
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 61/95

TO: PRESS OFFICERS
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE
DATE: 21 MARCH 1995

AI INDEX: NWS 11/61/95
DISTR: SC/PO
NO OF WORDS: 1243

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **TURKEY** (this item is being sent to international media)

INTERNAL - Audio Visual News 6; ANNUAL REPORT MATERIALS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Campaign on Women - 7 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 12/95, 34/95, 37/95, 42/95 & 44/95

Brazil - 27 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 29/95, 59/95

RWANDA - 6 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 37/95

SYRIA - 11 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 32/95

ETHIOPIA - 25 APRIL - SEE NEWS SERVICE 59/95

GERMANY - 23 MAY - SEE NEWS SERVICE 59/95

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES - 11 May - SEE NEWS SERVICE 59/95

IRAN - 31 May - SEE NEWS SERVICE 59/95

EVENTS AND MISSIONS

The details below are for your information only, and there may or may not be media work involved. Can you please not publicize anything until further notice from the IS.

MISSION TO CHECHNYA 8 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 53, 54 & 58

MISSION TO BURUNDI 13 - 27 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 37/95

MISSION TO KENYA 16 March - 2 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 37/95

MISSION TO HAITI 18 March - 3 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 58/95

MISSION TO CHAD - 27 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 59/95

AI INDEX: EUR 44/WU 05/95
21 MARCH 1995

TURKEY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALLS ON TURKEY TO SAFEGUARD DETAINEES IN IRAQI KURDISTAN AGAINST TORTURE AND "DISAPPEARANCE"

In the wake of recent Turkish incursions into Iraqi Kurdistan -- in what the government has described as policing operations against the PKK -- Amnesty International calls for the implementation of safeguards to ensure the safety of all prisoners and civilians.

According to official accounts, 35,000 Turkish troops backed by tanks and artillery units have entered Iraqi Kurdistan. The stated aim of the operation is to destroy camps of the PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party) within a five-mile deep strip along the border with Turkey.

Amnesty International has no position on the legality of the incursion, or on the security operations being conducted against PKK camps. However, according to reports issued by Reuters this morning, prisoners have been taken from among the local civilian population.

Although very little news is emerging from Iraqi Kurdistan at the moment, Amnesty International has a good deal of information concerning the conduct of Turkish military and security forces in similar operations on Turkish soil against Kurdish villages suspected of supporting the PKK. Such operations have been conducted with considerable brutality, and there are many well documented cases of torture, death as a result of torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution of people detained in such circumstances.

The organization is concerned about the safety of any prisoners taken in Iraqi Kurdistan, given the Turkish Government's disregard for human rights in its own territory. Amnesty International is appealing to the Turkish Government to ensure the physical safety of all detainees and to clarify their legal status.

ENDS\

ANNUAL REPORT MATERIALS

We are starting the process of developing the annual report materials, and would like feedback from section press officers on what you would like us to produce. Please send your comments to Androulla in the IS press office by 31 March.

Written materials

The standard written materials are: news release, questions and answers, two-three page regional summaries, regional updates highlighting events in 1995, and regional and global statistics.

We would welcome any general comments on these materials, and also comments specifically on:

- regional summaries - do you find the summaries useful for your media work, and would you like us to produce them in the same basic form as previous years or do you have suggestions for changes

- success stories - would you like us to produce a short summary of the positive outcome of some of our actions and/or successes in individual cases. Please note that if you would like this, we will ask you to send us information about such activities from your sections, as well as culling the IS for the information

- presentation of material - would you prefer for the IS just to send the raw information through the news service which you can format yourselves, or for us to send by mail/courier a more visually interesting desk-top published version. Please note that if the material is produced with a design this will only be possible, at best, in the core languages

Audiovisual material

We would like your feedback on the need for and content of various audiovisual materials.

Graphics - some sections have in the past asked for or produced themselves bar charts based on the statistics in the regional summaries. Would you like us to produce such graphics

Photos - Would it help in your media work if we provided AI copyright photos to support the written material. If you would like this, we would envisage the normal process for sections ordering photos

Video News Release - the theme of the annual report is women, and normally we would highlight the theme in the video news release. We would like your feedback on whether this would be appropriate this year, since we have already done such a VNR in March and would not have dramatically different material if we did so again for the annual report VNR. Without a focus on women, the VNR would highlight images of human rights violations in different regions and could include footage from 1995.

As well, would you like us to include a short selection of images of AI campaigning activities. Again, we would ask sections to supply such images.

Audio News Release - We have produced audio news releases on a pilot project basis for the Sudan campaign and the Campaign on Human Rights of Women. Would you like us to produce a similar cassette for the annual report.

AUDIO-VISUAL NEWS 6

ENR Evaluation

We have only received replies from two sections so far on which tv stations covered the launch of the Women & Human Rights campaign and which used the ENR (thanks to AI Belgium Flemish and AI Germany) - both very positive. Please could you give feedback to Paula (Tel Ext: 5560, Fax: +171 413 5815) asap, plus info on coverage of the mini-ENRs produced for the Turkey and Northern Iraq actions. Feedback on international tv stations is excellent so far - WTN, AP TV, Reuters TV, BBC World Service TV, CNN and Sky TV all covered the launch, all but one using the ENR. Thanks.

AI Ireland - Freedom to Dance Event

AI Ireland are organizing a promotional event called "Freedom to Dance" on the night of 18 May at a major Dublin nightclub. It is a party mainly intended to say thank you to music stars who have helped AI and to celebrate AI receiving the "Free Your Mind" Award from MTV at the European Music Awards in Berlin in November. It is also a fundraiser and a great way to get coverage in the youth and music media.

Because AI Ireland don't have the money to pay for air tickets for people to come to Ireland, they have so far only approached stars in Ireland to attend the event. But obviously the more international stars that can come, the more interesting the event will be to international youth and music media and the more coverage other sections and the IS can get in their media.

If you have any ideas at all about stars who may be in Ireland at the time and should be invited, ways of flying others in, media who may be interested, etc, please let Paula know (number in ENR evaluation section above).

Syria ENR - last reminder

If you want to order a copy of the mini-ENR for the SLA on Syria to be launched on 11 April, please order copies from Anne Jenkins (Ext: 5585) in the AV Resources team at the IS by **31 March**.