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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 99/94

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - YEMEN

**PLEASE NOTE:** - CORRECTION: See Burundi week news release sent out in News Service 95/94. The first sentence, fourth paragraph, first page, DELETE THE WORDS "...of the past four months..." Thanks.

**PLEASE NOTE:** - The Presidential elections in Colombia are coming up on 29 May (first round, second round on 8 June). If you want to approach any media or you are approached for interviews, Susan Lee is willing to do interviews from the IS in English and Spanish. There will be no external item to do with the elections, but there will be in the next month news service items on indigenous people and children to go with circulars on these subjects, which can be used to encourage feature items.

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Burundi - 17 May - SEE NEWS SERVICES 81/94, 53/94 and 36/94

China - 1 June - SEE NEWS SERVICE 81/94

Pakistan - 29 June - SEE NEWS SERVICE 81/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

**\*\*Guatemala - 25 May\*\*** - We will be sending out a news service item to coincide with the anniversary of the 1993 coup, focusing on what has happened in the country since then.

**\*\*Myanmar - 20 July\*\*** - This may possibly become an international release. To coincide with the anniversary of Aung Sang Suu Kyi's imprisonment we will be sending out a news service item, to go with a section level action which is to be distributed in the next couple of weeks. There will be no external report.

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Annual Report - 7 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 51/94

**News Service 99/94**

**AI INDEX: MDE 31/WU 02/94  
12 MAY 1994**

**YEMEN: ARBITRARY ARRESTS OF CIVILIANS CONTINUE**

**Amnesty International is gravely concerned about continuing arbitrary arrests of civilians since the outbreak of fighting between the northern and southern forces in Yemen.**

**In the north, those detained are suspected members or supporters of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) as well as independent political activists considered critical of President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh. According to reports received by Amnesty International, hundreds of civilians have been arrested in the past week in Sana'a, Ta'iz, Hudaida, Ibb and other cities and are believed to be held in incommunicado detention. The authorities in Sana'a have acknowledged that arrests have taken place, but have provide no details as to the identities, numbers or whereabouts of those involved. However, among those alleged to have been arrested or to have gone missing are 'Abdul-Habib Salim, an independent member of parliament from Ta'iz and Dr 'Abdul-Qudus al-Mudhwahi, a leading member of the Nasserite Unionist Grouping in Sana'a.**

**In the south, at least 150 Iraqi navy personnel have been arrested in Aden and are believed to be currently held in al-Fateh military camp in the city. All were crew members of Iraqi oil tankers which diverted course during the 1990-1991 Gulf War and have since been anchored in the port of Aden. The reasons for their arrest are at present unknown.**

**Amnesty International is seeking also confirmation of reports that scores of suspected members or supporters of Islamic Jihad have been arrested in Aden, Hadhramawt, Dhali' and other cities. The organization is also concerned that members or supporters of the General People's Congress led by President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh, and the Yemeni Grouping for Reform (Islah), led by Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar, are at risk of arbitrary arrest.**

**Amnesty International reiterates its appeal to both sides in the conflict to respect human rights and to observe international humanitarian standards. The organization urges them to put an end to arbitrary arrests, to treat all detainees humanely and to make known their current whereabouts. All should be given immediate and regular access to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).**

**ENDS/**