



## **PRESS RELEASE**

15 February 2006 – **for immediate release**

### **Glorification of terror clause violates international law**

ARTICLE 19 believes that the 'glorification clause' in the UK Terrorism Bill, to be voted on in the House of Commons today, violates international law and standards on the right to freedom of expression.

Agnes Callamard, ARTICLE 19's Executive Director, said today:

"This new offence would be unacceptably broad. It would capture all sorts of statements that are perfectly legitimate under international human rights law. While it is right that the Government must protect its citizens, it must act within the limits set by international human rights law – which it has itself incorporated into English law only a few years ago. While the right to freedom of expression does not protect incitement to terrorism and violence, the new offence would simply not reach that threshold. That is why it was taken out by the Lords, and why the Commons should vote against reinstating it. "

### **Notes to editors**

1. The House of Commons is today voting on amendments to the Terrorism Bill made by the House of Lords. Amongst other things, the House of Lords considered that the new offence of 'glorifying terrorism' was unacceptably broad, and removed it from the Bill. The Home Secretary, Charles Clarke, will today move amendments that would reintroduce glorification of violence as a terrorist offence.
2. For more information, contact Agnes Callamard, ARTICLE 19 Director, at 020 7278 9292 or via [agnes@article19.org](mailto:agnes@article19.org), or Peter Noorlander, Legal officer, at 020 7278 9292 or via [peter@article19.org](mailto:peter@article19.org).