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Amnesty International

International Secretariat

1 Easton Street

London WC1X 8DJ

United Kingdom

TO: PRESS OFFICERS

FROM: PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

DATE: 17 DECEMBER 1992

WEEKLY UPDATE SERVICE 50/92

Contained in this weekly update is an external item on Israel and the Occupied Territories.

NEWS INITIATIVES

Bosnia-Herzegovina - 21 January

The Swiss Section, in connection with the IS, is organizing a media event and briefing in Geneva as a conclusion to the letter-writing campaign for human rights in the Former Yugoslavia. We are hoping to have around 250,000 letters from around the world, which will be used for a visual photo opportunity - which should attract tv. The IS will be inviting the international media, including agencies, radio and television - you are encouraged to invite any of your media who may be interested in attending. We will be sending you more details as they are finalized - in the meantime, please contact Daniel Bolomey at the Swiss Section if you have any queries.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Australia - 27 January

News release to go with document on Aboriginal deaths and ill-treatment in custody.

Japan - 10 March

(New information)

A document and news release on refugee issues in Japan. We anticipate a high level of media interest in this news release.

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Brazil - no date fixed yet

(New Information)

There will be a weekly update item to accompany a document about human rights violations against indigenous peoples in Brazil. We are hoping to have it available in Brazil to coincide with a planned concert for human rights there, but the concert has recently been postponed and we do not know yet when it will be rescheduled. We shall make every effort to make sure that sections have the document in time.

Cuba - 17 December

Weekly update item embargoed for today.

Racism and ill-treatment in Europe

(New Information)

News release to go with Focus and campaign action on racist ill-treatment in Europe. The date is once again under discussion and we will keep you posted: it seems certain to be early February.

SECTION INITIATIVES

Equatorial Guinea - 4 January

(New information)

The Spanish Section has written a news release to accompany a document on Equatorial Guinea, which will be embargoed for 14 January. The document has been sent out to you in the weekly mailing. Please contact Cesar Díaz at the Spanish section for more information about the news release.

2. MDE 15/WU 06/92 EXTERNAL

17 December 1992

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL STRONGLY CONDEMNS KILLING OF ISRAELI HOSTAGE, CALLS ON ISRAEL TO STOP DEPORTATION OF PALESTINIAN DETAINEES

Amnesty International has strongly condemned the killing of Sergeant Nissim Toledano, a member of the Israeli Border Police who was taken hostage on 13 December 1992 by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and whose body was found two days later. The organization had called on Hamas not to ill-treat or execute him and to release him as he was held as a hostage. It regrets that its appeal has failed.

Amnesty International is appealing to the Israeli authorities not to retaliate to the killing of Sergeant Toledano by deporting hundreds of Palestinians. Over 400 Palestinians, said by the government to be supporters of Hamas and other Palestinian groups, were moved during the night of 16 December to near the border with Lebanon and are now reported to be held blindfold in buses awaiting deportation. The Israeli High Court of Justice has ordered the government not to carry out the deportations until it reviews the decision. It is currently meeting to do so.

Amnesty International opposes the detention and forcible exile of individuals when such measures are imposed solely on account of their political or other beliefs, expressed without using or advocating violence.

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ADDITION TO WEEKLY UPDATE SERVICE 50/92

Contained in this weekly update is an external item on Israel and the Occupied Territories.

1. MDE 15/WU 07/92 EXTERNAL
18 December 1992

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALLS ON ISRAEL TO ALLOW PALESTINIAN
DEPORTEES TO RETURN

Amnesty International condemns the deportation of about 400 Palestinians to Lebanon. The deportees are currently in the Israel-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. The Lebanese authorities have stated that they will not accept them into Lebanon.

Amnesty International is calling on the Israeli authorities to allow the deportees back into Israel. "If any of them are suspected of an offence, they should be charged and given a prompt and fair trial or released," said the organization.

Earlier Amnesty International had condemned the killing of a member of the Israeli Border Police who was taken hostage on 13 December 1992 by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and whose body was found two days later. The organization had called on Hamas not to ill-treat or execute him and to release him as he was held as a hostage.