
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 146/94

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - YEMEN, EUROPEAN UNION

PLEASE NOTE: The enclosed item on the European is an AI European Union Office initiative for use by European sections only. It is to go with an external document: "European Union: Human rights and EU policy on military, security and police transfers", which is being sent from the AI EU office by DHL to European sections today. Please contact Johannes at the EU office if you require further info.

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

****United Kingdom - NO NEWS ITEM**** The document has been adapted after legal advice - it is no longer of media interest and no news item will be written.

Pakistan - 27 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 81/94

Myanmar - 20 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 99/94

India - 16 August - SEE NEWS SERVICE 129/94

Kosovo - 20 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Algeria - first week of October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

France - second week of October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

****North and South Korea - ON HOLD**** - News item on hold following Kim il-Sung's death. Will keep you posted of further plans.

Sri Lanka - 15 July - SEE NS 146

Brazil - 14 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Annual Report - 0600 hrs GMT 7 July 1994 - SEE NEWS SERVICE 51/94

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YEMEN: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL VISIT

On 9 July, an Amnesty International delegation arrived in Yemen to carry out research into human rights violations within the organization's mandate which were reported to have been committed since 4 May.

During the visit, the delegates expect to have discussions with the Ministers of Interior, Justice and Foreign Affairs, as well as members of the judiciary and security officials.

ENDS/

EMBARGO 14 July 18.00 hours Brussels time

European section release only

EUROPEAN UNION ARMS EXPORT CONTROL LACKS HUMAN RIGHTS SCRUTINY

Member governments of the European Union (EU) are still a long way from a credible and effective policy to control arms exports to third countries, according to a report released today by the European offices of Amnesty International.

As long ago as 1991, EU governments adopted criteria to promote a joint EU policy on restraint and transparency of arms transfers. Such criteria include respect for human rights in the country of final destination.

Since the adoption of these criteria, EU governments have failed to implement them although as recently as December they adopted similar policy principles in other intergovernmental organisations, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

"If a country is going to use arms imported from the EU member states to torture and kills its citizens, these countries should not receive the guns, ammunition or training", Amnesty International said.

The EU and its Member States are expected later this year to adopt legislation on control of exports of so-called dual-use goods and technologies which are manufactured and exported for both civilian and military purposes.

"We urge the EU governments to rapidly implement human rights conditions in any future common action on export controls on arms and on dual-use goods and technologies", Amnesty International said.

"Military, security and police equipment, technology, personnel or training should not be transferred to countries which can reasonably be assumed to violate human rights", the organisation said. "EU governments should establish effective mechanisms to monitor the implementation of end-use guarantees with regard to respect of human rights in countries of final destination. Decision-making on granting licences should be transparent and subject to parliamentary scrutiny".

Restraining and controlling military transfers to third countries should include training of police and security forces by EU Member States, as well as logistical and financial assistance. In late June, Amnesty International called upon the French government to investigate and make public any information about alleged training by a French military unit of government-backed Hutu extremist militia, which have been implicated in extrajudicial executions and mass murders of government opponents and members of the Tutsi ethnic community.

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