

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

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Spain: Invitation to the media Amnesty International delegates back from Morocco and Spain

A man from Cameroon is hiding in the Moroccan border town of Oujda. He had entered the Spanish enclave of Melilla three times but was beaten and expelled from there by the Spanish Guardia Civil. An asylum-seeker from Cote d'Ivoire was rounded up with other West Africans by Moroccan police in the capital Rabat, taken to the border and told to walk to Algeria.

These and other first hand testimonies have been collected by a delegation of Amnesty International during a visit to Spain and Morocco including the towns of Ceuta, Melilla, Oujda and Nador. In addition, the delegation visited the capitals of both countries, Rabat and Madrid, to raise its concerns with the national authorities. In the past few weeks scores of people have been injured and at least 12 killed while trying to cross into the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. Hundreds more, including possible asylum-seekers, have been rounded up by the Moroccan authorities and placed in detention or deported.

Amnesty International's delegates will present their findings at a press conference in Madrid.

When: 1100h (0900h GMT) on 26 October 2005
Where: Consejo de la Juventud Espanola, C/Montera, 24, 6 floor, Madrid
Who: Javier Zúñiga, Amnesty International Senior Advisor to Regional Programmes;
Philip Luther, Amnesty International International Secretariat researcher on North Africa;
Virginia Alvarez, Amnesty International Spain researcher;
Francisco Etxebarria, Spanish forensic expert.

Audiovisual material with images from the mission and testimonies of migrants on Beta SP and DVD will be made available to journalists.

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