

Dr. Luís Filipe Marques Amado
President of the
Council of Ministers of the European Union

13 July 2007
Ref: B689

Dear Dr Amado,

Subject : Amnesty International and Saferworld report : Indian helicopters for Myanmar: making a mockery of the EU arms embargo?

The international community has long-standing and extensively documented concerns about grave international human rights and international humanitarian law violations by the Myanmar authorities, including by the army in areas of armed conflict and counter-insurgency operations and ethnic minority areas.

We are writing to you to draw your attention to a new report from Amnesty International and Saferworld, concerning intelligence from credible sources that the government of India may transfer military helicopters to the government of Myanmar, as part of the two countries' increasing military co-operation. Such transfers risk undermining existing EU sanctions and arms embargoes on Myanmar.

India has reportedly been in negotiations with Myanmar since late 2006 to supply military helicopters, including the Advanced Light Helicopter(ALH) which is highly likely to contain components, technology and munitions originating from EU member states – Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom - and the US. Both the EU and the US have had long-standing sanctions and embargoes in place to prevent the transfer of military equipment to Myanmar, in response to the continuing violations of human rights.

The report calls on EU member states to initiate immediate consultations with the Indian government to confirm whether India intends to supply, or indeed has already supplied, ALHs to Myanmar. If so, Amnesty International calls on EU member states to:

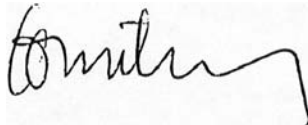
- Withdraw all existing export licence authorisations and refuse any new applications for any transfers of components or technology that could be used for the ALH;
- Discontinue all future productions co-operation with India that might lead to transfers of embargoed equipment to Myanmar; and
- Attach to all future licences for transfers of controlled goods and technology to India a strict and enforceable condition prohibiting re-export to states under embargo.

In addition to improving national and EU practice, EU member states should continue to give their full support to current efforts to develop an International Arms Trade Treaty, including seeking support for it in discussions with third countries.

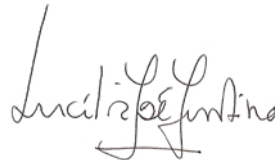
We would welcome any feedback that you have on this report, or on actions taken in this area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Dick Oosting
Director,
Amnesty International EU Office



Lucília José Justino
Vice- Chair,
Amnesty International Portugal

Cc:

Nuno Severiano Teixeira, Minister for Defence, Portugal

Javier Solana, High Representative for CFSP

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations

Riina Kionka, Personal Representative for Human Rights of the High Representative for CFSP

