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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

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Public Document

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