Mission to Mexico between 31 July and 5 August 2007.

Amnesty International's (AI) delegation will include: Susan Lee, Director of the Americas Programme; Judit Arenas, Head of the Office of the Secretary General; Rupert Knox, Researcher on Mexico and Nancy Tapias-Torrado, Campaigner on Mexico.

The delegation will visit Mexico City and the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero and will meet with government officials, survivors of human rights violations and members of civil society.

This is the third time Irene Khan leads a visit to Mexico since 2003 and the first to take place under the new administration. A meeting with President Calderon has been requested.

The delegation's activities include:

Tuesday 31 July – Oaxaca

AM -- AI will meet survivors and relatives of victims of human rights violations committed during the ongoing crisis and women's organizations working on issues of violence against women in the state.

PM -- AI will meet State Governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz and his cabinet to discuss the human rights situation in Oaxaca, particularly in relation to the need to investigate abuses committed in the ongoing crisis.

PM -- Media Briefing: Irene Khan will brief journalists about AI's concerns regarding Oaxaca.

Wednesday 1 August – DF

AM -- AI will host an event with survivors of human rights violations from across Mexico regarding their struggle for justice and the need for urgent action to address human rights issues in Mexico. Club de Periodistas, Filomeno Mata No. 8, Colonia Centro Historico, Delegacion Cuauhtémoc, México DF.

11:00 hrs -- The event will be opened to the media and journalist are invited to hear testimonies from survivors of human rights violations.

The event will be followed by a **media briefing** at which Irene Khan will present AI's general human rights concerns in Mexico and the overall expectations of the mission. AI will also issue a summary of human rights concerns in Mexico. Survivors of human rights violations will also be available for media interviews. Club de Periodistas, Filomeno Mata No. 8, Colonia Centro Historico, Delegacion Cuauhtémoc, México DF.

Thursday 2 August – DF

09:30 hrs -- AI's delegation will meet the Minister of Foreign Affairs to discuss Mexico's role in the protection of human rights internationally. Plaza Juarez 20, Colonia Centro, México DF.

11:00 hrs -- AI's delegation will meet the Minister of Interior to discuss AI's concerns regarding human rights in Mexico. Abraham González 48, Colonia Juárez, México DF.

17:30 hrs -- Irene Khan will lead a meeting with Mexico's National Supreme Court to discuss the role of the judiciary in addressing human rights violations in Mexico. Pino Suárez 2, Colonia Centro, México DF.

Friday 3 August – DF

AM -- Irene Khan will meet members of Congress to discuss the need for judicial and constitutional reforms and to

highlight the role of the legislature in scrutinizing the implementation of human rights policy and practice. Av Congreso de la Union 66, Colonia El Parque, Delegacion Venustiano Carranza, Mexico DF.

Saturday 4 August – Guerrero

AM -- Irene Khan will visit communities threatened with eviction or otherwise affected by the proposed La Parota Hydroelectric Dam near Acapulco.

18:00 hrs -- **Press Conference.** Irene Khan will host a press conference in which she will present a new report on AI's concerns regarding the consequences of the construction of the dam on local communities. Location to be confirmed.

End of mission

NOTE TO PLANNING DESKS AND EDITORS

- o Events are shown in local time.
- o The itinerary is subjected to last minute changes -- please check with the press office before making arrangements to cover any of the events listed.
- o Irene Khan will be available for comment after each meeting. She is available for one-to-one interviews. To arrange an interview please contact the delegation's press office in advance.
- o Press releases, briefings and photos will be issued on most days. For copies, please log on to www.amnesty.org or contact the press office.

For more information, please contact the delegation's press officers:

Josefina Salomón
AI Mexico: (+52 55) 55 74 71 39 / (+52 55) 55 74 67 32
Mobile: (Mexico) (+52 1) 55 3670 4388 (UK) + 44 7778 472 116
Email: jsalomon@amnesty.org or josefina_salomon@hotmail.com

Andrés Vázquez
AI Mexico: (+52 55) 55 74 71 39 / (+52 55) 55 74 67 32
Mobile: (Mexico) (+52 1) 55 3670 4387
Email: avazquez@amnesty.org

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>

For latest human rights news view <http://news.amnesty.org>