

AI Index: NWS 11/70/93
Distr: SC/PO

No. of words: 721

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TO: PRESS OFFICERS

FROM: PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

DATE: 23 JUNE 1993

WEEKLY UPDATE SERVICE 70/93

Contained in this weekly update is an external item on the United Kingdom.

Please note: Correction to Sierra Leone item, sent in WU 64/93, item - AFR 51/WU 02/93. Fourth paragraph, 4th line, should read, "...Kono District, Eastern Province.." (NOT Northern).

NEWS INITIATIVES

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

UN WORLD CONFERENCE-RELATED NEWS INITIATIVES ONLY THROUGHOUT JUNE

****WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS****

(New Information)

PLEASE NOTE: AI's oral statement was delivered to the Plenary Session of the World Conference at 20.30 hrs (Vienna time) last night by Jo Gitari (IS staff member). The statement, which was sent to you as an urgent note to press officers on 18 June, may now be given to journalists.

PLEASE NOTE: An interview with Pierre Sané in the German magazine Der Spiegel has been widely misreported. Pierre did not call for a Special Rapporteur to be sent to Germany, as has been reported. In the interview, Pierre was asked what he thought about a UN decision, already taken, to send a Special Rapporteur to Germany to investigate racism, and Pierre responded positively. We are hoping to get a fuller response to you as soon as possible, when we have received the full text of Der Spiegel here at the IS.

PLEASE NOTE: Some kind of membership action is being organized around the World Conference, with sections being asked to lobby embassies in Vienna. Please contact your Campaign Co-ordinators for more information.

PLEASE NOTE: The following numbers are now working in the Vienna Press Office: Tel: +43 222 219 3574/3573/3572, Fax: +43 1 219 357221.

Amnesty International's press office in Vienna will be based at AI's tent outside the Austria Centre.

Annual Report - 0600 hrs gmt, 8 July

Annual Report Summaries, Regional Updates, ENR and news release have all been sent to you.

Indonesia (Aceh) - 28 July

Document and news release to go with action on massive numbers of political killings.

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES**Saudi Arabia - 1 July**

A weekly update item is being written to go with the document: **Saudi Arabia: An Upsurge in Public Executions**. AI Index: MDE 23/04/93. The document and weekly update item will be embargoed for 1 July and will be sent out to selected international media by the IS Press Office. Please note that the document has been sent out in the weekly mailing.

2. EUR 45/WU 02/93 EXTERNAL
24 June 1993

UNITED KINGDOM: "PUNISHMENT" SHOOTING OF EDWARD KANE BY IRA

Amnesty International is concerned about the case of Edward Kane, who was shot ("knee-capped") in both knees and shot in both elbows on 24 March 1993 in a "punishment" shooting in Northern Ireland by the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

As a result he will be permanently maimed, with one arm being totally immobile and a limp in one leg. Before his hospital treatment had been fully completed, he was ordered in the name of the IRA in late May to leave Northern Ireland within 48 hours or face "execution".

Amnesty International believes that such shootings, maimings and continuing threats of death are human rights abuses which should not be tolerated, whether carried out by governments or by those who aspire to governmental powers. They are contrary to international humanitarian standards which apply both to governments and armed opposition groups.

Amnesty International condemns the action taken against Edward Kane and is urging those responsible to rescind the orders by which Edward Kane has been told to leave Northern Ireland or face death.

The IRA is a clandestine organization and has no acknowledged office or address which Amnesty International can contact. Sinn Fein is a legal political party in the United Kingdom, the newspaper of which publishes statements from the IRA. Members of some sectors of the Northern Ireland community regularly go to its officials to seek their good offices in matters concerning the IRA and its policies of "punishment" shootings and "expulsions".

Amnesty International has thus written to leaders of Sinn Fein in pressing for a halt to IRA abuses. Amnesty International has written to Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams as well as to North Belfast Sinn Fein councillors to express the organization's concerns about the case of Edward Kane and to ask them to support the call for the death threat on Edward Kane to be rescinded.