
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 177/94

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **HAITI** (This item is being sent to international media by the IS press office)

PLEASE NOTE: The IS Press Office is planning to put out an English-language electronic news release on Haiti on August 22, featuring footage now being filmed of Amnesty International's outpost team based in the Dominican Republic. It may also have images of human rights violations in Haiti. The film crew will be doing a quick turn-around to produce the ENR by that date, so there will not be time to translate the ENR or accompanying script into other languages. Please contact the Annabel Middlemas at the IS if you want a copy of the ENR.

PLEASE NOTE: Taslima Nasrin - the Bangladeshi feminist writer - is now in Sweden. If you receive any media queries about her refer them to the President of PEN, in Sweden - Gabi Gleishman - tel: +46 86 42 28 73

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

India - 16 August - SEE NEWS SERVICE 175/94

Kosovo - 19 September - PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Algeria - first week of October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

France - 12 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Thailand - 18 August - SEE NEWS SERVICE 176/94

Bhutan/Nepal - 25 August - See news service 168/94

Brazil - 14 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Togo - 15 September - See news service 168/94

Indonesia - 28 September - LAUNCH OF CAMPAIGN

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ANY DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO HAITI MUST ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Amnesty International today urged Venezuela and Argentina to make sure human rights are high on the agenda of a possible diplomatic mission they may make to Haiti.

"This diplomatic mission should give a strong message to the de facto Haitian authorities that the continuing killings, 'disappearances' and torture must stop," Amnesty International said today in an appeal to these countries, which are two of the five governments in a group of nations known as the "Friends of the United Nations Secretary-General for Haiti."

The visit of the "Friends" group of nations could be crucial in resolving the crisis in Haiti, according to Amnesty International, which demands the "Friends" to make human rights an integral part of any diplomatic initiative.

"The need for an objective assessment of the ongoing severity of the human rights situation in Haiti is fundamental to the construction of a society in which human rights are respected," Amnesty International said. "We are therefore calling on any diplomatic mission to the country to consider long-term solutions to the human rights situation."

Another step in finding a long-term solution would be the return of human rights observers, including the UN/Organization of American States international civilian human rights observer mission and other observers, to monitor and report on any human rights violations in Haiti, Amnesty International said.

"We also call on any government who joins this diplomatic mission to publicly commit themselves to ensuring that all perpetrators of human rights violations in Haiti are tried in accordance with international standards for fair trials," the human rights organization said.

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