

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Briefing

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Make Some Noise: Campaign Issues Fact Sheet

About Amnesty International

Amnesty International is independent from government, corporate or national interests and works to protect human rights worldwide.

- Over 1.8 million members from over 150 countries worldwide
- Campaigned successfully for the International Criminal Court, the UN Convention against Torture and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- Annual human rights reports on around 150 countries
- Over 1.25 million letters, faxes and emails were sent by the members of our Urgent Action network on behalf of people at risk in over 70 countries in 2004 alone
- Abolition of the death penalty in 86 countries

Throughout the course of the year Make Some Noise will highlight the following key campaign issues:

Stop Violence Against Women

Violence against women is prevalent in every society in the world and cuts across boundaries of wealth, race and culture. This campaign is designed to mobilise individuals, communities, governments, and international bodies to stop this human rights scandal.

Between 250,000 and 500,000 women were raped during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda; 70 percent of those who survived are estimated to have been infected with HIV/AIDS.

The World Health Organisation has reported that up to 70 percent of female murder victims are killed by their male partners.

More than 60 million women are "missing" from the world today as a result of sex-selective abortions and female infanticide.

Between 1995, when Canada tightened its gun laws, and 2003, the gun homicide rate for women dropped by 40 percent.

Control Arms

Amnesty International has teamed up with Oxfam International and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) in a global campaign calling for tougher arms controls, safer communities and an Arms Trade Treaty.

While rich countries discuss grand schemes to reduce poverty, their governments and companies participate in arms sales to Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America of US\$22bn a year, on average.

There are approximately 639 million small arms in the world today.

More than 1,135 companies in at least 98 countries produce arms.

Eight million new weapons are produced every year.

Nearly 60 per cent of small arms are in civilian hands.

The number of bullets produced annually is more than double the world's population.
Over 600,000 people in 170 countries who have signed up to the Control Arms Million Faces Petition

Stop Torture in the 'War on Terror'

Amnesty International is calling for the Guantánamo Bay detention centre to be closed and for all other “war on terror” detention centres to be opened up to independent inspection.

We are witnessing an alarming increase in torture and other ill-treatment of suspects detained as part of the US led “war on terror.”

The US military alone has taken more than 80,000 people into custody during its military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In Afghanistan, the US has operated some 25 detention facilities, and in Iraq another 17. In addition, the US has an unknown number of secret detention facilities or 'black sites' in several countries.

More than 750 people have been held in Guantánamo, about five hundred remain.

Public Document

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