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MEDIA ADVISORY

MALAYSIA

Amnesty International sends observer to trial of Anwar Ibrahim

**The High Court, Kuala Lumpur
2-15 November 1998**

Amnesty International is sending an observer to the trial of Malaysia's former deputy Prime Minister and prisoner of conscience, Anwar Ibrahim, which is scheduled to begin on Monday 2 November. Mark Daly, a Canadian Hong Kong-based lawyer, will be Amnesty International's representative at the trial.

Anwar Ibrahim faces up to 20 years in prison on charges of sodomy and corruption. Amnesty International believes the filing of these charges to be politically motivated and that Anwar Ibrahim -- and his political associates similarly arrested under the Internal Security Act (ISA) and remaining in detention -- are prisoners of conscience detained for their non-violent political activity, association and expression. The organization is calling for their immediate release.

Amnesty International will be observing Anwar's trial to assess the proceedings in light of international standards for fair trial, including the presumption of innocence of the accused. The organisation continues to urge the Malaysian authorities to conduct a full and independent investigation into alleged assaults on Anwar while in police custody and that the findings be made public.

The organisation is also calling on the Malaysian authorities to respect the right of peaceful association and protest, and to exercise proper restraint in the treatment of demonstrators in accordance with international standards on the use of force by law enforcement officials.

Tim Parritt and John Kellock, staff members of AI's International Secretariat, and Ced Simpson from AI-New Zealand, will be in Kuala Lumpur between 9 and 20 November to present AI's concerns regarding APEC and the current situation in Malaysia.

To arrange an interview with one of the delegation or to receive further information, please call the delegation : +44 831 667215 or the AI Press Office in London: +44 171 413 5566/5808/5810/5729.