
amnesty international

Statements to the 48th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, 27 January to 6 March 1992)

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SUMMARY

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Amnesty International made four oral statements and submitted three written statements to the 48th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. It made oral statements under agenda items 10 and 12, on its concerns in the Israeli-Occupied Territories (item 4) and in South Africa (item 5), and submitted written statements concerning Guatemala, Iran and Iraq.

In its oral statement under agenda item 10 on the question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention and imprisonment, Amnesty International urged the Commission to set up a Working Group to examine the revised draft Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. This new international standard would set up a system of on-site visits to place of detention which would investigate particular practices which may be instrumental in the occurrence of torture and ill-treatment. The statement drew attention to examples of countries, such as China, Egypt, India, Iran, Mexico, Sudan, Syria and Turkey, in which this system could be effective in reducing the incidence of torture. The statement also expressed Amnesty International's support for the draft Declaration on Enforced Disappearance.

In its oral statement under agenda item 12 on violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, Amnesty International reiterated its belief that the essential work for the organization remains to ensure that governments do not violate the human rights of their citizens with impunity. At the same time it highlighted its condemnation of human rights abuses committed by opposition groups in situations of internal armed conflict. The statement drew attention to examples of situations where gross human rights violations have been committed by both governments and opposition groups in areas of internal armed conflict in Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Amnesty International also submitted information to the Secretary-General under Sub-Commission resolution 1991/10 on the situation in Tibet. The information drew attention to Amnesty International's concerns in Tibet including the detention of prisoners of conscience, unfair trials for political prisoners, torture and ill-treatment of detainees, the use of the death penalty and extrajudicial executions of participants in demonstrations.

KEYWORDS: HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS1 / INDIA / TURKEY / EGYPT / SYRIA / MEXICO / ISRAEL / SOUTH AFRICA / GUATEMALA / IRAN / IRAQ / CHINA / ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / ARMED CONFLICT / POLITICAL VIOLENCE / NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / DISAPPEARANCES / EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION / COMMUNAL VIOLENCE / POLICE / ARMED CIVILIANS / INVESTIGATION OF ABUSES / INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY / HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS / HARASSMENT / INDIGENOUS PEOPLES / JUDGES / LAWYERS / TRADE UNIONISTS / JOURNALISTS / POLICE AS VICTIMS / CHILDREN / EXECUTION / PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / ARBITRARY ARREST / DEMONSTRATIONS / TRIALS / CONDITIONAL RELEASE / WOMEN / RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE / RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS - ISLAMIC / MASS ARREST / MILITARY AS VICTIMS / MINORITIES / AMNESTIES / DETENTION FOR RE-EDUCATION / RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS - BUDDHIST / CENSORSHIP / DEATH IN CUSTODY / DEATH PENALTY /

This report summarizes a 59-page document (21,000 words), : *Statements to the 48th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, 27 January to 6 March 1992)* (AI Index: IOR 41/02/92), issued by Amnesty International in April 1992. Anyone wanting further details or to take action on this issue should consult the full document.

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