

---

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 269/94

---

TO: PRESS OFFICERS  
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE  
DATE: 30 NOVEMBER 1994

AI INDEX: NWS 11/269/94  
DISTR: SC/PO  
NO OF WORDS:634

## INTERNAL

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **MIAMI SUMMIT** (For your information is enclosed AIUSA'S news release for the Summit (9/10 December). The news release does highlight the United States in the first paragraph and elsewhere, we suggest that this can be altered as necessary to fit with each section's individual media strategy. The news release has also been sent to EDAI for translation into Spanish and will be ready as soon possible.)

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES**

Afghanistan - mid-December - SEE NEWS SERVICE 267

Bosnia - (21 December) - possible change - SEE NEWS SERVICE 268

Sudan - 25 January - SEE NEWS SERVICE 261

Turkey - 8 February - SEE NEWS SERVICE 261

Northern Iraq - 28 February - SEE NEWS SERVICE 266

## **TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES**

News Service 269/94

EMBARGOED FOR 10:00 AM  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1994

CONTACT: CHRISTINE HAENN 202/544 0200

**PRESIDENT CLINTON AND OTHER LEADERS AT THE SUMMIT OF THE  
AMERICAS MUST MAKE CLEAR THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE WILL NOT  
BE TOLERATED IN THE AMERICAS  
SAID AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) today called on President Clinton to denounce impunity for human rights perpetrators in his speech to the Summit of the Americas in Miami, Florida next week and ensure that human rights are addressed in any documents which emerge from the meeting. The organization also called on all leaders of the Americas to join the United States in stating clearly that human rights violations will no longer be tolerated in their countries.

"The three myths - that democracy guarantees a respect for human rights, free trade inevitably brings with it improvements in human rights and that human rights perpetrators need not always be prosecuted - have only helped ascertain an abysmal human rights situation in most countries of the Americas," said William F. Schulz, Executive Director, AIUSA.

The organization presented five specific recommendations as a standard to measure the success of President Clinton and the other leaders at the Summit in the area of human rights.

\* The leaders of the hemisphere must make it explicitly clear that they will not tolerate continued human rights abuse in their countries.

\* The Summit must commit its participant nations to begin investigations of alleged human rights violations, to conduct trials and, where parties are found guilty, to secure punishment. Of critical importance, the Summit documents must speak specifically to the need to protect an independent judiciary from retribution when they hear and act on human rights crimes.

\* The United States must commit itself to provide no safe haven for political killers and torturers and must agree that, if those accused of such crimes come to the United States, they will be prosecuted.

\* The Summit must acknowledge the legitimate role of local human rights activists in the building of democracy. Activists have been targeted, "disappeared" and sometimes killed when they raise their voices for justice but a truly democratic society welcomes its dissenters, its witnesses of conscience, and the Summit must recognize such individuals as integral to a civil society.

\* The Summit should commit its participant nations to ratification of the American Convention on Human Rights\* and support for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, including, most importantly, agreement to abide by the decision of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. It is especially

vital that the United States ratify the Convention, offer its support to the Commission recognize the authority of the Court.

\* All participants to the Summit should ratify the recently adopted Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons.

"The nations of the Americas must decide whether political and economic development will be built on justice or rhetoric," said Schulz. "Justice warrants a public commitment to end impunity for gross human rights violations. The peoples of the Americas deserve nothing less."

ENDS\

\* 25 nations in the hemisphere have already ratified the Convention.