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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Amnesty International delegation visits Solomon Islands**

As part of Amnesty International's continuing research into the human rights situation of South Pacific countries, the human rights organization is sending a two-person delegation on a mission to the Solomon Islands, beginning on 13 September 1999.

The delegates intend to visit Guadalcanal, Malaita and possibly other islands. The main purpose of their visit is to gather information on the human rights situation in the Solomon Islands, where ethnic unrest on Guadalcanal has prompted international peace and relief efforts and the declaration of a state of emergency earlier this year.

In Honiara, Dr. Heinz Schürmann-Zeggel, Australia-Pacific Researcher at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International in London, will be joined by Reverend Akuila Yabaki, Director of the Citizens' Constitutional Forum, a non-partisan Fiji-based non-governmental organization committed to democracy and human rights.

During their visit, Reverend Yabaki and Dr. Schürmann-Zeggel will be meeting representatives of the government, churches, civil society and international organizations.

In accordance with normal Amnesty International media policy, the delegates will not be available for interviews on any specific findings before completing their mission on 28 September 1999.

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**For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London on + 44 171 413 5566, Wellington on + 64 4 499 3349 or Sydney on + 61 2 9217 7640. Alternatively you can visit [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org).**