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1996 UN Commission on Human Rights - Recommendations on Countries on the Agenda

INTRODUCTION

This document contains Amnesty International's concerns on countries on the agenda of the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR). A separate document *The Commission 1996 - a Call for Action* (AI Index IOR 41/02/96) contains Amnesty International's priority concerns for the 52nd session of the CHR. Amnesty International will this year focus on five priority countries, namely China, Colombia, Indonesia and East Timor, Nigeria and Turkey, and on human rights defenders, the draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and women's human rights. Regarding the countries already on the CHR's agenda, Amnesty International's main concern is to ensure follow-up by the CHR on the recommendations it made last year.

The CHR has to undertake a critical review of its response to serious human rights violations. In many cases the CHR ignores serious human rights violations in a country, which often allows the situation to escalate. Even when the CHR does scrutinize a situation and passes a resolution, too often there is no follow up on the decision taken. The CHR should ask itself: did governments comply with the recommendations made by the CHR in 1995 and what will be the appropriate response by the CHR if they did not? The answer cannot be silence.

In some situations, where the CHR has decided that the appropriate response is the appointment of a Special Rapporteur to monitor the human rights situation, the government does not cooperate with the Special Rapporteur. When a country has refused to allow a Special Rapporteur on the given country to visit, as it is the case in Sudan, and Iraq, other mechanisms of the CHR should not consider an invitation before a formal invitation has been given to the Special Rapporteur.

Refusing to accept visits from thematic mechanisms or other mechanisms of the CHR is a failure to cooperate with the CHR as a whole. It should be reason for concern by the CHR and could justify the appointment of a Special Rapporteur for the given country.

The CHR has on certain country situations, such as Iraq, Sudan, Burundi, Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, decided that an appropriate response, apart from appointing a Special Rapporteur on the specific country, is the deployment of human rights monitors. When such a decision has been made by the CHR and it has been endorsed by the UN General Assembly, it is the role of the CHR to follow through and to take steps to ensure that such field operations are indeed established with political backing and financial commitments. On many occasions the decisions of the CHR are not carried out due to lack of resources. It is up to the member states of the CHR to ensure that adequate resources are available for what they decide is an appropriate response to address human rights violations in a given country.

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan lies in ruins after sixteen years of war, which have left the country fragmented and without
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an effective central government. As the country plunged into a civil war in which human rights abuses were being committed daily, outside powers lined up to offer political, financial and military support to warring factions. At no time have any of the governments that supplied arms taken steps to ensure that they would not be used to perpetrate abuses. None can escape the responsibility for weapons they have supplied, nor should they be allowed to ignore the major part they have played in enabling the Mujahideen groups to commit human rights abuses. The CHR can play an important role in addressing the human rights situation in Afghanistan. The first and essential step towards improving the situation is to reveal the truth about human rights abuses and to ensure that protection of human rights are part of the on-going peace process.

The Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan noted in his report to the General Assembly in 1995 that “human suffering of considerable gravity persists in the form of murder, disappearances and infliction of conditions that cause physical destruction, thus depriving people of fundamental human rights such as the right to life, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment”. He concluded that disregard of international humanitarian law including acts of cruelty perpetrated against civilians are a serious obstacle to the guarantee of the right to life and the right to be free from torture. Finally, he concluded that the absence of a functioning central government poses extreme difficulties and complexity in providing redress for human rights violations as required by international law.¹

The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.41 in which it recognized that the promotion and protection of human rights should be an essential element in the achievement of a comprehensive solution to the crisis in Afghanistan, and therefore invited the Special Mission and the Special Rapporteur to exchange relevant information and to consult and cooperate with each other.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR that it extends the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and ensures that the provisions in the General Assembly resolution, which emphasizes the need for the Special Rapporteur and the UN Special Mission in Afghanistan to exchange relevant information and to consult and cooperate with each other, are implemented. The CHR should request that the reports of the Special Mission include information about human rights violations and abuses, and that this information is reflected in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and the Security Council. Further, Amnesty International calls on the CHR to urge all governments to respect fully the rights of Afghan refugees and offer them adequate protection, both at border posts and in refugee camps. Finally, Amnesty International calls on the CHR to urge all the parties in the Afghan conflict to:

- give unimpeded access to all areas under their control, including places of detention to the UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- state publicly that they are committed to safeguarding fundamental human rights as well as principles of humanitarian law, especially those set down in Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949;
- establish an independent and impartial procedure to allow victims or their families to report human rights abuses;
- establish a structure to allow an independent, impartial and immediate investigation of reports of human rights abuses including breaches of humanitarian law;

The CHR should also urge the transitional government to:

- set up independent and impartial investigations to identify the perpetrators of human rights abuses, and to

¹ see also Amnesty International document *Afghanistan: International responsibility for the human rights disaster* (ASA 11/09/95, November 1995)

bring them to justice following procedures that conform at all times with accepted international standards of fairness with the exclusion of the death penalty.

BOUGAINVILLE

In resolution 1995/65 the CHR requested the Government of Papua New Guinea to invite the relevant thematic rapporteurs and working groups to visit the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville to monitor the peace process and to report on the situation of human rights, and urged the government extend its full cooperation to those mechanisms. Only the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions was invited to Papua New Guinea . He undertook a mission to Papua New Guinea in October 1995 but did not manage to go to the island of Bougainville.

Continuing reports of extrajudicial executions by security forces and abuses by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) on Bougainville were difficult to confirm because of continued restrictions on access to the island for human rights monitors. In October, three former members of the BRA were allegedly shot while they were sleeping by the Resistance Forces in south Bougainville. In February, a Papua New Guinea Defence Forces commander announced that an inquiry would be launched into the killings of Damien Ona, Apiato Bobonung and Robert, and the "disappearance" of Shane Seeto on Bougainville in December 1994. However, no progress appeared to have been made on the inquiry by the end of the year.

In May 1995, the government announced an amnesty for all those who had committed crimes during the Bougainville conflict, including members of the government security forces, the Resistance Forces and the BRA. While the scope of the amnesty remained unclear by the end of the year, it was understood that it could offer impunity to those responsible for human rights violations.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR to urge the Government of Papua New Guinea to:

- allow greater access to Bougainville for international human rights non-governmental organizations,
- provide information about human rights violations which the government has indicated have been investigated;
- ensure that past human rights violations will be fully and impartially investigated and perpetrators brought to justice.

BURUNDI

In Burundi more than 100,000 civilians have been killed following a failed coup attempt in October 1993, and the cycle of violence continues. Thousands of political killings took place in 1995 alone. Extrajudicial executions by the Tutsi-dominated army continue unchecked, and armed Tutsi and Hutu groups have stepped up violent attacks in Burundi. Whereas a large number of those killed at the start of the conflict appeared to be Tutsi, most of the victims so far, especially since 1994, have been members of the majority Hutu ethnic group. Many of their killers were members of the security forces and Tutsi militia. Those responsible for these killings have never been identified by any formal investigation or brought to

justice. Nor has anyone been convicted for the massacres of more than 100,000 civilians since 1993.²

The CHR in its resolution 1995/90 called for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Burundi and expressed its conviction concerning the need to further increase preventive action in Burundi without delay, in particular through the presence of human rights experts and observers throughout the country. This call has been echoed by the UN Security Council³, the Secretary-General⁴ and the High Commissioner for Human Rights⁵. Although the head of the UN human rights mission in Burundi was appointed in September 1995, no observers had been deployed by March 1996. Although sources at the UN have said that the deployment has been delayed due to the security situation, it is clear that lack of funding, which had been promised by the UN and the European Union, remains a major obstacle.

The Special Rapporteur on Burundi in his report to the 52nd session of the Commission stated that he is extremely concerned about the development of the human rights situation in Burundi during the second half of 1995 which, in his view, reveals an increasingly marked genocidal trend of a socio-ethnic nature. He added that “[d]espite undertakings given by the State of Burundi and the assurances received by the Special Rapporteur from government authorities during his visit to Burundi, complete impunity is still enjoyed in the country....and noted, to his great regret, that no improvement in the situation is likely: on the contrary, insecurity and serious human rights violations are increasing throughout Burundi.”⁶

After repeated appeals by the authorities in Burundi for an international commission of inquiry into the 1993 coup attempt and the massacres that followed, the UN eventually established a commission, which began investigations in November 1995. On 20 December, the commission of inquiry submitted its preliminary report which focused on the nature and scope of the commission’s mandate, the difficulties it faced and its activities. The commission of inquiry was concerned about the time that has elapsed since the events under investigation; perpetrators, witnesses and victims may have become refugees, displaced or died; evidence may have been lost, suppressed or altered, and evidence previously gathered may not conform to judicial standards. The commission of inquiry has found it difficult to obtain truthful, objective and reliable testimony. It has been concerned about security to be able to carry out its work because UN security personnel currently provided are inadequate and reliance on Burundi security forces would compromise its work. Furthermore, it is concerned about inadequate resources: the commission of inquiry needs more trained investigators, support staff and material resources. Amnesty International calls on inter-governmental organizations and governments to give full support to the commission on inquiry and to ensure that it has adequate human and material resources to complete its investigations and monitor the implementation of its recommendations.

Amnesty International strongly believes that addressing impunity for human rights violations is an extremely important element in the efforts to reverse the trend of the deteriorating human rights situation in Burundi. Amnesty International calls on the government authorities and others to firmly condemn the violations that take place and to ensure that violations cannot be committed with impunity. Amnesty International has prepared a briefing document for the Commission in which more detailed

²see *Rwanda and Burundi: A call for action by the international community* (AFR 02/24/95, April 1995) and *Rwanda and Burundi. The return home: rumours and realities* (AFR 02/01/96)

³UN Doc S/PRST/1995/10, 9 March 1995, S/PRST/1995/13, 29 March 1995

⁴UN Doc S/1994/1152, para. 48

⁵UN Doc A/50/36

⁶UN Doc E/CN.4/1996/16

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recommendations are spelled out.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur be extended. Amnesty International also calls on the CHR to urge the Government to:

- publicly instruct the military and security forces that all extrajudicial executions, “disappearances”, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary arrests and detention and other violations of international human rights law must stop and will not be tolerated;
- as a matter of urgency, investigate human rights violations and bring perpetrators to justice;
- make institutional changes to restore confidence in the impartiality and fairness of the judicial system, including requesting and accepting the assistance of foreign judicial experts;
- train an integrated national police force to be effective law enforcement officials in accordance with international human rights and criminal justice standards.

CAMBODIA

The CHR in its resolution 1995/55 expressed concern at the serious violations of human rights as detailed by the Special Representative in his reports. It further encouraged the government of Cambodia to investigate thoroughly allegations of human rights abuses and to prosecute those who are guilty of human rights offences in accordance with the due process of law and international standards relating to the administration of justice. The General Assembly in its resolution on the human rights situation in Cambodia further expressed “particularly grave concern at the comments made by the Special Representative concerning the reluctance of the courts to charge members of the military and other security forces for serious criminal offences, and encouraged the Government of Cambodia to address this problem, which in effect places persons of authority above the principles of equality before the law.”

The level of respect for human rights in Cambodia continues to decline rapidly from the standards reached during the period of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Increasingly, the rights to freedom of expression and opinion and association are being undermined by the government, which is less and less willing to tolerate open dissent. A new political party has been declared illegal by the government, and its office threatened with closure. Elected representatives have been subjected to threats and intimidation throughout the year. A press law has been passed which severely curtails the freedom of expression in the country and which falls far short of international human rights standards. Interventions by the Special Representative and others on the press law were not taken into account by the government. Impunity for human rights violators goes hand in hand with official investigations into violations, which appear to be designed to refute the findings of independent monitors rather than to seek the truth.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR:

- that it request the Secretary-General to continue the mandate of the Special Representative and the mandate of the Cambodia Office of the Centre for Human Rights;

Amnesty International calls on the CHR also to urge the Cambodian Government to:

- uphold the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, as guaranteed by the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Cambodia is a state party;

- ensure that defendants enjoy the right to a fair trial in accordance with international standards;
- ensure that members of the armed forces and police responsible for human rights violations are brought to justice;
- take all necessary steps to ensure that members of the National Assembly can carry out their duties free from threats and intimidation.

CUBA

The Government of Cuba continued to refuse to permit the Special Rapporteur to visit the country in 1995. The report of the Special Rapporteur to the General Assembly describes violations of civil and political rights, conditions in prisons, and problems in the area of the administration of justice and calls on the Government of Cuba to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur by allowing him to visit the country. The General Assembly adopted its draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.58 in which it called once more upon the Government of Cuba to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur by permitting him full and free access to establish contact with the government and the citizens of Cuba so that he can fulfill the mandate entrusted to him.

Amnesty International welcomes Cuba's ratification in May 1995 of the UN Convention against Torture, but regrets that there has been no real improvement in the human rights situation. Over 600 prisoners of conscience are believed to be imprisoned for their beliefs. There has been a marked increase in harassment and short-term detention of political and human rights activists, including lawyers and journalists, who have been frequently warned that they will be imprisoned if they do not give up their activities or go abroad. Several hundred people, including prisoners of conscience, are also believed to be imprisoned under the Dangerous State and Security Measures section of the Penal Code. Trials continue to fall far short of international standards.

Amnesty International recommends the CHR to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. Further Amnesty International calls for the CHR to urge the government to:

- immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience, including those still held for trying to leave the country illegally without having resorted to violence;
- allow access to the country for the UN Special Rapporteur on Cuba;
- allow access to the country for international non-governmental human rights organizations;
- allow access to prisons by the ICRC;
- permit members of human rights groups and other unofficial groups seeking to exercise their rights to freedom of association and expression in the field of politics, law, journalism, trade union rights and other civil liberties to carry out their legitimate activities without undue interference from the authorities;
- repeal all legislation which unduly limits freedom of expression and association;
- amend or repeal the legislation relating to "The Dangerous State and Security Measures";
- review the Code of Penal Procedure and other relevant legislation to ensure that it conforms to international standards, in particular with regard to the independence of the judiciary and access to lawyers for those facing trial;
- carry out immediate, impartial and independent investigations into cases of killings by police and security guards so that if they are found to have acted unlawfully, they may be brought to justice;
- carry out impartial and independent investigations into allegations of beatings by prison guards so that

appropriate action can be taken against those found to be responsible;

- carry out an immediate, impartial and independent investigation into the events surrounding the sinking of the tugboat “13 de Marzo” in July 1994 in which some 40 people died;
- ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and its Optional Protocols and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

The CHR in its resolution 1995/71 took note of the Special Rapporteur’s report in which it was pointed out that even though progress has been made in the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea, serious violations of human rights continue to take place. In 1995 there has been no real improvement in the human rights situation. Arbitrary arrests and detentions continued, particularly from February to April 1995 related to the electoral census and in September following the municipal elections. Reports of torture have increased in 1995⁷ and ill-treatment in prisons of common criminals continued, thus reversing the trend from the last few years. In 1995 reports of two extrajudicial executions by security forces were received. There have been no investigations by the government into any allegations of human rights violations, though the Special Rapporteur has called on the government to do so in the case of Pedro Motu.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur be extended and requests:

- that any technical assistance be made contingent on a full needs assessment, taking into account the reports of the Special Rapporteur and information from national, regional and international non-governmental organizations as well as from the government;
- a full evaluation of any technical assistance provided should be carried out and made available for the Special Rapporteur for inclusion in his next report.

Further, Amnesty International calls on the CHR to urge the government to:

- publicly condemn the practice of torture and ill-treatment of detainees;
- review the judicial system with a view to stop arbitrary arrests and detention, ensuring that all trials are conducted in accordance with international standards for fair trial, restricting military jurisdiction to purely military matters;
- establish mechanisms for the prompt, thorough and impartial investigations of all reported human rights violations and bring to justice all officials suspected of involvement in human rights violations.

⁷In early December 1995 one person died as a result of torture. See *Equatorial Guinea: Post-election human rights violations*. (AI Index: AFR 24/01/96)

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GUATEMALA

Amnesty International has continued to receive persistent reports of human rights violations during 1995, including extrajudicial executions, “disappearances”, torture and death threats. These violations have been targeted at many sectors of society, including human rights defenders, religious figures, children and students, indigenous leaders and activists, members of popular organizations, those attempting to investigate human rights violations, witnesses of human rights violations, trade unionists, former refugees and internally displaced persons returning to their lands. For more than 30 years the perpetrators have been members of the army, the security forces, the so-called voluntary civil defence committees and military commissioners. Although the military commissioners - at least 24,000 individuals - were disbanded in September 1995, they remained armed and Amnesty International fears that they will continue operating as civilians.

Those responsible for human rights violations continue to benefit from almost total impunity. Few perpetrators of human rights violations have been brought to justice in recent years and those only in cases where a particular element, usually the foreign nationality or high social status of the victim, has stimulated high-level national or international attention in the case. There have still been no convictions of those believed responsible for the gross human rights violations committed at the height of the army’s counterinsurgency campaign of the late 1970s and early 1980s, when thousands of people were killed or “disappeared”. Amnesty International is concerned at the failure by successive governments to bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations over the last 30 years. Amnesty International believes that the failure to bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations can lead to a repetition of the same pattern of abuses and is convinced of the need for a clear official signal that human rights violations will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

In June 1994 an agreement was reached between the government and the armed opposition on the formation of a Commission for the Clarification of Violations of Human Rights and Acts of Violence which Caused Suffering to the Guatemalan People during the Armed Conflict (*Comisión para el esclarecimiento histórico de las violaciones a los derechos humanos y los hechos de violencia que han causado sufrimiento a la población guatemalteca*). It cannot begin its work until a peace agreement is signed. Amnesty International is seriously concerned that the Commission is not empowered to name those responsible for human rights violations nor initiate legal proceedings against them.

On 31 March 1995 the government and the armed opposition coalition signed the “Agreement on the Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (*Acuerdo sobre identidad y derechos de los pueblos indígenas*). Amnesty International is concerned, however, that previous agreements such as the March 1994 “Global Human Rights Accord” and the June 1994 “Accord for the resettlement of Populations uprooted by the Armed Conflict” have not been respected. At the same time, the government has shown little political will in implementing the recommendations made by the Independent Expert, and by the United Nations Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), which has concluded that impunity is still the greatest obstacle to the respect for human rights in Guatemala.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR that it request the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of the Independent Expert. Amnesty International also recommends to the CHR that any advisory services programme be made contingent on the demonstrated political will of the government to improve the human rights situation. Further, Amnesty International calls on the CHR to urge the

government to:

- carry out immediate, impartial and independent investigations into all allegations of extrajudicial killings, “disappearances”, torture and ill-treatment and to bring to justice those responsible for such human rights violations;
- implement fully the recommendations made by the Independent Expert and MINUGUA;
- take immediate steps to fully implement the Global Human Rights Accord and those parts of the human rights accord reflected in other accords signed between the two parties as part of the peace process.

HAITI

The CHR adopted at its last session resolution 1995/70 requesting the Secretary-General to appoint an independent expert to furnish assistance to the government in the area of human rights, to examine the development of human rights situation and to monitor the fulfilment by Haiti of its obligations in this field. The General Assembly in its resolution on human rights in Haiti expressed its concern about the recent incidents of violence, in particular the assassination of a member of the Haitian parliament, and hoped that such acts and other incidents of violence will not impede continued progress in the field of human rights and the consolidation of constitutional democracy.

While the human rights situation has improved and progress has been made with regard to prison conditions and the restructuring of security forces, the situation remains fragile. In particular, Amnesty International is concerned that the much needed reform of the judicial system has lagged far behind other reforms. The judicial system is seriously under-resourced, there is a shortage of judges, the existing judges are poorly trained and corruption is still widespread. The lack of a properly functioning judicial system means that human rights perpetrators from the past largely remain unpunished.

The international community should continue to support the efforts of the Haitian Government to establish systems that will protect and promote human rights, and given the continuing fragility of the human rights situation in Haiti, the UN should ensure that effective human rights monitoring continues by all appropriate means for the foreseeable future. Other governments should also consider how they might assist the Haitian Government to bring to justice suspected human rights perpetrators living in their country.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR that it requests the Secretary-General to renew the mandate of the independent expert as set out in paragraph 10 CHR resolution 1995/70. Further, Amnesty International calls on the CHR to urge the Government of Haiti to:

- ensure that continued reform of the judicial system is addressed as a matter of urgency;
- continue with their so far tentative efforts to bring to justice those responsible for past human rights violations, including, where necessary, seeking the extradition of suspects;
- ensure that the Haitian National Police and other police bodies are familiar with, and adequately trained in order to be able to abide by, international human rights instruments including the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;
- immediately suspend from duty, while an investigation is carried out, any member of the security forces who is suspected of having acted unlawfully in order to establish what further appropriate action should

be taken;

- declare that acts of “déchoukage”⁸ will not be tolerated by making clear public statements condemning such acts and by ensuring that appropriate action is taken against those responsible;
- immediately suspend from duty pending investigation by an independent body any prison official suspected of ordering or administering beatings or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- ratify the UN Convention against Torture;
- ensure that the *brigades de vigilance* are brought under strict chain-of-command control of the authorities and held accountable for any abuses they might commit.

IRAN

Amnesty International is deeply concerned by the continuing gross human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Seventeen years after the creation of the Islamic Republic, critics of the government are still facing torture, executions and imprisonment after unfair trials before Islamic Revolutionary Courts, torture and executions. Even Iranian dissidents who have fled abroad are not safe; several have been assassinated in circumstances suggesting they may have been extrajudicially executed by Iranian government agents.

Human rights violations in Iran are shrouded in secrecy. Procedures governing arrest, detention and trial are rarely made public. No information is given to detainees about the reasons for arrest and they are not notified of the charges against them until months, and sometimes years, later. Access to lawyers is frequently denied and detainees can spend up to 10 years behind bars before their relatives know where they are. People who speak out against the government or try to publicize human rights violations can face severe punishment

The CHR in its resolution 1995/68 expressed its deep concern at the continuing violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including those highlighted by the Special Representative in his report. Further, the CHR expressed its grave concern at the continued widespread use of the death penalty in the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially where its use is in violation of the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Two of the CHR’s thematic mechanisms, notably the Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, have carried out missions despite the fact that the Special Representative had not received a formal invitation and carried out a visit to the country. The Special Rapporteur has since then received a formal invitation to visit the Islamic Republic.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR that it extends the mandate of the Special Representative and that he coordinates his activities with the thematic mechanisms of the CHR. Further, Amnesty International calls on the CHR to urge the government to:

- release immediately and unconditionally all prisoners of conscience;
- to review, through an independent judicial body, the detention of all political prisoners who are held without trial or in relation to whom there are allegations that they were unfairly tried and order the immediate release of all those against whom there is no evidence that they have committed a recognizable

⁸ “déchoukage” - “rooting”: When people take law into their own hands.

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criminal offence;

- grant all political prisoners prompt and regular access to lawyers of their own or their families' choosing, and to medical care if necessary;
- set up immediate, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of torture and make the methodology and conclusions of these investigations public, and bring to justice any members of the security or other forces implicated in human rights violations;
- take effective measures to eradicate the use of torture, including ratifying the UN Convention against Torture and complying with its provisions;
- demonstrate its respect for the right to life by putting an immediate end to executions and commuting all pending death sentences;
- ensure that all trials, including in capital cases, respect, as a minimum standard, the safeguards set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Iran has ratified, including the rights to appeal and the right to seek pardon or commutation of the death sentence;
- condemn publicly the practice of extrajudicial executions, and make clear to all authorities and the general public in Iran and abroad that such killings will not be tolerated.

IRAQ

Hundreds of suspected government opponents and their relatives were detained and tens of thousands of others arrested in previous years continued to be held in 1995. Among them were prisoners of conscience. Reports of torture of detainees and sentenced prisoners continued to be received, including the imposition of judicial punishments introduced in 1994. The Government of Iraq failed to account for the thousands of people who had “disappeared” in previous years. Numerous judicial and extrajudicial executions, including extrajudicial executions of government opponents, were reportedly carried out in 1995.

The CHR in its resolution 1995/76 expressed its strong condemnation of the massive and extremely grave violations of human rights for which the Government of Iraq is responsible, resulting in an all-pervasive order of repression and oppression which is sustained by broad-based discrimination and wide-spread terror. The Special Rapporteur reported to the General Assembly that he has again been unable to have direct access to locations within Iraq owing to the government's refusal so far to cooperate with the UN in receiving a return visit of the Special Rapporteur or to accept human rights monitors throughout Iraq pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly and the CHR.

The Special Rapporteur has since his report to the CHR in 1992 called for human rights monitors to be deployed throughout Iraq. The CHR and the General Assembly has since then requested the Secretary-General to provide additional resources to fund the sending of human rights monitors. The General Assembly again in its draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.44 requested the Secretary-General to “approve the allocation of sufficient human and material resources for the sending of human rights monitors to such locations as would facilitate improved information flow and assessment and help in the independent verification of reports on the situation of human rights in Iraq”.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR that it extends the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and requests the Secretary-General to allocate resources for human rights monitors to be sent to locations to facilitate information flow about the situation, as repeatedly recommended by the Special Rapporteur.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Amnesty International has raised concerns about grave human rights violations committed by Israeli authorities in Israel and the Occupied Territories. These have included systematic torture of Palestinian detainees, the administrative detention of Palestinians and foreign nationals, unfair trials before military courts, and extrajudicial executions of Palestinians. Over 200 detainees continue to be held outside any legal framework in the Khiam detention centre in an area of Lebanon under the control of Israel and the South Lebanon Army.

Amnesty International expressed its concern over the draft "Prohibition on Torture" bill put forward by a committee established by the Israeli Government to incorporate the UN Convention against Torture into Israeli law. However, a key provision of the draft (Section 2(A) which defines torture) is in flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture. Changes to the wording proposed by the chair of the committee in January 1996 still fail to comply with the Convention.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR to continue the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. Further, Amnesty International calls on the CHR to urge the government to:

- withdraw all reservations from the Convention against Torture and, in particular, make a declaration under Article 22 recognizing the competence of the UN Committee against Torture to consider complaints from or on behalf of individuals. National legislation and all interrogation guidelines should be fully consistent with the absolute prohibition of both torture and ill-treatment as prescribed in international law;
- free all the detainees who continue to be held outside any legal framework in the Khiam detention centre unless they are charged with a recognised crime in which case they should have a fair and prompt trial;
- carry out prompt, independent and impartial investigation into allegations or evidence of extrajudicial executions, and bring to justice those found to be responsible.

MYANMAR

The CHR resolution 1995/72 called for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders. She and five of her NLD colleagues were indeed released in 1995; however 19 other NLD members of parliament remain imprisoned. In all some 1000 political prisoners, including many possible prisoners of conscience, are still in prison.

Amnesty International considers that the human rights situation in the country remains critical. Human rights violations continue throughout the country, including ill-treatment and torture in the context of forced portering and labour of both ethnic minorities and ethnic Burmese.

Amnesty International welcomes the government's cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar and the UN Secretary-General's representative. However, it is concerned that, unlike in previous years, the government did not allow the Special Rapporteur access to individual political prisoners. The organization strongly urges the government to permit such access during his next visit to the country.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on

Myanmar. The CHR should also urge the Myanmar Government to:

- release all prisoners of conscience;
- stop torture and ill treatment in detention, and improve the prison conditions, bringing them up to standards as required in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners, the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners and the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under any Form of Detention or Imprisonment;
- allow access to international non-governmental organizations;
- ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

RWANDA

The human rights situation in Rwanda remains very serious. The situation in prisons has deteriorated throughout 1995. More than 60,000 people are held, most without charge and all without trial in connection with the genocide. Arbitrary arrests are continuing. The conditions in the overcrowded prisons amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and more than 2,300 prisoners have died due to the conditions. The committees set up to recommend the release of those against whom there is insufficient evidence are barely functioning, and the under-resourced judiciary is incapable of ensuring that those against whom there is sufficient evidence are brought to trial. If trials either at the national and the international level are not conducted promptly, consistent with fairness, and if justice is not seen to be done, it is feared that the Rwandese people will increasingly take justice into their own hands.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights presented a report⁹ to the General Assembly. It included a program budget implication of approximately US\$9 million in an attempt to put the HRFOR onto the UN's regular budget.

The resolution on the situation of human rights in Rwanda, which was adopted by the General Assembly by consensus, "urges all States, pursuant to Security Council resolution 978 (1995), to exert, without delay, every effort, including arrest and detention, in order to bring those responsible to justice in accordance with international principles of due process, also urges States to honour their obligations under international law in this regard, particularly under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide". The resolution further "requests the High Commissioner to report regularly on all of these activities of the Field Operation."

Security Council resolution 1029, adopted on 12 December 1995, extended the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) until 8 March 1996. The resolution recognizes "the valuable contribution that the human rights officers deployed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to Rwanda have made towards the improvement of the overall situation" and "encourages the Secretary-General and his Special Representative to continue to coordinate the activities of the United Nations in Rwanda, including those of the organizations and agencies active in the humanitarian and developmental field, and of the human rights officers".

Amnesty International is concerned that the international community is failing to mobilize sufficient

⁹UN document A/50/743

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resources and expertise to bring to justice to the victims of genocide and other crimes against humanity. Amnesty International has called for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to have adequate resources and support from all states in order for it to be able to bring perpetrators of extrajudicial executions, torture and other human rights violations to justice.

Amnesty International regrets that the final declaration of the summit of leaders of five countries in the Great Lakes region, Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire, Uganda and Tanzania, held in Cairo 28-29 November 1995, contained few concrete measures to protect human rights. The five countries, despite their condemnation of the genocide, have still not adopted legislation to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Nor have they adopted measures to ensure that the rights of refugees and returnees are fully respected. The summit should have agreed to set up an independent body with the specific mandate to recommend and monitor measures to protect the human rights of returnees.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR to continue the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Rwanda, to ensure the necessary funding is available for the Special Rapporteur and to request:

- that HRFOR be funded from the regular UN budget to ensure long-term financial stability for the human rights operation;
- that vital logistical and other support provided by UNAMIR to HRFOR continues in another form, if UNAMIR's mandate is not extended beyond 8 March 1996;
- that the High Commissioner for Human Rights report regularly and publicly on all of the activities of HRFOR;
- that HRFOR should be able to receive funds to help Rwanda re-establish a judicial system which is fair and excludes the death penalty.

Further, Amnesty International recommends that the CHR urges all states to:

- adopt necessary legislation, as they are obliged to do under Security Council Resolution 978 (1995), to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, provide effective long-term support to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and to exert every effort, including arrest and detention, in order to bring those responsible to justice in accordance with international principles of due process;
- provide effective assistance to rebuild the Rwandese judicial system by delivering necessary resources and expertise to ensure fair trials excluding the death penalty.

Finally, Amnesty International recommends to the CHR to urge the Rwandese Government to:

- publicly instruct the security forces that all extrajudicial executions, "disappearances", torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary arrests and detentions and other violations of international human rights law must stop and will not be tolerated;
- pass legislation to allow foreign judicial experts to participate in rebuilding the Rwandese legal system at all levels and bringing perpetrators of human rights violations to justice.

SOMALIA

Since the state of Somalia disintegrated in 1991, there has been no recognized government or any effective legal structure. After the UN withdrawal in March 1995, there are still frequent flare-ups of fighting between armed clan-based factions in Mogadishu and other regions, as well as in the self-declared breakaway "Somaliland Republic" in the northwest.

There have been continuing reports of human rights abuses by some political groups during 1995, particularly in areas of clan fighting. They include deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilian clan opponents; arbitrary detentions of political opponents, journalists and other non-violent critics; hostage-taking of humanitarian agency staff and other civilians; rape and other forms of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners, including punishments of amputation and flogging; summary executions; and forced displacement of minority communities.

The CHR in its resolution 1995/56 requested the Independent Expert to study ways and means of how best to implement, at the earliest possible date, a programme of advisory services for Somalia. It said the programme should be aimed at re-establishing respect for human rights and the rule of law and at strengthening the police, judicial and prison systems in Somalia in a manner consistent with internationally accepted criminal justice standards.¹⁰

Amnesty International believes that without a functioning and effective government in Somalia it is still premature to consider a programme of advisory services. The first and essential step towards improving the situation is to get a full picture of the extent of human rights abuses by conducting investigations in different regions of Somalia and to ensure that the protection of human rights is an integral part of the on-going peace process.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR that in view of the gravity of the human rights situation as reflected in previous resolutions of the CHR and subsequent reports of a pattern of serious human rights abuses, Somalia be considered under item 10 of the CHR's agenda, and that the mandate of the Independent Expert be transformed into that of a Special Rapporteur to monitor the human rights situation and to indicate ways forward in improving the protection and promotion of human rights in Somalia.

SUDAN

By refusing entry to the Special Rapporteur on Sudan the Sudanese Government has undermined its claim that it has nothing to hide and that the truth about human rights in the country is consistently misinterpreted. Resolution 1995/77 on Sudan adopted by the CHR last year asked the government to take specific steps in relation to political detainees, political prisoners, torture and detention centres.

The CHR also took the important step of calling for the establishment of a monitoring team, following the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur. However, monitors were not deployed in 1995.

The Special Rapporteur presented a report to the General Assembly¹¹ in which he repeated his recommendation that "monitors should be placed at the earliest possible date in such locations as would facilitate improved information flow and assessment and would help in the independent verification of reports on the situation of human rights in the Sudan". The General Assembly in its resolution on the human rights situation in Sudan endorsed the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur.

¹⁰see Amnesty International document *Somalia: Building human rights in the disintegrated state* (AFR 52/03/95, November 1995)

¹¹UN Doc A/50/569

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The creation of an impartial and independent human rights monitoring team with full access to all parts of Sudan would be a powerful mechanism to help the Sudanese people improve the human rights situation. If the authorities have nothing to hide they would have nothing to fear from such a body and they would have much to gain, because the monitoring team could help establish the credibility of their claims to be taking action on human rights¹². Such a monitoring body would ensure that both human rights violations and any measures the authorities are taking to combat them are properly explained to the international community. Monitoring is more than just collecting and verifying information. The task of the international community and any human rights operation set up by the UN is to help the Sudanese find a way forward in improving respect for human rights. In the end, the responsibility for building respect and protection for human rights lies with the Sudanese, both those in authority and those in civil society. A monitoring team should therefore be mandated to:

- search out and verify information about human rights abuses in all parts of the country and issue regular public reports;
- monitor and publicly report on action on human rights taken by the authorities;
- work with Sudanese civil society to promote the protection and knowledge of human rights;
- work with the authorities, once they have demonstrated genuine political commitment to establish respect for human rights, to ensure the effective implementation of Sudan's obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and takes steps to ensure that its 1995 resolution calling for the deployment of an international civilian human rights monitoring body is implemented and provided with necessary resources. Further Amnesty International calls on the CHR to urge the Sudanese Government to:

- give the Special Rapporteur access to all parts of the country and to extend their full cooperation to him;
- carry out impartial and independent investigations into specific reports of human rights violations and to issue public reports on the results of the investigations, their methodology and recommendations made.
- give public accounts of all action taken by the authorities to promote and protect human rights in Sudan.

¹²see Amnesty International document: *Sudan: Monitoring human rights* (AFR 54/29/95, March 1995)
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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Amnesty International welcomes the human rights commitments included in the Dayton General Framework Agreement and annexes (the Agreement). Nevertheless, human rights abuses continue in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the period since the October cease-fire Bosnian Serb soldiers have continued forcible expulsions from the Banja Luka area. There have also been reports of abuses since the Agreement was signed, resulting, for example, in the continuing outflow of elderly Muslims and Croats fleeing from Bosnian Serb-controlled areas who lack confidence in their future in those areas. The destruction of houses by Bosnian Croat or Bosnian Serb forces in areas which are due to be handed over to the other side has been reported. There have been reports of harassment by Bosnian Serb forces aimed at causing Serbs to leave areas which are due to be handed over to the control of the Federation, some civilian detainees remain in detention despite agreements for their release, and snipers in Sarajevo have on occasions continued to deliberately target civilians.

Bosnia and Herzegovina provisionally arrested at the request of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (Tribunal) two Serbian army officers it had detained and transferred them to the Tribunal. Although Croatia and, very recently, the Bosnian Serbs have permitted Tribunal investigators to operate in their territories, neither Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Bosnian Croats nor the Bosnian Serbs have surrendered any suspects indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal. Indeed, a Bosnian Croatia court released a suspect indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, who was otherwise detained while on trial on criminal charges.

The Agreement envisages that the Implementation Force (IFOR) should stay no longer than about one year. Regardless how long the international military presence remains, the need to protect human rights and build new institutions requires a long-term commitment. States cannot abandon this work at some arbitrary cut-off date.

The Agreement sets up a range of new human rights-related institutions with specific limited mandates, including an Ombudsman, a Human Rights Chamber, an International Police Task Force (IPTF) and an election monitoring unit. If these are to have any impact they will need adequate staff and presence throughout the country. They require long-term financial stability and adequate financial commitment from states. This cost will be only a small proportion of the total cost of civilian reconstruction in Bosnia and Herzegovina, yet the Agreement itself recognizes that respect for human rights is "of vital importance in achieving a lasting peace". By the beginning of March 1996 the international community had not provided long-term financial stability or adequate resources. Only a small percentage of the staff of these bodies were in place as of 1 March 1996.

Human rights violations in Bosnia and Herzegovina have continued even since the October cease-fire which ushered in the Dayton talks. Indeed, throughout the conflict a large proportion of the abuses have taken place far from the battle zones. Peace does not necessarily bring with it safety for victims and their families. The experience of other conflicts is that the type of human rights institutions set up by the Agreement still need an international civilian human rights monitoring operation for months or years to provide immediate protection to those at risk and to help nurture the institutions in their early stages. Such an operation is not expressly referred to in the Agreement, although is fully compatible with its objectives. The human rights related institutions envisaged in the Agreement do not appear to be adequate

in light of the scope of human rights problems in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Such a long-term civilian human rights operation will require close coordination between the UN, particularly the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union. Such an operation will also require adequate and stable financial arrangements to avoid the debilitating uncertainty suffered by other operations, such as in Rwanda. The operation should draw on the experience of the field officers of the Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia and could build on and expand the existing field offices. An operation must have presence in both urban and rural areas, with full access to all authorities and complete freedom of movement including access to places of detention, as well as power to investigate individual cases of human rights violations. The mission must have the power to intervene with the authorities to seek action for the protection of individuals, and to ensure victims and their families have remedies. The mission should issue frequent and public reports.

All IFOR troops should receive effective instruction in international humanitarian law, UN human rights law and law enforcement standards and a mechanism must be set up to deal with complaints about the behaviour of troops who violate them. The IPTF and military and police forces of the parties are obliged to abide by the highest norms of international law. The IFOR should not be any different. Such training programmes should draw on the experience of the UN programme for technical cooperation in the field of human rights.

The Agreement gives IFOR troops no express power to search for or arrest people suspected of committing crimes within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal. Although IFOR has stated that it would arrest persons indicted by the Tribunal if it encountered them and has recently provided its personnel with photographs of some of those indicted, it has refused to search for them. The refusal to search for persons who have been indicted by the Tribunal for grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions for the Protection of War Victims of 12 August 1949 is a clear violation of international law. The failure to spell this out could undermine not only the effectiveness of the Tribunal but also the confidence of the public in the entire Agreement itself.

Amnesty International is concerned that Annex 7 to the Agreement does not contain any reference to the requirement for all repatriation of refugees to be voluntary. According to international standards all repatriations must meet three conditions - voluntariness, safety and dignity. There is also a need to recognize the fact that the reality on the ground does not yet match the commitments made by the parties to the Agreement. It is important not to impose arbitrary and unrealistic time frames for return before such return can take place safely and without risk of abuse. For this reason, Amnesty International is concerned about the constant emphasis on "early" return in the Agreement and particularly the statement in the Annex on Elections that the return of refugees should already be underway by the time of the elections expected in September. The return of refugees and displaced persons may well be a long and arduous process which cannot be rushed. Emphasis at this early stage should be on confidence-building measures and protection of minorities already in place rather than organized repatriation. The improvement of the human rights situation will lead to return of refugees and not the other way around.

Arising out of this concern is the need for continuing international protection for refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is unlikely that most of them will be able to return home in the immediate future and, even in the long term, there will be those who cannot return home. It may even be the case that there is a need for host governments to accept new refugees who are displaced by the territorial exchanges envisaged by the Agreement.

The Agreement requires returning refugees and displaced persons to take back their property or to receive compensation. But the people who have been forcibly expelled should not feel that they have no option but to accept compensation rather than returning to their homes. Many homes have been destroyed as punishment. People should not only be able to return to these homes but also to receive just compensation for the destruction. Otherwise the right to return will be illusory.

The General Assembly adopted three resolutions on Former Yugoslavia.¹³A/C.3/50/L.46¹⁴A/C.3/50/L.43¹⁵A/C.3/50/L.45¹⁶ In its draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.46 the General Assembly welcomed the signing (initialling) of the Peace Agreement and the commitments made by all the parties to respect fully human rights. It encouraged the international community, acting through the UN or bilaterally, to increase humanitarian support, to promote human rights, the repatriation of refugees and the holding of free elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In particular the General Assembly welcomes the European Union reconstruction efforts. It further noted the Special Rapporteur's recommendation that respect for human rights should be given priority during and after the peace negotiations, as "without genuine improvements in the human rights situation in the area, any peace agreement will not have a solid foundation".

Human rights should be the cornerstone in any peace settlement. Obviously, the need for human rights monitoring exists not only in Bosnia and Herzegovina but throughout the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Amnesty International recommends to the CHR that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur be renewed. Amnesty International also recommends that the CHR calls for:

- proper coordination to be established between the UN, the High Representative, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Union and that the CHR requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to play a coordinating role with regard to human rights monitoring;
- training of IFOR troops and IPTF in international human rights law;
- IFOR to abide by international humanitarian law and international human rights law when it carries out law enforcement functions;
- all personnel, including IFOR troops, to report on human rights violations that they witnessed or learn about and to pass the information promptly to the human rights monitoring operation, the Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia and the Tribunal.

Further Amnesty International recommends the CHR to call on governments to:

- respect fully the rights of refugees, to offer them adequate protection and to ensure that any repatriation is voluntary and only when return is safe;
- give long-term financial and political commitment to human rights monitoring and to nurture the building

13The draft resolution on the situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

14, the draft resolution on the situation of human rights in Kosovo

15and the draft resolution on rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia

16.

of human rights institutions.

ZAIRE

The human rights situation in Zaire has not improved over the last year, and virtually none of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on Zaire have been implemented. Prison conditions are extremely harsh, leading to scores of deaths every year. There have been fewer reported cases of torture, but torture and ill-treatment still occur. Severe beatings by the security forces are commonplace at the time of arrest and during detention. Long-term imprisonment of prisoners of conscience has been replaced by short-term detentions without charge or trial and frequent harassment of opposition members, human rights activists and journalists. "Disappearances" are frequently reported. Although no executions ordered by the courts have been reported for at least five years, extrajudicial executions by members of the armed forces continue.

The CHR in its resolution 1995/69 deplored the continuing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Zaire, particularly the practice of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary detention and solitary confinement, inhumane and degrading prison conditions, especially in the detention centres administrated by the army and security services, enforced "disappearances", and denial of the right to a fair trial. It noted with concern that the army and the security forces continue to use force against civilians and to enjoy impunity. Further, the resolution recalled the agreement between the Government of Zaire and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights aimed at assuring order and security in the Rwandese refugee camps in Zaire and the voluntary repatriation of these refugees to their country of origin.

The resolution invited the High Commissioner to consider the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur to send, in consultation with the Government of Zaire, two human rights experts based in Kinshasa, where they would establish themselves in order to monitor the human rights situation and give advice to the government authorities, as well as non-governmental organizations. At the time of writing the Government had still not agreed to the deployment of two experts to Kinshasa.

Amnesty International recommends to the CHR that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur be extended. Further, Amnesty International calls on the CHR to urge the government to:

- implement the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur in his report to the CHR in 1995;
- invite two experts to be based in Kinshasa;
- refrain from forcibly returning the Rwandese and Burundi refugees from Zaire.

LIST OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS

The following documents are available from Amnesty International section offices, the International Secretariat or the Amnesty International UN office in Geneva. Availability of translations is indicated by means of superscribed letters (^French, ^Spanish, ^Arabic)

GENERAL

Amnesty International Report 1995
(POL 10/01/95)^{FSA}

Statements to the 51st session of the Commission on Human Rights
(IOR 41/04/95, March 1995)

AFGHANISTAN

Women in Afghanistan: A Human Rights Catastrophe
(ASA 11/03/95, April 1995)^{FS}

Executions, amputations and possible deliberate and arbitrary killings
(ASA 11/05/95, March 1995)^{FS}

An update on the human rights situation
(ASA 11/12/95, October 1995)

International responsibility for the human rights disaster
(ASA 11/09/95, November 1995)^F

BOUGAINVILLE

Bougainville: An agenda for human rights
(ASA 34/01/95, February 1995)^F

Bougainville: Political killings and "disappearances" continue
(ASA 34/02/95, December 1995)^F

BURUNDI

Struggle for survival: immediate action vital to stop killings
(AFR 16/07/95, March 1995)^S

Rwanda and Burundi: A call for action by the international community
(AFR 02/24/95, April 1995)^{FS}

Targeting students, teachers and clerics in the fight for supremacy
Amnesty International March 1996AI Index: IOR 41/03/96

1996 UN Commission on Human Rights - Recommendations on Countries on the Agenda

(AFR 16/14/95, September 1995)^{FS}

CAMBODIA

Human rights and the new government

(ASA 23/02/95, March 1995)^F

Prison term for newspaper editor

(ASA 23/04/95, February 1995)^F

Sam Rainsy MP: Concern for the safety of an elected representative

(ASA 23/09/95)

The draft press law

(ASA 23/10/95, June 1995)^{FS}

Concern for the safety of elected representatives

(ASA 23/11/95, June 1995)^{FS}

Human rights violated: government acts to silence critics

(ASA 23/12/95, July 1995)^F

Detention of six prisoners of conscience

(ASA 23/13/95, August 1995)

Political violence in Phnom Penh

(ASA 23/16/95, October 1995)^F

Impunity in Kampot Province: the Death of Chhoern Korn

(ASA 23/15/95, October 1995)

CUBA

Imprisonment of Pentecostal minister: reverend Orson Vila Santoyo

(AMR 25/06/95, June 1995)^{FS}

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

A dismal record of broken pieces

(AFR 24/09/95, September 1995)^F

GUATEMALA

Maquila workers among trade unionists targeted

(AMR 34/28/95, March 1995)^{FS}

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1996 UN Commission on Human Rights - Recommendations on Countries on the Agenda

Presidential candidate General Héctor Gramajo held responsible for gross human rights violations by United States Federal Court
(AMR 34/11/95, April 1995)^{FS}

The right to know: the case of Efrain Bámaca
(AMR 34/19/95)^{FS}

Victims of the 1982 army massacre at Las Dos Erres exhumed
(AMR 34/24/95)^{FS}

IRAN

Official secrecy hides continuing repression
(MDE 13/02/95, February 1995)^F

IRAQ

Human rights abuses in Iraqi Kurdistan since 1991
(MDE 14/01/95, August 1995)^S

ISRAEL

Oral statement to the United Nations on human rights in the Israeli Occupied Territories
(MDE 15/03/95)^F

Death by shaking: the case of 'Abd al-Samad Harizat
(MDE 15/23/95, April 1995)^F

Human rights: a year of shattered hopes
(MDE 15/07/95, May 1995)^{FS}

Israel and the Occupied Territories - Briefing on Proposed Torture Legislation
(MDE 15/37/95, October 1995)^F

RWANDA

Crying out for justice
(AFR 47/05/95, April 1995)^{FS}

Arming the perpetrators of the genocide
(AFR 02/14/95, July 1995)^{FS}

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1996 UN Commission on Human Rights - Recommendations on Countries on the Agenda

Rwanda and Burundi: A call for action by the international community
(AFR 02/24/95, April 1995)^{FS}

SOMALIA

Building human rights in the disintegrated state
(AFR 52/03/95)^{FS}

SUDAN

Monitoring human rights
(AFR 54/29/95, March 1995)^{FS}

Women's human rights: an action report
(AFR 54/21/95, March 1995)^{FS}

Amnesty International is a worldwide voluntary movement that works to prevent some of the gravest violations by governments of people's fundamental rights. The main focus of its campaigning is to:

• *free all prisoners of conscience.* These are people detained anywhere for their beliefs or because of their ethnic origin, sex, colour or language - who have not used or advocated violence;

• *ensure fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners;*

• *abolish the death penalty, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of prisoners;*

• *end to extrajudicial executions "disappearances".*

Amnesty International also opposes abuses committed by armed opposition groups which are contrary to minimum international standards of humanitarian conduct such as hostage-taking, torture and deliberate and arbitrary killings of prisoners and other civilians and non-combatants.

Amnesty International is impartial. It is independent of any government, political persuasion or religious creed. It does not support or oppose any government or political system, nor does it support or oppose the views of victims whose rights it seeks to protect. It is concerned solely with the protection of human rights regardless of the ideology of the government or opposition force or the belief of the victim.

Amnesty International promotes awareness of and adherence to all the rights embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and elaborated in human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations (UN) including the International Covenant on Economic,

Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights although the specific rights on which it takes action are found in the latter treaty. All human rights are universal and indivisible and the specific rights which are the focus of Amnesty International's actions are inextricably linked to other human rights.