
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 203/94

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - UNITED KINGDOM

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Brazil - 14 September - PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL RELEASE. SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Kosovo - 19 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Indonesia - 28 September - LAUNCH OF CAMPAIGN

Algeria - first week of October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

France - 12 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

** Thailand - 8 September** - Please note change of date. Apologies for this second delay, we had to incorporate comments from UNHCR which took some time to arrive. The news release will be in the news service tomorrow and we will be swiftairing the report to you tomorrow also. SEE NEWS SERVICE 184/94

Togo - 15 September - See news service 168/94

Turkey - 14 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 181/94

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UNITED KINGDOM: IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY DECLARES CEASEFIRE

Amnesty International is urging the British Government to implement measures for the full protection of human rights in Northern Ireland, following the declaration this week of a ceasefire by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), an armed political group.

"Now is the time to put human rights at the heart of the search for a peace settlement", Amnesty International said today.

The organization is also urging all other armed groups in Northern Ireland to put a halt to deliberate and arbitrary killings, torture and hostage-taking.

Although Amnesty International takes no position on armed conflicts as such, it is clear that the violent civil conflict in Northern Ireland since 1969 has provided a context for grave and widespread human rights abuses by all sides. Over 3,000 people have been killed in the last twenty-five years, the overwhelming majority of whom have been civilians.

Amnesty International has longstanding concerns in relation to this conflict, including: disputed killings by the security forces; collusion between members of the security forces and Loyalist armed groups; ill-treatment of detainees by police officers; and issues related to emergency legislation and unfair trials in the "Diplock Courts". The organization has also documented its concerns about arbitrary and deliberate killings, torture and hostage-taking by both Republican and Loyalist armed groups.

"There continues to be a need to monitor developments in Northern Ireland but we hope that we will see a significant decrease in the level of human rights abuses in the near future," Amnesty International said.

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