

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Media Advisory

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### **Rwanda/Uganda/Democratic Republic of Congo: Visit of Amnesty International's Secretary General**

Few countries have suffered as much violence and want as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in recent years. The inauguration of a new transitional government in Kinshasa in June 2003 has not yet fundamentally altered this bleak state of affairs. Killings, war crimes and other serious human rights abuses continue unabated in Ituri district and North and South Kivu provinces in eastern DRC.

On Wednesday 15 October 2003, Amnesty International's Secretary General Irene Khan will begin a 10-day high level mission to Rwanda, Uganda and the DRC. The primary purpose of the mission will be to discuss with key government leaders and officials of international governmental organizations Amnesty International's human rights concerns on eastern DRC. The delegation will specifically be lobbying the governments of DRC, Rwandan and Uganda to commit to end all forms of support for armed groups in eastern DRC and to help influence other actors outside the region.

Irene Khan will also be raising with the governments of the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, Amnesty International's specific concerns in those countries. She will be in:

Rwanda: 15 - 20 October  
Uganda : 20 - 22 October  
DR. Congo: 22 - 24 October.

The delegation includes: Seydi Gassama, Director of Amnesty International's Senegalese Section; Kate Allen, Director of Amnesty International's UK Section; Philippe Hensmans, Director of Amnesty International's Belgian - French Section; and Michael Hammer, Director of the Africa Program at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International.

**For further information on the mission or to arrange interviews, contact:**

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