

Brussels, 3 August 2006
Ref. : B569

Dear President of the Council of Ministers of the European Union,

Further to our appeal to the special meeting of the General Affairs Council earlier this week on the situation in Lebanon and Israel, Amnesty International is now addressing the UN Security Council asking it to take immediate measures to protect civilians in both countries.

In forwarding to you Secretary General Irene Khan's open letter of 2 August to the Security Council, Amnesty International urges the EU and all its Member States to strengthen their collective role and responsibility in achieving an immediate, full and effective ceasefire to protect civilians on both sides of the conflict. In addition, we urge the EU to ensure that due emphasis is placed on the obligations of the parties:

- to observe international humanitarian law and to respect the principles of distinction and proportionality;
- to allow for independent investigation of alleged grave violations of international humanitarian law;
- to ensure individual accountability for war crimes and other crimes under international law;
- to allow immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access.

Yours sincerely,



Dick Oosting
Director EU Office



Frank Johansson
Director Amnesty International Finland