

Media Advisory

21 June 2001

AI Index ACT 40/023/2001 - News Service Nr. 108

UN Day for Victims of Torture Press Invite

Ahead of the UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June, human rights organizations, advocacy groups, rehabilitation centres, government and intergovernmental organizations will join together to raise awareness about torture worldwide.

Torture and ill-treatment have been inflicted by state agents in around 150 countries since 1997. In more than 70 countries torture or ill-treatment by state officials was widespread and in over 80 countries people reportedly died as a result.

This year, the Coalition of International Non-Governmental organisations Against Torture (CINAT) will be marking the day with a joint press briefing, with the theme "Together Against Torture".*

Press Briefing

Time: 1130 hrs BST, Monday 25th June 2001

Venue: United Nations Information Centre
Millbank Tower (21st Floor)
21 - 24 Millbank
London SW1P 4QH

Speakers: Kate Gilmore, Executive Secretary General - Amnesty International
- recent developments in torture: torture & ill-treatment based on sexual identity

Dr Maria Piniou-Kalli, President - The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

- Securing protection for health professionals and others engaged in caring for victims of torture and the ICRT's Balkan network of rehabilitation centres, including a new initiative in Skopje, Macedonia.

Keith Carmichael, Executive Director - Redress

- recent developments with respect to accountability and reparation

Contacts: Amnesty International press office: 020 7413 5566/5808 (International media)

Amnesty UK Section press office: 020 7814 6240 (UK media)

**CINAT is made up of Amnesty International (AI), The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), The International Federation of Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT), The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), Redress: Seeking Reparation for Torture Survivors and The World Organization Against Torture (OMCT).*

\ENDS

public document

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566

Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW web : <http://www.amnesty.org>