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**TO: PRESS OFFICERS**

**FROM: PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS**

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**WEEKLY UPDATE SERVICE 64/93**

Contained in this weekly update are external items on Somalia and Sierra Leone.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A weekly update is being prepared on police ill-treatment in Serbia, including the cases of Vuk Draskovic, President of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), his wife and others arrested and ill-treated. There are also UAs on this issue: EUR 70/10/93 (2 June) and EUR 70/11/93 (14 June).

**NEWS INITIATIVES**

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES**

**UN WORLD CONFERENCE-RELATED NEWS INITIATIVES ONLY THROUGHOUT JUNE**

**\*\*WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS\*\***

(New Information)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The following numbers are now working in the Vienna Press Office: Tel: +43 222 219 3574/3573/3572, Fax: +43 222 219 357221.

Amnesty International's press office in Vienna will be based at AI's tent outside the Austria Centre and will be open for 24 hours each day.

AI's press team will be staying at Pension Dr Geissler, Postgasse 14, 1010 Vienna. Telephone: +43 1 533 2803.

The strategy team in Vienna will report developments to sections via the IS press office to section press officers. Can press officers ensure that this information is circulated to the relevant people in their section.

General enquiries from press officers should go to Paula and James at the IS Press Office, on Tel: +44 71 413 5562/5810.

The second and third ENRs for the World Conference: Challenge to Governments, (Ref: 1838) and AI Activities Compilation, (Ref: 1840) are ready. Please order copies and refer journalists for copies from: Dubbs Copying House, giving the correct video reference number (as above) on Tel: +44 71 629 0055 or Fax: +44 71 287 8796.

**Annual Report - 0600 hrs gmt, 8 July**

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is VERY important that the annual report news release does not get leaked to the media over the next two weeks - in view of the pessimistic reference to the UN World Conference. Please be careful not to let it be seen by too many people until after the World Conference is over.

Annual Report Summaries, Regional Updates, ENR and news release have all been sent to you.

**Indonesia (Aceh) - 28 July**

**Document and news release to go with action on massive numbers of political killings.**

**TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES**

**Saudi Arabia - 1 July**

**A weekly update item is being written to go with the document: Saudi Arabia: An Upsurge in Public Executions, AI Index: MDE 23/04/93. The document and weekly update item will be embargoed for 1 July and will be sent out to selected international media by the IS Press Office. Please note that the document has been sent out in the weekly mailing.**

2. AFR 52/WU 02/93 EXTERNAL  
17 June 1993

**SOMALIA: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONCERNED AT KILLINGS OF CIVILIANS BY UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING TROOPS**

Amnesty International has expressed concern to United Nations (UN) Secretary General, Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and the Pakistan Government about the killing of some 20 Somali civilians in Mogadishu on 12 June by Pakistani troops belonging to the United Nations peacekeeping force in Somalia, (UNOSOM II).

The victims included women and children and were reportedly part of a large crowd of people demonstrating against the UN, which was fired on by soldiers of the Pakistani contingent. The full circumstances of these shootings, which occurred in a situation of tension following the killing of 23 Pakistani soldiers by Somali gunmen one week earlier, are unclear from the initial reports. There have been conflicting reports of the 12 June incident - some stating that the Pakistani contingent was fired on first by Somali gunmen.

Amnesty International is concerned that lethal force may have been used disproportionately against the demonstrators, in contravention of international standards, and that the Pakistani troops' use of lethal force may also have breached Pakistan's own laws. There is a special obligation on national armed forces serving as UN peacekeeping troops to abide by internationally recognized human rights standards.

Amnesty International is urging the UN and the Pakistan Government to establish an independent and impartial inquiry into the incident, which would be consistent with international standards for inquiries. The inquiry should make public its findings as soon as possible, together with any recommendations about the possibly unlawful or inappropriate use of lethal force on this occasion and about safeguards required to prevent any recurrence of this.

Amnesty International is also concerned by reports that some of the Pakistani soldiers in the UN force who were killed by Somali gunmen in different incidents on 5 June 1993 may have been victims of deliberate and arbitrary killings by members of General Mohamed Farah Aided's force. Some reportedly surrendered before being killed. As a matter of principle, Amnesty International condemns all deliberate and arbitrary killings by armed political groups. The incidents in Mogadishu on 5 June led the UN Security Council to pass Resolution 837 on 6 June, authorizing the investigation, arrest and detention for prosecution, trial and punishment of those responsible for the killings of these members of the UN peacekeeping force.

Amnesty International has repeatedly urged all the Somali armed groups to respect human rights and basic humanitarian standards, and has also called for those responsible for war crimes or human rights abuses, including "warlords", to be brought to justice. The organization has urged the UN to establish a national or international court capable of undertaking such prosecutions as well as affording the accused a fair trial.

3. AFR 51/WU Q2/93 EXTERNAL  
17 June 1993

**SIERRA LEONE: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW CASES OF POLITICAL DETAINEES AND TO END ABUSES BY MILITARY FORCES**

Amnesty International has written to Sierra Leone's head of state, Captain Valentine E.M. Strasser, calling for an urgent review of political detainees' cases and for the release of prisoners of conscience and others who have not been accused of a criminal offence. The organization also called for other measures to halt human rights abuses which have been most serious in the south and east of the country, where armed rebels are fighting government troops.

Amnesty International representatives visiting Sierra Leone in May 1993 found 264 political detainees held virtually in secret at the Central Prison, Pademba Road, in Freetown. None had been charged or tried.

About 20 of them had been held since 1991, when they were captured following an invasion by rebel forces from neighbouring Liberia. They had originally numbered some 570; most of the others died from torture, starvation or medical neglect in the Pademba Road Prison in 1991 and 1992. Others had been detained after the government of Captain Valentine Strasser came to power following a coup in April 1992. Although apparently held as suspected rebels or opponents of the new government there has been no proper investigation into their cases.

More than 30 of those being held were arrested in December 1992 on their return by boat to Sierra Leone from Liberia, where they had sought refuge from the conflict in Sierra Leone. Twenty-seven farmers from Kono District, Northern Province, were arrested in January 1993 when they returned to their homes after fighting in the area had ceased. Another, a 14-year-old schoolboy from Kailahun District, Eastern Province, has been held since August 1992. Three others were arrested in December 1992, accused of plotting to overthrow the government. Eight prison officers, also held in connection with the alleged plot, have been detained without charge or trial since December 1992 at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters in Freetown.

Political detainees at the Pademba Road Prison are completely cut off from the outside world and it appears that often their families do not know if or where they are detained. Amnesty International has sent a list of the 264 cases to the government, urging an immediate review of each case to establish why each detainee is being held and the release of any being held for the peaceful expression of their political beliefs. The organization said all other detainees should also be released if they are not brought to trial promptly and fairly on recognizably criminal charges. The organization is making the list public so that prisoners' relatives can be informed of their whereabouts.

Although the incidence of prisoners' deaths at the Pademba Road Prison is now not as high as in 1991 and 1992, deaths from disease and malnutrition still frequently occur. At least seven inmates are reported to have died in the first week of May 1993, shortly before the Amnesty International's representatives visited the prison.

Outside Freetown, in the Eastern, Southern and Northern Provinces, Amnesty International's representatives found evidence of continuing abuses by government troops, in particular the torture and extrajudicial execution of individuals captured in the conflict between government and rebel forces. Rebels captured on the battlefield have been summarily killed. In some cases, executions of rebels, without any form of trial, have been carried out publicly. On 20 November and again on 26 December 1992, school children witnessed the executions of rebels near their school in Bo, Bo District. Also in late 1992, 17 people identified as rebels were publicly beheaded or shot by soldiers in Zim, Pujehun District.

In April 1993 another two rebels, a man and a woman, were reported to have been mutilated and executed by soldiers in public in Daru, Kailahun District. Many of the detainees now held in Pademba Road Prison as suspected rebels suffered serious injuries, particularly to their arms from being tightly tied with their arms behind their backs by the military forces who first detained them. Amnesty International is calling on the Sierra Leone government to take immediate measures to prevent further torture, ill-treatment and summary executions by government forces.

Abuses by rebel forces in Sierra Leone, including torture and deliberate and arbitrary killings, also continue. Amnesty International unreservedly condemns such abuses and says that those in armed opposition to the government should respect basic

**humanitarian standards. However, Amnesty International believes that rebel atrocities cannot justify abuses of human rights by the Sierra Leone military forces.**