
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 248/94

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INTERNAL

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **PERU** (see news schedule below. This item has a Geneva dateline on it and will be released to media by the AI's UN office in Geneva. It will also be sent to international media by the IS. The researcher on Peru will be in Geneva for the CAT and any interview requests will be passed on to him through the Geneva office. EDAI please note this item is for priority translation).

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE: Also enclosed in this news service is a contact list of journalists in Indonesia for you to pass on to any of your journalists who will be going to the APEC conference.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: An Amnesty International delegation is visiting Uganda between 9 November and 19 November to carry out research and to meet government officials to discuss issues relating to human rights. Among the organization's concerns are recent reports of the detention without trial of at least 100 people in military detention centres in Gulu District, northern Uganda as part of army counter-insurgency operations. Amnesty International representatives previously visited Uganda in February 1990 and August 1991.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

APEC - 3 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 243 AND NEWS SERVICE 212/94

Peru/Committee against Torture - 9 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 243/94

Iraq - 29 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

**** Nigeria - 11 November **** - A news release is being written to go with a document on the military government's clampdown on the opposition and the violations perpetrated against the Ogonis. Sorry about the short notice on this, there is a possibility that the researcher may be going on a mission to Nigeria in the near future so we wanted to release the document before she left the country. We will be swiftairing the document to press officers this week. Key target countries for this news release are those with economic interests in Nigeria, particularly those countries who have companies based in Ogoniland such as UK, US, and European Union members such as France, Italy and Germany.

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SECTION INITIATIVES

IRISH SECTION

The Irish Section has got sponsorship for a public Art Competition on the theme of human rights which will incorporate the Amnesty flame and candle and the Peter Benenson quote: "The candle burns not for us, but for all those whom we failed to rescue from prison, who were shot on the way to prison, who were tortured, who were kidnapped, who 'disappeared'. That's what the candle is for..." The flame will be permanently lit by gas and the artwork will be sited in the centre of Dublin. It will be unveiled or switched on next year to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations.

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AI INDEX: AMR 46/WU 04/94
EMBARGOED FOR 9 NOVEMBER 1994

PERU: UN COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE EXAMINES PERU'S APPALLING TORTURE RECORD
UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA -- Hundreds of people held in Peru have been tortured and ill-treated, more than five years after the government promised to improve its record on torture, according to Amnesty International today.

The human rights organization has submitted a report to the United Nations (UN) Committee against Torture, which is today examining Peru's initial report on the measures taken by the authorities to bring an end to the practice of torture and ill-treatment. Peru ratified the UN Convention against Torture in 1988.

"The government admits that it's agents still carry out torture, and yet we do not know of one single case in which a member of the security forces has been brought to justice before a civilian court and convicted for this", Amnesty International said.

The human rights organization is challenging the claim by the Peruvian Government that effective legislative and administrative safeguards exist to prevent torture and punish torturers.

According to Amnesty International the Peruvian authorities have not promptly and impartially investigated the hundreds of complaints lodged since 1992 in which prisoners accused of terrorism-related offences claim they were tortured and ill-treated.

In the report, Amnesty International points out that detainees accused of crimes under Peru's anti-terrorism laws almost invariably claim they were tortured to make them sign confessions, which are then used as evidence against them. The detention, interrogation, and trial procedures enshrined in these laws effectively encourages the use of torture and ill-treatment.

For example, the law explicitly prohibits members of the security forces involved in detaining and interrogating the suspect, of being called upon as witnesses during the suspect's trial. The possibility of cross-examining those accused of torturing or ill-treating the suspect is thereby precluded, and an important safeguard designed to ensure a fair trial is removed.

"Only when the Peruvian authorities reform the anti-terrorism laws, make the investigation of torture allegations speedy and effective, and bring the perpetrators to justice, can the Government's avowed aim 'to eliminate torture' be taken seriously," Amnesty International said.

NOTE TO EDITOR:

Amnesty International has submitted the following document to the UN Committee against Torture: Peru: Torture and Ill-treatment: Summary of Amnesty International's Concerns, AI INDEX: AMR 46/19/94.

Copies of this document are available in English and Spanish.

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AI INDEX: ASA 21/WU 20/94
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INDONESIA: CONTACT LIST FOR JOURNALISTS DURING APEC

The following is a contact list from Aliansi Jurnalis Independen (Alliance of Independent Journalists) in Indonesia which can be passed on to journalists attending the APEC conference.

Aliansi Jurnalis Independen (AJI)

Rumah Susun Tanah Abang Block 39 Fl. II No 4
Jl K H Mas Mansyur 28-A
Jakarta 10240
Tel/fax: 21 513 5918

AJI have stated that if their office cannot be reached properly due to concerns over phone tapping, if their phones have been cut or due to electricity cuts, AJI can be reached by the following pager services:

Stanley: tel: 530 1978 (pager 373 513 ext 28725)
Salomo: tel: 520 2160 (pager 373 513 ext 33918)
Yoedha tel: 855 0806 (pager 373 513 ext 9620)
Liston: tel: 520 1022 (pager 373 513 ext 21220)
Bina tel: 520 1022 (pager 373 513 ext 34109)
Satrio tel: 520 2160 (pager 373 513 ext 15143)
Santoso tel: 725 5625 (pager 373 513 ext 55806)
Lenah tel: 530 6970 (pager 373 513 ext 39905) - speaks French
Rudi tel: 520 1022 (pager 373 513 ext 21224)
Andreas tel: (pager 373 513 ext 71691)

Indah tel: 310 3316 (pager 838 8111 ext 109280) - speaks German
Janoe tel: 720 6127 (pager 838 8111 ext 104090)
Dadang tel: 720 6127 (pager 838 8111 ext 104090)

AJI recommends that visiting journalists attend the following meetings (journalists will need to contact AJI for the dates):

1. Cocktail party

Place: Citraland Hotel
Jl S Parman Grogol area (three kilometres from the APEC press centre)
Time: 7.00pm - 10pm

A number of prominent intellectuals, chief editors, economists, journalists (both local and foreign) human rights activists are expected to attend the gatherings.

2. Book launching

Place: Ibis Hotel
Jl S Parman, Slipi area

(two kilometres from the APEC press centre)

Time: 11am - 1pm

Both hotels are located on the same street of the APEC press centre which will take place at the Jakarta Convention Centre. To get there, take a taxi and go directly to the hotels (about 20 minutes although could be more if there are traffic jams).

AJI have prepared about 2000 press kits comprising pictures, chronologies of the recent media bans.

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