

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

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France: The search for justice PRESS CONFERENCE INVITATION

Amnesty International will present at a press conference in Paris a new report that shows how members of the French police force use torture and ill-treatment and unjustified lethal force against suspects and detainees without fear of being brought to justice.

The organization's latest report *France: The Search for Justice: The effective impunity of law enforcement officers in cases of shootings, deaths in custody or torture and ill-treatment* is based on 20 cases documented over 10 years. It reveals widespread failure of the judicial system to prosecute and punish human rights violations leading to a "two-speed justice" which prosecutes cases brought by police officers far more quickly than those brought by victims of police brutality, who are predominantly people of Arab or African origin.

When: 1100 local time (0900 GMT)
Wednesday, 6 April 2005

Where: Amnesty International France
72/76 - Boulevard de la Villette - 75019 Paris

Panel: Geneviève Sevrin, Director of Amnesty International France
David Diaz-Jogeix, Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Deputy Programme Director, Europe and Central Asia
Gillian Fleming, Amnesty International's researcher on France, International Secretariat
Gaelle Duplantier, lawyer, Amnesty International France, legal department
Francis Terquem, lawyer defending a victim of police ill-treatment in 2003
Karim Latifi, victim of police ill-treatment in 2002
Daniel François, lawyer, who himself was a victim of police ill-treatment in the course of his work in 2002
Virginie Huset, widow of a victim of police brutality

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