

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: ORG 10/011/2008
Date: 10 October 2008

Amnesty International's Secretary General salutes Martti Ahtisaari as Nobel Peace Laureate, 2008

Amnesty International today paid tribute to Martti Ahtisaari, the winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, recognized for his important work around the world in conflict resolution in places where grave human rights abuses were taking place.

"We welcome and celebrate the decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Martti Ahtisaari," said Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International. "This recognises the great work he has done to resolve conflict around the world. In places like Aceh this has been vital to the work of Amnesty International in enabling us to confront the grave human rights abuses that are a mark of such conflict zones."

Amnesty International has worked with Martti Ahtisaari over the years, particularly on Aceh in Indonesia where abductions, torture and unlawful killings took place on a daily basis prior to the resolution of the conflict in this troubled region.

Amnesty International was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. The organization is a worldwide movement of more than 2.2 million members in more than 150 countries and regions who campaign for internationally recognized human rights for all.