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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 152/93

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - MOROCCO  
INTERNAL - COTE D'IVOIRE

**PLEASE NOTE:** EFAI has a new address from 22 November. Following are their new details: 17, rue du Pont-aux-Choux, 75003 PARIS. Tel: +331 44 59 29 89, Fax: + 331 44 59 29 80, Mac 44 59 29 86, PC 44 59 29 87. Katie Rickards, in the Secretary General's Office at the IS has the full list of individuals' direct numbers, so please contact her if you need it.

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Iran - 17 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 138/148  
Pakistan - 7 December - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137  
India - 15 December - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137

## TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Papua New Guinea - 19 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 138/148/151  
South Africa - 1 December - SEE NEWS SERVICE 151  
Human Rights Day Speech - 9 December - SEE NEWS SERVICE 138

## FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES 1994

Tunisia - 12 January  
South Africa - 19 January  
Colombia - 16 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 123 + UAs AMR 23/56+57/93

**MID-NOVEMBER - Iceland section:** Meetings with the Minister of Justice and the Foreign Minister are scheduled for mid-November. An official letter signed by the chair of the section followed up by letters from group members will be sent to parliamentarians.

**19 NOVEMBER - Swiss section:** It is the First Day of Presence. The section is planning a public performance with Harald Naegli, "the Sprayer from Zürich", doing a spray painting. It will be a fundraising opportunity and TV, photo agencies and other interested media will be invited.

**ONGOING EVENTS AND COVERAGE BY THE SECTIONS DURING THE POLITICAL AND "DISAPPEARANCES" CAMPAIGN**

**Belgian section:** Every Wednesday during the barge's trip the major radio-news magazine broadcasted phonecalls with relation to four cases - "e.g. a journalist phoning the Rwandean embassy in Brussels and the ministry of justice in Rwanda to ask about Michel Karambizi. And local groups organized media events. Leaflets about the cases have been distributed in post offices from 15 October - end of December.

**Dutch section:** Each Sunday there will be an "informercial" about a prisoner of conscience or a "disappeared" person on TV.

**German section:** German AI groups are collecting signatures on postcards. Text on the cards urges the Minister of Economics to work for a human rights clause within the armament export law. In April the postcards will be handed over to the Minister at a media event.

**Iceland section:** Throughout the campaign the section will cooperate with radiostations who will keep their audience informed about the campaign.

Iceland's largest trade union publishes a paper every month (circulation 50,000) and they will cover the campaign, as will a paper published by the Icelandic University Students Union (circulation 6,000), printing articles and information about the cases.

**MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE POLITICAL KILLINGS AND "DISAPPEARANCES" CAMPAIGN**

**NETHERLANDS:** The coverage of the launch was very good and the section is very enthusiastic about it. On TV there was footage from the launch every hour and interviews with Monique Mujawamaliya from Rwanda and Mohammed Nadrani from Morocco. Moreover the ENR was used. Almost every paper had coverage, many on the front page and AI Netherlands mention that the picture coverage was important. AI usually gets good coverage but this time the articles were notably longer. The sections mentioned a couple of reasons for their success. First of all the individuality of Monique Mujawamaliya, Mohammed Nadrani and the Filipino children, which means a lot more to the public than anonymous numbers. Secondly the presence of Members of Parliament who, presented with the report, had to make statements and promised to put human rights high on the political agenda.

**SWITZERLAND:** Except for the French speaking part, Switzerland had good coverage. There was "important attention" by all TV and radio stations and all the major papers had articles up to one page.

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**MOROCCO: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CALLS FOR RELEASE OF "DISAPPEARED" AND PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE**

Amnesty International today wrote to Omar Azziman, Morocco's first Minister for Human Rights, welcoming his appointment and calling on the Moroccan Government to turn a page on the past by releasing all Moroccans and Sahrawis "disappeared" in secret detention, freeing all prisoners of conscience and reviewing the trials of other remaining political prisoners.

The international human rights organization has repeatedly raised Moroccan human rights violations with the Moroccan Government and has sent them lists of detainees, but received no reply. Said Amnesty International: "Now we are hoping for a positive response and a real willingness to break with the past. There is no reason why the new Moroccan Government should not immediately release or account for every single one of the 'disappeared'."

In its letter, Amnesty International enclosed lists of 80 Moroccan and 485 Sahrawi "disappeared". It urged the Moroccan Government to urgently set up an independent commission of inquiry to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into all allegations of "disappearance", to clarify the fate of those who have "disappeared" and to bring those responsible for their "disappearance" to justice.

Also included in the letter was a list of over 560 political prisoners, including over 150 prisoners of conscience and possible prisoners of conscience, and the organization urged the government to release, immediately and unconditionally, all prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International also asked the Human Rights Minister to review the trials of all political prisoners, most of them imprisoned after trials which were flagrantly unfair, with a view to their release or retrial according to international standards for fair trial.

In 1991, the Moroccan Government released over 300 people who had been held in secret detention since their "disappearance" up to 19 years before. But hundreds of others remain "disappeared": one trade-unionist, Abdelhaq Rouissi, who 'disappeared' 30 years ago, is believed to be still alive in a secret centre. His family are still watching and waiting for his release.

**In the 1980s students were sentenced to prison for 12 or 15 years just for belonging to a Marxist organization or putting up posters criticising the government. Amnesty International believes all these should be released immediately.**

**In May, an Amnesty International delegation visited Morocco for the first time since two delegates were asked to leave in 1990. During the visit, delegates held three days of talks with the *Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme* (CCDH), the Human Rights Advisory Council, a government-appointed human rights council with representatives from political parties and professional bodies. The talks were positive, but there has been little or no follow-up in the way of action by the government though Amnesty International hopes that now, with the appointment of the country's first Minister for Human Rights, there will be. In its letter, Amnesty International offered to send delegates to Morocco to discuss its outstanding human rights concerns.**

**ENDS/**

INTERNAL

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**COTE D'IVOIRE SECTION MUSIC PROJECT - WABY SPIDER CASSETTE**

Many of you have expressed an interest in the Côte d'Ivoire Section's music project with Ivorian musician Waby Spider. He is an active member of the Section and has produced a cassette entirely about human rights, with all the money going to the Section.

The cassette will be released officially on 10 December, Human Rights Day. (It was intended to be launched on 21 October - please don't worry if you released it then). Good quality copies of the cassette (better than the original promotion tapes) are available from the Côte d'Ivoire Section - order form attached.

The cassette will be launched at a press conference in Côte d'Ivoire, with Waby Spider and the Section SG on the panel. Waby Spider will make a speech - which may be obtained from the IS should you need it for publicity work. Waby Spider is then touring Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone as a speaker for the Campaign against "Disappearances" and Political Killings. His tour, together with the release of the cassette, provides an excellent opportunity for sections and groups throughout the world to raise the profile of the Lives Behind the Lies Campaign as well as develop membership and raise funds, through public and AI members' interest. Several songs on the cassette are specifically about "disappearances" and political killings.

The cassette is also intended to promote the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights - and, along with the AI Guide to the African Charter, to help Africans know and understand more about the Charter. The songs, in five major African languages, are an expression of different rights contained in the African Charter. For example, "Martyr" is based on Articles 2 and 8 which say that no one should face discrimination on account of his/her opinion or religion. "Eje kinwi", (trans: Let me say it), is about freedom of speech. AI members in Africa want to use music as an additional campaigning technique - particularly as radio is so important across the continent.

This tape would provide a great opportunity for a bit of international cooperation between sections and a good way of spreading the message that AI is not "London-based". I know several sections are already interested in the cassette and want to sell it in their merchandise catalogues, which would of course be an excellent way for them and the Ivorian Section to raise funds.

At the IS, we hope to do extensive media work internationally with the cassette and believe it will provide a unique opportunity to get coverage of AI on radio shows we do not usually reach, eg. features programmes, music stations in Africa and "World Music" programmes in Europe and other regions, plus the music press.

**ORDER FORM FOR MAAGIZO CASSETTE**

Please complete this form and mail it to:

**Amnesty International  
Section Ivoirienne  
04 B.P. 896 ABIDJAN 04  
COTE D'IVOIRE  
West Africa**

Name .....

For our records, please let us know if you are an AI Section or group or another organization

.....

Postal address .....

.....

I would like to receive ... (number) copy/copies of the Maagizo cassette.

Cost of cassette: US\$ 10.00

Cost of packaging and postage:

Francophone Africa	Anglophone Africa	Rest of the World
US\$ 5.00	US\$ 7.00	US\$ 9.00

**(Note: these costs will be reduced proportionately if more than one copy is ordered. Please consult the Ivorian Section if ordering multiple copies.)**

I enclose an international cheque or bankers draft for US\$.... (cost of cassette/s, postage and packaging) in the name of Amnesty International, Section Ivoirienne,

Account N° 09559 07750 0062F, Banque BICICI, Avenue Franchet d'Espérey, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

