

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

AI Index: ACT 30/030/2005 (Public)
News Service No: 345
20 December 2005

Maroon 5 adds festive flair to Amnesty International's global music initiative

Maroon 5 is adding festive fuel to *Make Some Noise*, Amnesty International's ground-breaking global music venture, with the release of *Happy Xmas (War Is Over)*. *Make Some Noise* sees top international artists record contemporary versions of John Lennon classics.

Available from December 20, 2005 as an online download via www.amnesty.org/noise, the L.A.-based quintet's single will be the fifth Lennon classic to be released through the *Make Some Noise* initiative.

Originally recorded by Lennon in 1971, *Happy Xmas (War Is Over)* joins The Black Eyed Peas' rousing version of *Power to the People*, Snow Patrol's rendition of *Isolation*, *Love* performed by The Cure, and The Postal Service's interpretation of *Grow Old With Me* in the campaign, which aims to bring an awareness of human rights to a new generation.

The first four singles have already proved tremendously successful since their launch on Human Rights Day (10 December) – and from 20 December, all five singles will be available as a special £5 'Holiday Bundle', which includes a £2 donation to Amnesty International.

All profits from music sales will be used to support Amnesty International -- the world's largest human rights organisation -- in its global human rights work.

Adam Levine, lead singer of Maroon Five, says: "It was pure magic to record such an incredible track, which I grew up with, and I'm thrilled that it's now a *Make Some Noise* track. Lennon stood for so much, and it's a privilege to ensure his music and messages reach out to people at such a poignant time of the year."

Further top artists' recordings of iconic Lennon tracks, including an interpretation of a renowned classic by Avril Lavigne, will be released in early 2006 – either as single downloads, or as part of a download compilation album.

Make Some Noise follows Yoko Ono's generous donation of the rights to John Lennon's solo songbook to Amnesty International in 2003, and the organisation aims to attract one million new supporters worldwide through the venture.

Notes to editors

Amnesty International has a rich musical heritage. The 1988 Human Rights Now! worldwide tour saw hundreds of thousands of people fill stadiums across the globe, with musicians including Bruce Springsteen, Sting and Tracy Chapman joining together to spread the human rights word. All single downloads will be available at £0.77 in the UK, \$0.99 in the U.S. and at equivalent prices in other currencies from www.amnesty.org/noise
For further information on the campaign and release dates please log on to www.amnesty.org/noise

Public Document

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566
Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW. web: <http://www.amnesty.org>

For latest human rights news view <http://news.amnesty.org>