Global launch of the Campaign Against Torture

Amnesty International will be launching a year-long global Campaign Against Torture on Wednesday 18th October. To illustrate the prevalence of torture worldwide, Amnesty members and supporters will roll out the campaign launch across five regions from Tokyo to Nairobi, Beirut, London/Paris and Buenos Aires.

Various buildings and public places will be wrapped in yellow and black "Torture Free Zone" (TFZ) tape.

ASIA

Tokyo, Japan -- Place: National Press Club. Time: 12pm (0300 GMT). Press conference will be in Japanese and English.

Speakers:
Gaden Tashi and Kalsang Palmo, Tibetan torture victims;
Phone Myint Tun, Burmese torture victim detained for several years for political activity;
Zew Min Htut, Burmese asylum seeker ill-treated in detention in Japan for over two years;
Yenny Rosa Damayanati, Indonesian human rights activist detained and tortured several times;
Choi Chol-kyu, South Korean torture victim and former prisoner of conscience;
Juli Morizawa, Director of Amnesty International, Japan.
Photo opportunity: The TFZ tape will be unfurled outside several Asian embassies. An agenda for action will be delivered from Amnesty's Asia Pacific members.

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AFRICA

Nairobi, Kenya -- Place: Grand Regency Hotel. Time: 11am (0800 GMT). Press conference will be in English.

Speakers:
Joseph Etima, Uganda's Commissioner for Prisons;
Elvis Thodi, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Malawi;
Anisia Achieng, Coordinator, Sudanese Women Voice for Peace and Human Rights;
Maina Kiai, Program Director for Africa at Amnesty International's International Secretariat.

Photo opportunity: A building will be declared a Torture Free Zone with the TFZ tape - details to be confirmed.

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MIDDLE EAST

Beirut, Lebanon -- Place: To be confirmed. Time: To be confirmed.

Speakers: To be confirmed.

Photo opportunity: To be confirmed.

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EUROPE

Paris, France -- Place: Foreign Press Centre, Radio France. Time: 11am (1000 GMT). Press conference will be in French.

Speakers:
Roland Cayrol, Director of the survey institute CSA; 
Denys Robiliard, Chair of Amnesty International France; 
Ivan Zakine, ex-Chair of the Committee for the prevention of torture, and Honorary Chair of the High Court; 
Pierre-Alban Thomas, Lieutenant-Colonel from the French Army, who witnessed torture sessions during the Indochina and Algeria wars; 
François Bizot, author of "Le Portail", a book about his 3-month detention by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, in 1971. 

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**London, UK** -- **Place:** Amnesty International's International Secretariat. 
**Time:** 10 am (0900 GMT). Press conference will be in English. 

**Speakers:** 
Pierre Sane, Secretary General of Amnesty International; 
Dr Duncan Forrest, Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture; 
Kate Allen, Director of Amnesty International UK. 

**Photo opportunity:** Amnesty International's headquarters will be wrapped in TFZ tape. 
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**LATIN AMERICA**

**Buenos Aires, Argentina** -- **Place:** Courts of Justice. **Time:** 10.30am (1430 GMT) Press conference will be in Spanish. 

**Speakers:** 
Isabel Allende, Chilean MP; 
Dr Alfredo Bravo, Argentinian MP and torture victim in the 1970's; 
Dr Marcelo Avila, Chair of Amnesty International Argentina.
Photo opportunity: The facade of the Courts of Justice will be wrapped in TFZ tape and balloons with the slogan “To ignore torture is to be complicit in it. What is your excuse?” will be released.

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