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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 133/93

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TO: PRESS OFFICERS  
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE  
DATE: 15 OCTOBER 1993

AI INDEX: NWS 11/133/93  
DISTR: SC/PO  
NO OF WORDS: 564

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL FOR RESPONSE - SOUTH AFRICA (NOBEL PEACE PRIZE)

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

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EJEs and "Disappearances" - 1100 hrs gmt, 20 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 131  
USA - 24 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 132  
India & Pakistan - 7 December - SEE NEWS SERVICE 126

## TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Francophone Summit - 11 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 111/126  
North Korea - 1600 hrs gmt, 14 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 88/119/124  
Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting - 18 October - SEE NS 131  
Afghanistan - 26 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 124/131/132  
Algeria - 28 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 127

## FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting - 21-25 October (undecided)  
\*\*Iran - 3 November - now possibly delayed\*\* (international)  
Venezuela - 10 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 121  
Papua New Guinea - 19 November (targeted)  
Colombia - 16 March 1993 - SEE NEWS SERVICE 123 + UAs AMR 23/56+57/93

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15 OCTOBER 1993

**SOUTH AFRICA: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR  
F.W. DE KLERK AND NELSON MANDELA**

Amnesty International responded today to the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to President F W de Klerk and ANC (African National Congress) President Nelson Mandela, saying that gross human rights violations, including political killings and police brutality, still take place on an almost daily basis in South Africa.

"We do not take any position on the awarding of the Peace Prize," said the human rights organization. "However, despite the celebrations and the undoubted significance of this award in the international arena, we feel it is important not to overlook the simple fact that political violence and human rights violations persist on a massive scale in South Africa."

Amnesty International has been reporting on grave violations by the South African security forces for many years. Today, those violations include hundreds of political killings each year, some carried out by the security forces themselves, or with their acquiescence, and the endemic use of torture against political or criminal suspects in police custody.

While in exile throughout the 1980s, the ANC was also responsible for serious human rights abuses over the years, including torture, "disappearances" and killings. However, in marked contrast to the government, the ANC has accepted responsibility for these abuses and has held two high-level commissions of inquiry into its own human rights record. Nevertheless, the ANC still needs to go further in acting on the recommendations of the inquiries.

The South African government, meanwhile, still refuses to admit the scale of the violations committed by its own forces: despite clear evidence of their involvement in torture and assassinations, very few security force officers have ever been brought to justice for human rights violations.

Said Amnesty International: "It is beyond doubt that significant political progress has been made in South Africa through the negotiation efforts of F W de Klerk and Nelson Mandela. However, in the field of human rights there is still a long, long way to go before South Africa can claim real peace.

"It would be a mistake to think that this Peace Prize marks an end to the years of violence and oppression in South Africa - the killings and the brutality go on. It would also be a mistake for other governments to use the Peace Prize as justification for taking the pressure off South Africa. The government of South Africa is failing to stop human rights violations - pressure must be kept on them to improve the situation, fast."

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