AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ADVISORY

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Central African Republic's 'descent into chaos': Amnesty International experts available for interview

The UN Deputy Secretary-General's call <u>yesterday</u> for immediate international action to stem the escalating crisis in Central African Republic (CAR) reflects the extreme urgency of the situation, Amnesty International said.

Amnesty International researchers have recently returned from the country and from the border between northern CAR and south-eastern Chad and are available for interview.

The organization's report <u>CAR: Human rights crisis spiralling out of control</u> published 30 October, denounced unprecedented human rights violations and abuses in the country, committed by security forces, former Seleka coalition soldiers and other armed groups.

<u>Satellite images</u> the organization published a week later showed the shocking aftermath of abuses, including hundreds of homes that had been burnt to the ground and evidence of mass internal displacement as tens of thousands of people fled the abuses.

As French and other officials raise the spectre of the crisis in CAR deteriorating into genocide, Amnesty International is calling on the UN, the African Union and other international actors to <u>take stock of the impending human catastrophe</u> and take urgent action.

The following Amnesty International experts are available for interview:

- Christian Mukosa, Researcher on Central Africa, in London (English, French, Kiswahili, Lingala)
- Jean-Eric Nkurikiye, Campaigner on Central Africa, in Dakar (English, French, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi)

For more information or to arrange interviews, please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566 or email: press@amnesty.org