

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Malaysia: Torture practised systematically in widespread caning**

A new Amnesty International report due to be released on 6 December will reveal the full extent of how caning in Malaysia is carried out on thousands of people each year, leaving them with permanent physical and psychological scars.

The report, *A Blow to Humanity*, provides an in-depth look at the practice of judicial caning in Malaysia where a growing number of offenses now carry a caning sentence. Many of the victims are asylum seekers with no understanding of the charges or fate that awaits them.

“Caning in Malaysia has hit epidemic proportions,” said Sam Zarifi, Amnesty International’s Asia-Pacific Director. “In every case that we examined, the punishment amounted to torture, which is absolutely prohibited under any circumstances.”

The report will be launched at 1030 MYT (0230 GMT) on 6 December 2010 in the Pahang Suite, The Federal Hotel, 35 Jalan Bukit Bintang, 55100 Kuala Lumpur.

Amnesty International spokespeople and case studies are available. For more information, contact:

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