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Sierra Leone: Secretary General Irene Khan visits country to demand reduction in maternal deaths

Amnesty International's Secretary General Irene Khan will lead a high level mission to Sierra Leone from 18 to 25 September 2009 to launch a campaign to reduce maternal deaths in the country, which has one of the highest maternal death rates in the world.

In Freetown, Irene Khan will kick-off the ***Amnesty International Caravan to End Maternal Mortality*** that will tour the country raising awareness of maternal deaths as a human rights issue within Sierra Leone and demanding improved healthcare services from the government. She will then join the next stop in the Caravan, the town of Makeni, 110 km away from Freetown.

In the capital, she will also meet with President Ernest Bai Koroma, First Lady Sia Koroma and other senior government ministers to discuss maternal healthcare in the country.

The delegation will visit hospitals to meet victims and healthworkers, meet civil society representatives, women's groups, international donors, diplomats and members of the United Nations.

On **25 September** Irene Khan will present the findings of the mission and launch the report ***Out of Reach: The Cost of Maternal Healthcare in Sierra Leone***; Amnesty International's first substantive report on maternal healthcare in Sierra Leone.

Notes to editors

- Images, a News Access Tape and B-roll of the mission will be available under embargo ahead of the report launch.
- Irene Khan will be available for interviews from Sierra Leone.
- Amnesty International is tackling maternal mortality as part of its recently launched Demand Dignity campaign focusing on poverty and human rights.

For more information, to receive an advance copy of the report or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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