

**Antipersonnel landmines and cluster bombs  
Amnesty International denounces the investment policies  
of France's leading banking institutions**

**Paris, 24 January 2008** - Amnesty International France (AIF) today publishes the results of its exchanges with France's largest banking groups; these results reveal the absence of a public policy of non-investment in companies linked to the trade in antipersonnel landmines and cluster bombs.

In May 2007, AIF questioned the banking groups BNP Paribas, Crédit Agricole, Natixis and Société Générale regarding their investments in such companies. Of the four banks approached by AIF, Natixis is the only one that declined to communicate regarding any policy of own-account investments in companies linked to the trade in antipersonnel landmines - weapons that are banned by the Ottawa Convention. Crédit Agricole and Natixis do not have a public policy of no own-account investments in companies linked to the trade in cluster bombs, even though these weapons are about to be banned by a treaty coming out of the Oslo Process. The Société Générale group indicated that it has no own-account shareholdings in the armaments sector. Finally Paribas, which has a policy of no own-account investments in antipersonnel landmines and cluster bombs, is the only bank that has made a commitment to raising client awareness.

The use of antipersonnel landmines and cluster bombs violates the principles of distinction and proportionality as defined by international humanitarian law, since these weapons strike civilian populations and military targets indiscriminately and continue to kill or mutilate long after the end of hostilities. The dissemination of antipersonnel landmines and cluster bombs has devastating humanitarian consequences for the populations of affected countries and remains a major obstacle to the economic and social development of those countries.

Amnesty International France therefore appeals to all banks:

- **To adopt a public policy of non-investment in companies linked to the trade in antipersonnel landmines and cluster bombs, and to do so before 19 April 2008, Global Day of Action to ban Cluster Bombs;**
- To cease all direct investment in companies trading in antipersonnel landmines;
- To identify all companies involved in the cluster bomb trade and to end all direct investment in these companies, whatever the share of business represented by this type of weapon.
- To implement a policy of awareness raising among their clients, so as to inform them of the precise nature of their investments and thus allow them to modify their choices accordingly.
- To end the practice of offering their clients investment opportunities in companies linked to the trade in antipersonnel landmines and cluster bombs.

**Attached:** detailed results of the exchanges with the above banks and a note on the work of Amnesty International France in this field.

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**For further information**

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