

..PRESS CONFERENCE.. ..PRESS CONFERENCE..

Radiohead, Alanis Morissette, Asian Dub Foundation, Youssu N'Dour, Tracy Chapman, Peter Gabriel, Kassav, Axelle Red, Shania Twain and special guests from the Amnesty International Human Rights Concert presented by The Body Shop will be taking part in a press conference on:

Wednesday 9 December
At 5 p.m.
at The Hard Rock Cafe
14 Boulevard Montmartre, Paris 75009

For all media requests, accreditations, photographic demands, interview requests for the concert or confirmation of attendance at the press conference, please contact the following people:

Jo Merriweather, The Body Shop International 01903 844040

Mark Ogle, Amnesty International 0171 413 5563

Susan Kobrin, Amnesty International 0171 814 6238

For media accreditation for the concert,
please fax your application to **Beth Katz** 001 212 545 02
09

The struggle continues

.....were the last words
of Nigerian human rights defender Ken Saro-Wiwa
before he was executed by his country's military
regime and despite the protests of people from all
over the world.

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CONCERT RUNNING ORDER (tbc)

DATE: THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER

VENUE: THE BERCY STADIUM, PARIS

THE PROGRAMME:

4.30 P.M.	Doors open
5.30 P.M.	Peter Gabriel
5.50 P.M.	Tracy Chapman
6.40 P.M.	Asian Dub Foundation
7.25 P.M.	Axelle Red
8.05 P.M.	Shania Twain
8.15 P.M.	Kassav
9.15 P.M.	Alanis Morissette
10.05 P.M.	Radiohead
11.15 P.M.	Youssou N'Dour
11.35 P.M.	Youssou N'Dour and Peter Gabriel
Midnight	Concert closes

AN HISTORIC CONCERT MARKS AN HISTORIC NIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PARIS -- Radiohead, Alanis Morissette, Peter Gabriel and Asian Dub Foundation are just a few of the big names supporting Amnesty International at a 10 December concert in Paris, presented by The Body Shop.

The concert celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and takes place 10 years on from the groundbreaking 'Human Rights Now' tour.

Other performers on the 6-hour line up at the 17,000 seat Bercy Stadium include Tracy Chapman, Shania Twain, Youssou N'Dour, Axelle Red, Kassav', Orlando Poleo, Jimmy Page and Robert Plant. Other guests are expected to add their names as the concert draws nearer.

The Amnesty International human rights concert, presented by The Body Shop, is the culmination of a year-long campaign by the two organisations to celebrate the anniversary and highlight the struggle of human rights defenders around the world.

Across the globe, musicians and singers are gagged from performing or condemned if they do so. The right to make music, dance or sing is one of the 30 basic human rights outlined in the UDHR, and the reason why so many artists have agreed to waive their fees to perform at the concert.

Radiohead said: "We hope that this is an effective way to support Amnesty International (AI) in their positive work to promote the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. Without the work of organisations like AI, the UDHR would be mere rhetoric."

Tracy Chapman said: "For half a century, the governments of the world have pledged to support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty International has worked to ensure that governments honour their pledges. I hope this event will highlight the need to support those who defend Human Rights, inform those who are unaware of their Human Rights and expose those who deny the rights of others."

Pierre Sané, Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General said: "The UDHR is the bedrock of human rights protection globally and the tool used by human rights defenders to protect the rights of others. Yet 50 years on, how many governments around the world grant their citizens these rights? How many people even know they are entitled to them?"

Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop, said: "The title of the concert - the struggle continues - were the last words of Nigerian human rights defender Ken Saro-wiwa, who sacrificed his life for human rights. This concert celebrates those brave defenders who continue the daily struggle for human rights all over the world.

"Ken's struggle was not unique. In today's world where business is more powerful than most governments, the promotion and protection of human rights is only assured when business is socially responsible. Business needs to protect and help human beings. Trade should serve humanity - not the other around."

The concert is just one of a series of events in Paris from 8-10 December 1998.

More than 300 defenders from all over the world will join Amnesty International in attending a three-day Defenders Summit in the Palais de Chaillot in Paris from 8 December.

In the evening of 8 December Pierre Sané will hand over to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan more than 10 million pledges collected during a year-long campaign to respect the UDHR. These pledges are made up of 7 million signatures collected by Amnesty International and 3 million thumbprints from The Body Shop customers.

On 9 December Pierre Sane and Anita Roddick will unveil a gallery of unique portraits created from the millions of thumbprints collected during The Body Shop's 'Make Your Mark' campaign.

For more information, please contact:

Mark Ogle , Amnesty International	44 171 413 5563
Joanne Merriweather , The Body Shop International	44 1903 844040
Susan Kobrin , Amnesty International	44 171 814 6238

NOTES TO EDITORS

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM BERCY STADIUM BOX OFFICE
TEL: 33 1 44 68 44 68

UK CONCERT TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM INT. CONCERT TRAVEL
TEL: 44 1733 571 616

PROMOTERS FOR THE CONCERT ARE GERARD DROUOT PRODUCTIONS
AND BILL GRAHAM PRESENTS (BGP).

THE CONCERT WILL NOT BE BROADCAST LIVE BUT DISTRIBUTED
WORLDWIDE IN EARLY 1999.

SOUNDBITES FROM THE ARTISTS

Radiohead: "The Amnesty International human rights concert in Paris will be our only European appearance this year. We hope that this is an effective way to support AI in their positive work to promote the human rights enshrined in the UDHR. Without the work of organisations like AI, the UDHR would be mere rhetoric. We hope that future anniversaries will mark the full international implementation of the UDHR and a truly effective UN General Assembly which can make the Declaration's articles a reality."

Peter Gabriel: "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a very powerful document. I am very happy Amnesty International has managed to organise a concert for the 50th anniversary. People need to know the rights their governments have accepted yet frequently ignore and abuse. It should be a great night. I am looking forward to hearing all the artists on what is a very strong bill".

I only discovered the contents of Universal Declaration in 1988 when we were preparing the Human Rights Now tour, and was really surprised to find out what they contained. In addition to what I expected to find, I also learnt that food, clothing, a place to live, a health service and an education were all fundamental human rights. It is incredible that so many countries signed up to this agreement but that so few actually put them into practice. It's great therefore that Amnesty International has taken the initiative in celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I hope that by raising awareness of this important document we can give the citizens of many countries more weight in fighting for fundamental human rights.

"Ten years ago, when we were travelling all over the world on the Human Rights Now tour, I met people who had suffered human rights abuses or who had lost members of their family and their problems became a reality for me. I was very surprised that many of these people did not have the chance to tell their tale through the media and fewer still received a reaction when they did. It seemed to me that real video evidence should have had more impact."

Yousou N'Dour: "The Human Rights Now tour was instrumental in educating millions of people around the world about the UDHR. With this concert, we want to highlight the incredible courage of the human rights defenders who struggle in dangerous conditions -- often risking their lives -- to make the rights in the UDHR a reality".

Tracy Chapman: "For half a century, the governments of the world have pledged to support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty International has worked to ensure that governments honour their pledges. I appreciate the opportunity to publicly renew my support for Amnesty International at the concert for human rights defenders in Paris. I hope this event will highlight the need to support those who defend Human Rights, inform those who are unaware of their Human Rights and expose those who deny the rights of others. The approach of a new century offers the chance to shape the world so that the vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights becomes a reality for all people"

Kassav: "Our group, Kassav, consists of musicians who come from many different origins - nationality, social background, political ideas, religion and skin colour. Having had the opportunity to tour the world, we know that in many countries our group could not exist. In this year of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the abolition of slavery and the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we are honoured to stand with those who have defended Human Rights for many years."

‘TEN MILLION PLEDGES DELIVERED TO KOFI ANNAN’

PARIS -- A three day commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights (UDHR) begins in Paris on 8 December with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan officially accepting on behalf of the UN 10 million pledges of support for the UDHR.

The pledges, from 105 countries around the world, have been collected by Amnesty International members over the last year in a campaign called 'Get Up Sign Up!' and in a parallel campaign called 'Make Your Mark for Human Rights', run in 34 countries by The Body Shop.

They underline the fact that today millions of people are still denied their basic rights, which governments agreed to uphold when they adopted the UDHR fifty years ago in Paris. These include the right to freedom of speech, to food, education, clothing and lodging.

Delivering the pledges to the UN in a formal ceremony at the Palais de Chaillot will send a powerful message from ordinary people around the world about their commitment and support for the UDHR, and a demand to governments to honour the pledge they made in 1948.

Nobel Laureate and leader of the Burmese opposition, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, was the first to pledge support for the campaign, followed by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Bafana Bafana - the South African national football team - at the launch of Amnesty International's 'Get Up Sign Up' campaign in Capetown, South Africa, in December 1997.

The pledge reads: "I will do everything in my power to ensure that the rights in the UDHR become a reality throughout the world."

Since then, their pledges have been joined by those of people as diverse as Jacques Chirac, Tony Blair, Kim Dae-jung, Yasser Arafat, Yoweri Museveni, the Dalai Lama, Mick Jagger, the French world-cup winning football team, Wei Jingsheng, Perez de Cuellar, U2, Catherine Deneuve and Harrison Ford.

The Body Shop's partnership with Amnesty International began on 11 May 1998 when His Holiness the Dalai Lama joined the company's founder Anita Roddick and Amnesty International's Samuel Zan Akolongo to launch the 'Make Your Mark for Human Rights' campaign by placing the first thumbprints.

Their call to action, which took place in Atlanta, Georgia, prompted thumbprints from many public figures, including actors such as Richard Gere, Holly Hunter and Japanese Sumo wrestling star Konishiki.

The parallel Amnesty International and The Body Shop campaigns have celebrated the rights embodied in the UDHR at festivals, concerts, marathons and many other public events worldwide, celebration tempered only by the recognition that these basic rights are still denied to millions.

The campaigns brought the UDHR to life by focusing on the specific stories of individual human rights defenders who have been persecuted for championing human rights. People like Berta Oliva de Nativí, who was threatened with death for investigating state killings in Honduras; Fred M'membe, who was jailed for upholding press freedom in Zambia; Mansur Kikhiya, a Libyan human rights activist who has "disappeared" in Egypt; Dita Indah Sari, a workers' rights activist jailed in Indonesia and Mirjano Galo, who was attacked for her human rights work in Croatia.

During the campaigns Dr. Beko Ransome-Kuti, a jailed Nigerian human rights campaigner and Aktham Nu'aysa, who had been jailed and tortured for issuing a human rights leaflet in Syria, were both freed.

During the campaign, pledges were collected in a myriad of different ways. A nationwide tour in Mongolia took in army camps and police stations and in Sierra Leone, volunteers spread the message using megaphones. The largest TV network in the Philippines called on its viewers to sign the UDHR pledge and used its local stations as collection points. In the Netherlands, one TV company collected more than three million signatures in bookstores, record stores, libraries, theatres and cinemas and in the Palestinian Authority, signatures were collected in high schools in both Gaza and the West Bank, and from the Ministries of Information and Culture.

As part of the 'Make Your Mark ' campaign, The Body Shop's stores around the world adopted a specific human rights defender, urged customers to pledge a thumbprint of support for them and then commissioned artists to create portraits from the thousands of thumbprints collected in their honour.

For more information, please contact:

Mark Ogle, Amnesty International

44 171 413 5563

Joanne Merriweather, The Body Shop International

44 1903 844040

Susan Kobrin, Amnesty International

44 171 814 6238

**PARIS CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS OF THE DEFENDERS
HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLE
8-11 DECEMBER 1998**

The Human Rights Defenders Summit:

Fifty years after the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, Amnesty International, together with the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), ATD Quart Monde and France Liberté, are organizing the first ever world summit of human rights defenders.

Around 300 grass-roots activists from more than 100 countries are gathering together to highlight the global human rights situation 50 years on from the adoption of the UDHR, and call on governments to help human rights defenders under attack. They will be joined by well known defenders and dignitaries, including the Dalai Lama, Jose Ramos Horta, Rigoberta Menchu, Wei Jingsheng and Salima Ghazali.

On 10 December, in a live satellite link-up with New York, the President of the Summit will read the 'Paris Declaration' on human rights to the UN General Assembly in New York, which will also be celebrating the anniversary. This will be followed by a response by Kofi Annan on behalf of the UN to the Defenders summit.

The Summit will address the role of the defenders faced with impunity, armed conflict, extreme poverty, women's rights, racism, xenophobia and religious intolerance as well as the protection of the rights of children, and will culminate in the signing of the Paris Declaration.

Fifty years since the governments had their say, this new declaration will be the voice and action of defenders. This time, the document will be signed by human rights defenders.

For more information, please contact **Sophie Lussier**
at the Summit Press Office

00 33 1 49 23 11 87/23

THUMBPRINT PORTRAITS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS UNVEILED

A unique portrait exhibition will open in Paris on 9 December displaying thumbprint images of 12 people who are living proof of the need to defend human rights.

The stories of these 12 defenders captured the hearts of The Body Shop customers across the world and prompted them to pledge their support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and for the defender by leaving a thumbprint in their honour.

During the six-month campaign customers to The Body Shop stores in 34 countries pledged more than 3 million thumbprints for these brave individuals.

Each country then commissioned an artist to create a portrait of their adopted defender from the thumbprints and each portrait has then been delivered to Paris in time for this unique exhibition.

The exhibition of 25 portraits will be held at La Galerie Nikki-Diana Marquardt, 9 place des Vosges 75004, Paris, from 9 - 12 December 1998. The exhibition will be open from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily.

List of defenders featured:	Aktham Nu'aysa	(Syria)
	Aleksandr Nikitin	(Russia)
	Asma Jahangir	(Pakistan)
	Bertha Oliva de Nativi	(Honduras)
	Dita Indah Sari	(Indonesia)
	Fred M'membe	(Zambia)
	Mirjana Galo	(Croatia)
	Ngawang Sangdro	(Tibet)
	Sevil Dalkilic	(Turkey)
	U Pa Pa Lay & U Lu Zaw	(Myanmar)
	Zafaryab Ahmed	(Pakistan)

For further information, please contact:

Joanne Merriweather, The Body Shop International

44 1903 844040

Roxane Diarra, for The Body Shop in Paris

33 1 56 69 75 06

Note to editors

The media are invited to an opening event at the Gallery with Pierre Sané, Amnesty International Secretary General, and Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday 9th December. Some of the defenders, the artists who have created the portraits and The Body Shop staff from all over the world will be attending the event.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for human rights. Its appeals for victims of human rights violations are based on accurate research and on international law. It is independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion.

How it began:

The movement was launched in 1961 by Peter Benenson, a British lawyer, after he read about two Portuguese students who had been sentenced to seven years in prison for raising their glasses in a toast to freedom.

His newspaper appeal, "The Forgotten Prisoners", was published worldwide on 28 May 1961 and brought in more than 1,000 offers of support for the idea of an 'international campaign to protect human rights'. Within 12 months the new organisation had sent delegates to four countries to make representations for prisoners, had taken up 210 cases, and had organised national branches in seven countries.

From the beginning, the principles of fairness and independence were established. Its members began to act on cases worldwide, but did not become involved in cases in their own countries. The emphasis was on the international protection of human rights.

What Amnesty International does:

Amnesty International's mandate has four main parts, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948:

- To seek the release of all prisoners of conscience as long as they have not used or encouraged violence.
- To work for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners.
- To campaign to abolish the death penalty, torture, and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- To end extra judicial executions and 'disappearances'.

"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

This ancient proverb inspired Peter Benenson's choice of a symbol for Amnesty International. The candle in barbed wire is still used today.

Amnesty International now has more than one million members and supporters in more than one hundred countries and territories.

THE BODY SHOP

History and Commitment to Human Rights

Summary:

The Body Shop has a history and commitment to human rights which makes it unique among commercial companies. The company has adopted a progressive stance on human rights at all levels within the business from its internal policies in relation to staff and franchisees to its business operations and campaigning activities. The company's commitment to human rights is set out in three policy documents:- the Mission Statement, the Trading Charter and Human Rights Principles.

"[The Body Shop does business] with an ethical sense that pervades the whole organisation like royal jelly does a hive of bees. Ethics are part of this organisation's DNA".
Francis Kinsman - An international business journalist

The Body Shop History of Human Rights Campaigning:

The Body Shop has a strong tradition of public campaigning on human rights issues. Its key human rights campaigns have been:

- 1988 First campaign with Amnesty International marking the UDHR's 40th anniversary.
- 1989 Campaign with Survival International in support of Yanomami Indians in the Brazilian Amazon region.
- 1991 Human Rights campaign on AI's 30th birthday.
- 1991 Yellow Ribbon campaign to support hostage John McCarthy.
- 1993 Ogoni campaign first launched.
- 1995 United Nations Women's conference in Beijing campaign.
- 1995/6 Domestic Violence Campaign.
- 1998 Make Your Mark for Human Rights.
- 1998 Ogoni 20 released

Pierre Sané, Secretary General, Amnesty International, says:

"The Body Shop is a company that has principles, that is responsible to the greater community. It is a common commitment to change for the good that has brought our two campaigning organizations together. As customers of The Body Shop, you have an opportunity to make a difference by participating in this campaign."

BIOGRAPHIES

1. Peter Gabriel - Not available

2. Kassav

Kassav was born in 1979, when Pierre-Edouard Decimus and Freddy Marshall decided to conceive of a new musical form. Today, led by the beautiful Jocelyne Beroard, this group from the Antilles is one of the monuments of zouk, a melange of traditional creole rhythms, funk and jazz.

3. Axelle Red

Although the red-haired Belgian singer Axelle Red produced her first record at the age of fifteen, she had to wait until she was 25 to achieve her great success. The wait was worth it, however, since her album 'Sans plus attendre', led by the hit 'Sensualite', sold more than 500,000 copies. Three years later, her head full of the hits of Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin, Dolly Parton (which her mother encouraged her to listen to during her childhood) Axelle launched a second opus born in the American heartland between Nashville and Memphis.

4. Orlando Poleo

Orlando Poleo, explorer of percussion, has worked with internationally famous groups such as El Trabuco Venezolano and Adrenalina Caribe. He is a master of the sacred 'bata' of Cuba. His quest has also led him to Puerto Rico, where his work with Cachete Maldonado and Giovanni Hidalgo helped him to infuse the rhythms of Africa, la bomba and la plena, successfully into his Caribbean jazz. In 1998, this star of the Paris scene released the excellent album 'El buen camino', which contributed to the recognition of his talent by a larger public.

5. Radiohead - Not available

6. Tracy Chapman

Tracy Chapman is one of the most socially relevant songwriters of our time. Since 1988, when she first burst on the scene with her stirring arrangements and powerful wordplay, the music world has reserved a special place for every Chapman release. Whether it was the startling sincerity of her multi-platinum Tracy Chapman debut, which featured the now classic Fast Car, or the subsequent Crossroads, Matters of the Heart and New Beginning, she has always shared with her audience stories that matter, songs that ring true. She has participated in some of rock's most legendary live events, including the Concert honouring Bob Dylan's 30th Anniversary, London's Freedomfest in honour of Nelson Mandela, and Amnesty International's Human Rights Now Tour.

7. Asian Dub Foundation

Formed in 1993, ADF have honed a radical blend of hardcore (punishing break beats, rap polemic and punk rock) filtered through traditional Indian classical and spiritual music. By marrying their dynamic sound and revolutionary dub poetry with a tireless commitment to grassroots activism, ADF place themselves in line with the legacies of Linton Kwesi Johnson and Africa Bambaata. With hooks and choruses that sound like revolutionary slogans, their aim is to simultaneously agitate, educate and organise.

ADF were formed by Aniruddha Das (aka bassist Dr Das) and one of his students, 15-year-old Deeder Zaman (Master D, the group's MC), who has been rapping since the age of 9 with groups such as Joi and State of Bengal. The addition of DJ John Pandit (Pandit G), Chandrasonic and Sanjay Tailor (aka Sun-J, a DJ and dancer) led them to start playing as a band, in fact a band with the reputation as the best live band in Britain. While much of their lyrical subject matter draws inspiration from Asian history, past and present, the issues they focus on have universal themes, such as the rallying cry of Free Satpal Ram, the most explosive freedom song since Public Enemy's Fight the Power.