

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ADVISORY

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Amnesty International puts spotlight on torture worldwide

To mark the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June, Amnesty International will lead worldwide events and publish reports putting a spotlight on torture and other ill-treatment. It will lead attempts to roll back the assault on the prohibition of torture, in particular the arguments that it is justified or necessary to counter the threat of terrorism.

Amnesty International is calling on governments to: **condemn** all forms of torture and other ill-treatment and complicity in such abuse; work to **prevent** torture through ending secret and incommunicado detention; and **hold to account** those responsible through thorough investigations and prosecutions.

Events and in-depth reports will highlight Amnesty International's concerns over the continued use and justification of torture and other ill-treatment under the guise of international and national security in the context of counter terrorism. Focus will be on Tunisia, US actions at Guantánamo and in secret CIA detention, and the role that European governments have played in 'renditions' and secret detentions.

Highly visual events with filming and photo opportunities will take place in locations around the world, including in Brussels, Belgium; Copenhagen, Denmark; Dublin, Ireland; Quezon City, Philippines; various cities across Spain, Montevideo, Uruguay; and Washington DC, USA.

"Torture and other ill-treatment take place under conditions of secrecy, hidden away from the outside world. On 26 June we will be shining a spotlight on torture, the world must act to reverse the worrying trend of recent years and eradicate this barbaric practice," said Amnesty International.

Key events include:

23 June: Publication of a major new report revealing the serious human rights violations – including torture and enforced disappearance – that are being committed in connection with the Tunisian government's security and counter-terrorism policies.

When: 15.00

Where: CAPE (Centre d'Accueil de la Presse Etrangère)

Contact: Aurélie Chatelard : +33 1 53 38 65 41 / 65 77 or +33 6 76 94 37 05

24 June: Publication of a report revealing the disturbing extent of European states' involvement in US renditions and secret detention ranging from active participation to tacit collusion, and the shocking lack of action to ensure accountability for these human rights violations.

Contact: Lydia Aroyo, mob: +44 7771 796 350

25 June: In **Washington D.C.**, members and other activists will gather on the National Mall to publicly open an exact replica of a Guantánamo cell that journalists and members of the public can enter. AI will be calling on Congress and the Bush administration to shut down Guantánamo.

When: 12.00 noon, 25 June 2008

Where: National Mall, near the Washington Memorial, Washington DC

Contacts: US media: Sharon Singh, on +1 202 544 0200 x289, email ssingh@aiusa.org

International media: Eliane Drakopoulos, on +44 7778 472 109 edrakopoulos@amnesty.org

26 June:

In Brussels: Public event in front of the European Parliament -- a press conference will be organised around a "Euro-truck" featuring a mock-up of the European flag with actors painted in blue portraying a scene of abduction, blending into the flag. MEPs will sign a giant postcard that reads "torture means terror", addressed to Pres. Sarkozy, as France holds the presidency of the EU.

When: 11.00 am, 26 June 2008

Where: Place du Luxembourg

Contact: Joana Gomes-Cardoso, AI EU Office, tel: +32 2 548 2773

In Uruguay: Amnesty International members will visually recreate Guantanamo using large images placed on structures in Plaza Libertad, Montevideo.

When: From 16:00 to 19:00 h, 26 June

Where: Plaza Libertad, Montevideo

Contact: Natalia Guala - prensa@amnistia.org.uy - + 59 896 400 464

In Spain: Public actions in at least twelve cities (Barcelona, Seville, Vitoria, Jaén, Salamanca, A Coruña, Cantabria, Gijón, Cádiz, Palma de Mallorca, Zamora, Córdoba) and in other cities on 27 or 28 June (Madrid, Albacete, Avilés). Actions include using a "torture box" that will be opened to reveal an actor holding stress positions inside with the message "No hiding place for torture".

When: 26 - 28 June.

Contact: Rocío Carneros, + 34 685 810592

In The Philippines: AI Philippines are organising public activities with a coalition of organisations, including Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates. Activists will participate in the 'Basta! Run Against Torture II' in Quezon City, ending with a press conference at the Quezon City Hall. When: 7.30, 26 June; press conference 9.00.

Where: Runners gather at University of Philippines Diliman Campus; press conference at Quezon City Hall

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In Ireland: A number of prominent Irish actors will read from *Poems from Guantánamo* at the book's Irish launch. Every member of the Dáil and Seanad, along with Ireland's MEPs, have been invited to attend to receive a copy of the book

When: 11.30, 26 June

Where: Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin

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More events are planned in many other countries. For more information and images on these and AI's global campaign to Counter Terror with Justice, please go to: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/resources/counter-terror-with-justice>

**** **A News Access Tape (B-roll material) is available on request. This includes an exclusive interview with President Jimmy Carter. Please contact AI's press office in London. ******

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Public Document
