

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Media Advisory

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### **Rwanda: Invitation to a press conference on the launch of a report on gacaca justice system**

Amnesty International invites journalists to the launch of its latest report: *Rwanda: Gacaca: A question of justice*. The report will be launched in Kampala, Uganda on 17 December 2002.

The burdens faced by the post-genocide judicial system in Rwanda have proved insurmountable. Rwanda's special genocide chambers have tried less than six percent of those detained for suspected genocide offences. There are now approximately 110,000 Rwandese in the country's detention facilities, the vast majority of them still awaiting trial.

The new *Gacaca* tribunals draw upon a customary system of community hearings used to resolve local disputes. *Gacaca* represents an opportunity for genocide survivors, defendants and witnesses to present their cases in an open and participatory environment. This could be an important step towards national reconciliation and resolving Rwanda's prison crisis.

In its report, Amnesty International examines the *Gacaca* Jurisdictions, the legislation establishing them, their organization and various phases of implementation. It also attempts to compare *gacaca* jurisdictions in relation to international fair trial standards and the Rwandese human rights environment in which they will operate.

#### **Further Conference Details**

**DATE:** 17 December 2002  
**TIME:** 4:00 p.m. Kampala Time (14:00GMT)  
**VENUE:** Amnesty International Africa Regional Office  
Plot 20 A Kaggwa Kawalya Close (Kololo)  
Kampala

#### **SPEAKERS**

Florien Ukizemwabo, Executive Secretary, *Ligue Rwandaise pour la Promotion et la Défense des Droits de l'Homme* (LIPRODHOR)

Zachary Lomo, Director of Refugee Law Project, Kampala

Richard Haavisto, Researcher, Amnesty International Africa Regional Office, Kampala

***For further information, please contact:***

**Richard Haavisto or Stephanie Brancaforte**  
ARO/AI Kampala

Tel: 256-041-252992 or 256-041-252900 (office)  
256 077 722 957 (mobile phone)

**Or**

**George Ngwa**

Press Office, International Secretariat, London

Tel: 44 20 7413 5564.

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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>

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