

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL EU OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

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GAERC: Put the Record Straight, Human Rights Violations on Both Sides Need to be Investigated

(Brussels, 14 September 2006) As it presents a report documenting Hizbullah's attacks in Northern Israel, Amnesty International appeals once again to EU Foreign Ministers to call for a comprehensive, independent and impartial inquiry into violations of international humanitarian law by both sides in the conflict.

Amnesty International regrets that the August resolution of the UN Human Rights Council to set up an inquiry only focused on Israel and did not address the violations by Hizbullah.

The report that is published today ("Israel/Lebanon: Civilians under fire - Hizbullah's attacks on northern Israel" available at www.amnesty-eu.org), concludes that Hizbullah's rocket attacks on civilians and civilian objects constitute war crimes under international law. This report complements the organization's previous findings on violations committed by Israel.

"If the EU is to have a meaningful, constructive role in this process it needs to press for a proper investigation that is balanced and addresses both sides of the conflict", said Dick Oosting, Amnesty International's EU Office Director.

In a letter to Foreign Ministers, Amnesty International once again urges the EU to call for:

- a comprehensive and impartial inquiry addressing the violations committed by both sides
- the UN Secretary-General to establish a panel of independent experts to conduct this inquiry
- ensure that the outcome of this inquiry is public, with recommendations aimed at preventing further violations.