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WEEKLY UPDATE SERVICE 47/93

Contained in this weekly update is an external item on Former Yugoslavia (Irish Section - Caravan of Conscience).

NEWS INITIATIVES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Guatemala - 19 May

Document or publication with a news release on a full range of recent human rights violations (in the past year or so) in Guatemala. The document is running behind schedule and went in this week's Weekly Mailing. Please get in touch with the IS if you need a copy earlier. The news release has been sent to you.

Egypt - 26 May

Document or publication and news release on all our concerns in Egypt. These include very high numbers of prisoners and torture.

UN World Conference - 2 June

News release on UN World Conference to go with June Focus article and ENR.

UN WORLD CONFERENCE-RELATED NEWS INITIATIVES ONLY THROUGHOUT JUNE

Annual Report - 8 July

Annual Report publication, Worldwide Summary, Regional Summaries, Regional Updates, news release.

Indonesia (Aceh) - 28 July

Document and news release to go with action on massive numbers of political killings.

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES**Malawi - 18 May**

Please note the embargo date has been changed back to 18 May.

Document on human rights violations and the referendum and weekly update item to go with it already sent out to you. It will be sent to international media by the IS Press Office.

Azerbaijan - 28 May

Document on hostage-taking and weekly update item to go with section-level action. IS Press Office will send out to selected international media.

World Conference: Video Material

A video setting out our agenda for the World Conference is currently in production. It will be a development from the conventional ENR format and will be available in four languages. It will be distributed to sections and embargoed for 2 June.

Video compilation tapes are also in preparation for use at the time of the World Conference. One will include footage of human rights violations to illustrate the challenge to governments; another will focus on AI's own work. These tapes will be edited on 4 June and will be embargoed for 14 June.

Section Initiatives**French Section - European Press Officers' Meeting**

This year's European Press Officer's meeting takes place at the French Section offices: 4 rue de la Pierre Levee, 75011 Paris, France. The Hotel is: Hotel Du Grand Prieuré, 20 rue du grand Prieuré, 75011 Paris. Tel: +33 1 4700 7414. Underground station: Oberkampf. Anyone who has not received the agenda should call Josette or Luisa at the French Section press office.

The following people will be attending:

Special guests: Pierre Sané, AI Secretary General; Jean Freedberg, Head of Communications, AI USA.

IS: Anita Tiessen; Anna Stuttard; Paula Seager; Adam Lloyd; John Darcy.

European Sections:

Austria:	Geral Kador
Belgium:	Phillippe Hensmans & Luc Henkinbrant
Denmark:	Lars Christensen
Germany:	Gunnar Köhne
Italy:	Riccardo Noury & Barbara Capponi
Netherlands:	Maud Bredero & Janneke Tigchelaar
Norway:	Stig Michaelson
Portugal:	José Manuel Cabral
Sweden:	Louisa Stannow
UK:	Daphne Davies & Brian Dooley

European World Conference Press Briefing in June

The British Section Press Office has been talking to the EC project office and the Francophone Belgium Press Officer about holding a European press briefing in Brussels for MEPs and for journalists who will be covering the World Conference. The date will probably be Tuesday, June 8th in the morning. The aim will be to look at the EC's role as a whole in terms of its internal shortcomings (Asylum issues, etc), external policies - aid/development, etc, and also to look at Europe's role within the UN.

Although the idea has been suggested by the British Section, it is hoped that all European Section Press Officers will be interested in being involved. For further information please contact either Daphne Davies, in the British Section Press Office or Johannes in the EC project office.

"Caravan of Conscience" - 16 to 25 May

The Irish Section's convoy of buses through Europe to the borders of Serbia and Croatia leaves Ireland on Sunday. The IS currently has an itinerary for the journey and we are hoping to get a detailed weekly update item from the section so that we can update all press officers. In the meantime, please contact the Irish Section for further information.

2. EUR 48/WU 05/93 EXTERNAL
14 May 1993

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL "CARAVAN OF CONSCIENCE" SETS OFF FOR BORDERS OF FORMER YUGOSLAVIA: "STOP THE TORTURE, STOP THE RAPE, STOP THE KILLINGS, BRING THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO JUSTICE".

On Sunday 16 May two bus loads of Amnesty International members and representatives of organizations, trade unions and religious bodies will leave Ireland to travel across Europe to the borders of the former Yugoslavia. They will be joined en route by Amnesty International members from all over Europe and America, as they travel through Wales, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

They will be taking the message: "**STOP THE TORTURE, STOP THE RAPE, STOP THE KILLINGS, BRING THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO JUSTICE**" to the borders of Serbia and Croatia - a message that will be reinforced at events along the route of their ten-day journey.

Director of Amnesty International's Irish Section, Mary Lawlor, explained that the "Caravan of Conscience" has been set up to publicise this message over and over again in Europe and to let all concerned know that the human rights violations still going on in Bosnia-Herzegovina must end. "We know about the rape, the killings and all the other violations," she said. "It is a terrible burden of knowledge and it brings with it a terrible responsibility.

"That is why we are carrying our concerns physically to the borders of the former Yugoslavia. We must not remain silent - we must raise our voices in protest, even in the face of what seems like the insurmountable."

The caravan will be joined on the borders of Serbia and Croatia by Amnesty International members from Slovenia, Hungary, Poland and Russia for events centred around the rivers Tisa and Drava, which flow through some of the towns which have suffered terribly in the conflict, including Osijek and Vukovar.

They will create a temporary "Republic of Conscience" and Seamus Heaney's poem of the same name will be read - written to commemorate Amnesty International's 25th anniversary in 1986, it is an eloquent statement of human rights principles which transcends politics. Wreaths bearing the names of towns which have witnessed terrible atrocities, will be laid in the Tisa to the sound of a quartet singing "De Profundis". Amnesty International's Secretary General, Pierre Sané, will give a speech and a representative of the Hungarian President will give his message.

People representing other groups, including Jews, Gypsies, lesbians and gays, will come forward, each carrying a flower. They will state who they are and who they represent, they will then throw their flower into the river.

A group of school children will cast white birds made by Irish school children into the river.

Details

Sunday 16th

Ireland: Dublin - Send-off ceremony with Pierre Sané in Execution Yard in Kilmainham Jail at 4.00pm.

Monday 17th

Wales: Holyhead - Candlelight vigil at quayside. The Bangor Group will be joined by Ieuan Wyn Jones, Member of Parliament for Ynys Mon.

Tuesday 18th

Belgium: Brussels - Demonstration outside Ministry of Justice. Symbolic indictment denouncing war crimes and impunity and supporting justice will be presented to Minister of Justice, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Community and United Nations (UN). Amnesty International's Belgian Francophone Section will repeat the call for the ad-hoc war crimes tribunal to bring people to justice, to be just, fair and effective, and to be a first step to the creation of a permanent international criminal court to try gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law. Press conference on bus.

France: Strasbourg - Press conference.

Wednesday 19th

Germany: Munich - Demonstration at office of Republic of Croatia, General Consulate of Yugoslavia and Consulate of Bosnia Herzegovina.

Thursday 20th

Austria: Vienna - Demonstration linked to upcoming UN World Conference on Human Rights (to be held in Vienna next month - the first such international conference in 25 years).

Friday 21st

Hungary: Szeged, Bacs - Riverbank ceremonies.

For further information or interview please contact the Irish Section of Amnesty International. Tel: +353 1 677 6361