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European Social Forum: Say "No" to torture PRESS INVITE

"Torture free airspace", "Stop renditions" - under these slogans Amnesty International is organizing a demonstration during the Economic Social Forum in Athens, 4-7 May. Representatives of the organization along with human rights activists from around Europe will call on governments to affirm their absolute ban on torture or other ill-treatment and hold to account those responsible for such abuses.

Recent Amnesty International reports have exposed a covert CIA operation whereby people have been arrested or abducted, transferred without due process and held in secret or handed over to countries where they have faced torture or other ill-treatment.

The demonstration will follow the seminar *Counter terrorism measures and human rights* with the participation of Amnesty International's Europe and Central Asia Deputy Programme Director Halya Gowan. She will be available for interviews during and after the demonstration.

What: Demonstration against torture and rendition flights
When: 5 May 2006, Friday, 17:00 local time (1400 GMT)
Where: The old Athens airport West Wing

Testimony from former Guantánamo and other "war on terror" detainees and their families will be shown on video at an Amnesty International stall which will provide information on the organization's work on torture and ill-treatment in the "war on terror".

Amnesty International's delegation at the European Social Forum will also take part in the following seminars and workshops:

Seminar: *Violence against women in Europe – the obligation of states to prevent, protect and assist women victims of domestic violence.* Amnesty International's representatives will give outline the situation of violence against women in Europe with examples from Spain, Greece and Albania.

Workshop: *Putting the international human rights framework at the centre of campaigning against violence against women*

Seminar: *The move towards and international arms trade treaty* will focus on global issues regarding Arms Trade control.

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