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Amnesty International

International Secretariat

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WEEKLY UPDATE SERVICE 36/92

Contained in this weekly update are an internal item about possible occupations of sections and an external item on El Salvador.

1. NEWS INITIATIVES

Afghanistan - probably 11 September

(New information)

****PLEASE NOTE**** We are currently preparing a weekly update item on recent executions and the move towards judicial amputations, flogging and stoning in Afghanistan, to go with a short document. If it is prepared in time, the IS will release it to key international media on Friday 11 September.

Sorry for the lack of warning. The executions have taken place this week and we have heard reports that at least another eight people are likely to be executed very soon, so we thought it best to act quickly. An Urgent Action has already been sent to you (UA 282/92, AI Index: ASA 11/03/92) and the document will be faxed to some sections - if you wish to receive the document, please contact the research team.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Indigenous Peoples' Campaign - 7 October

Discussions are currently under way at the IS about the media strategy for the report. We are currently considering media materials, speakers, how to present the material, etc. As this is the first time we have done a report like this, we would like your input and think there should be an opportunity to discuss problems in advance.

Myanmar - 28 October

A document and news release on Myanmar, to go with an action to coincide with the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Turkey - 11 November **PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE**

(New information)

PLEASE NOTE that the embargo on this news release and document have been changed. We will not be issuing a news release in the week of 3 November because of the US presidential elections, which will probably take up a lot of media space.

The document to go with the news release and action, Turkey: Walls of glass (AI Index: EUR 44/75/92), has been sent in this week's Weekly Mailing. Unfortunately it has been printed without an embargo - the document is nevertheless embargoed for 11 November and should not be used before then.

The document and news release go with a section level action about a wide range of human rights violations, including torture, extrajudicial executions and "disappearances".

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Children/AI week - 21 October

A targeted news release on children to go with a Focus article in October.

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2. ORG 41/WU 02/92 INTERNAL

10 September 1992

ALERT FOR SECTIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE OCCUPATIONS

There have been several occupations by Kurds of government and intergovernmental offices in various European cities to protest against events in the Kurdish town of Ernak from 18-21 August (see Urgent Action AI Index EUR 44/84/92). European sections in particular should therefore pay especial attention to their security arrangements and make sure that all staff, including volunteers, are told to be cautious about admitting any groups of people who may intend to occupy Amnesty International offices. Please inform the International Secretariat immediately of any such attempts.

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3. AMR 29/WU 02/92 EXTERNAL

10 September 1992

INTERNAL

This weekly update item is a follow-up to AMR 29/WU 02/91, which appeared in Weekly Update NWS 11/27/91

EL SALVADOR: AI REITERATES CONCERNS ABOUT EXTRADITION OF SALVADORIAN CÉSAR JOYA MARTÍNEZ FROM THE USA.

On 3 September 1992, Amnesty International wrote to United States Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger to reiterate its concern about the case of César Joya Martínez, a former member of the Salvadorian Armed Forces who faces extradition from the United States to El Salvador. Amnesty International previously wrote to the US State Department on 11 July 1991 to express the organization's opposition to his forcible return to El Salvador, where Amnesty International believes César Joya Martínez risks extrajudicial execution or torture. Returning him to El Salvador would contravene the fundamental principle of non-refoulement, which is binding on all states.

On 21 November 1991 a United States Judge certified to the Secretary of State that César Joya Martínez was extraditable to stand trial in El Salvador for two killings committed in 1989. AI has learnt that habeas corpus petitions presented on Joya Martínez's behalf were denied by the US District Judge in San Antonio, Texas, on 24 August 1992. Amnesty International understands that the decision as to whether the extradition should proceed now rests with the US State Department.

Since leaving El Salvador in 1989, Joya Martínez has testified before a US Congressional committee and numerous human rights organizations concerning his participation, in an official capacity as a member of military intelligence of the Salvadorian First Infantry Brigade, in the extrajudicial execution of eight suspected members of the Salvadorian armed opposition, and made allegations of the involvement of the Salvadorian Armed Forces in the operation of so-called "death squads". He claims that these killings, which include the two cases for which he is to stand trial in El Salvador, were carried out under orders from superior officers as part of his duties.

Amnesty International believes that the murder charges made against César Joya Martínez should be thoroughly investigated, as should his allegations concerning "death squad" operations within the Salvadorian Armed Forces, particularly at a time when mechanisms are underway in the country to clarify the truth about human rights violations since 1980. A thorough investigation into the role of César Joya Martínez in crimes and activities in which he was allegedly involved can and should in the present circumstances be conducted outside Salvadorian territory as permitted under international standards.

Despite the signing of a peace accord in January 1992 and the commitments made by the government and the armed opposition, the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) to respect human rights, Amnesty International believes that the situation in El Salvador does not offer adequate guarantees for the physical integrity and safety of César Joya Martínez. In particular, the human rights-related mechanisms and reforms being implemented as a result of the peace accords have up to now proved ineffective in putting an end to extrajudicial killings and torture by members of the armed and security forces or by so-called "death squads".

Victims of human rights violations since the signing of the peace accord have included vocal critics of the government and armed forces as well as members of the FMLN. Amnesty International believes that, given the nature of his disclosures concerning the armed forces

involvement in human rights violations, César Joya Martínez would be at serious risk of extrajudicial execution or torture if returned to El Salvador.

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ADDITION TO WEEKLY UPDATE SERVICE 36/92

Contained in this addition to the weekly update is an external item on Afghanistan.

1. NEWS INITIATIVES

South Africa **PLEASE NOTE**

(New information)

We have not so far been able to get together a weekly update on the killings at Ciskei in South Africa. There is however an Urgent Action (UA 286/92, AI Index: AFR 53/19/92) which was sent out last night. Please use this in response to any media queries.

Sudan - 23 September

(New information)

The research team is currently working on a brief document about human rights violations in Juba. We expect a weekly update item to accompany the document, which the IS will send out to media, and are considering some kind of action, possibly a RAN, as well. We are aiming for

a date of 23 September and encourage as many sections as possible to seek publicity for the weekly update on this date.

Weekly Update NWS 11/36/92 add

2. ASA 11/WU 02/92 EXTERNAL

11 September 1992

INTERNAL

The IS press office has sent this item to selected media today.

EXTERNAL

AFGHANISTAN: EXECUTIONS MARK FURTHER SETBACK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Three men were executed in Afghanistan earlier this week and at least eight more have reportedly been sentenced to death, marking a further setback for human rights in the country.

The three men were hanged on 7 September 1992 after an Islamic court found them guilty of robbery, looting and murder. Today Amnesty International releases a report warning that the recently introduced Islamic code of laws is likely to mean more hangings and possibly stonings and amputations of limbs for crimes such as adultery and theft.

"International law bans all forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment," said Amnesty International. "Having a hand or a foot severed as punishment for a crime is quite clearly a human rights violation. As for stoning and hanging, they are violations of the most fundamental human right of all - the right to life.

"We are very concerned that under the new government in Afghanistan the death penalty may be introduced for more and more crimes. We are also concerned at reports that senior

government officials have announced their intention to introduce judicial amputations. This would certainly be a retrograde step for human rights in Afghanistan."

Islamic courts were set up in May, following the fall of President Najibullah's government, and all laws not conforming to Islam were declared void. The Deputy Minister of Justice then declared that adultery would be punishable with stoning to death, those convicted of theft have a hand or a foot amputated and drinking alcohol would be punished with 80 lashes.

Already, seven people have been executed since the Islamic code was introduced. Amnesty International is particularly concerned that those executed had no right to appeal against their death sentence or to seek pardon. Those hanged earlier this week were reportedly executed within days of their conviction.

"Afghanistan is bound by international law to uphold and protect human rights," said Amnesty International. "Whatever religious or political values underlie a legal system, it must conform to international human rights standards - and flogging, amputation, hanging and stoning violate human rights." ends/-

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2ND ADDITION TO WEEKLY UPDATE SERVICE 36/92

Contained in this addition to the weekly update is an internal note relating to the launch of the Indigenous People's Campaign.

1. AMR 01/WU 02/92 INTERNAL
14 September 1992

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

We would like to update sections on various issues relating to the launch of the Indigenous People's campaign on 7 October.

1) Discussions about a possible launch in the region were suspended for several weeks because of the current financial situation. We are now in a position to again consider the possibility of a regional launch, and are exploring various options. We have set this Friday (18 September) as the final date by which we must take a decision on such a launch, and will let sections know the decision as soon as possible.

2) We have only had two sections show an interest in a conference call and we will therefore not be organizing one.

3) The embargo time currently stands at the standard 0001 hrs gmt 7 October, although any decision about a regional launch might affect that. We would ask press officers to contact us before the end of the week about preferred embargo times, particularly in light of any activities that are already planned.

4) We have been alerted to the fact that the launch has inadvertently been set for the same date as Yom Kippur. At this stage it would seem too late to change the date, although we would like to hear from any sections that are encountering difficulties because of this.