
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 155/94

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PLEASE NOTE: On Wednesday 20 July AI is placing an advertisement in the international pages of the Spanish daily newspaper "El País". The international version of the newspaper, published in Mexico, has a wide readership in Latin America as well as Europe.

In the advertisement AI publicises the veto by outgoing President César Gaviria of a law against "disappearances", (a law previously approved by Congress), on the grounds that certain articles are "unconstitutional" and "inconvenient". Human rights defenders in Colombia have worked towards the adoption of this law for many years, as one step in the fight against widespread impunity in Colombia. In the advertisement AI calls again on the Colombian government to end impunity and to protect those who work for the protection of human rights in Colombia.

In the advertisement AI also calls on armed opposition groups to stop the execution of prisoners and innocent civilians and to end the practise of hostage-taking.

For further information on the "disappearances" law please refer to Extras AMR 23/53/94 and AMR 23/55/94 and previous news service items on Colombia, or to the research team at the IS.

Please bring this note to the attention of Colombian campaign coordinators.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Pakistan - 27 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 81/94 - We are sending the report out via Swift air so it should reach you in time for the release date.

Myanmar - 20 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 99/94

India - 16 August - SEE NEWS SERVICE 129/94

Kosovo - 20 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Algeria - first week of October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

France - second week of October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Sri Lanka - 15 July - SEE NS 146/94

Brazil - 14 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

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**AI INDEX: MDE 31/WU 04/94
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YEMEN: RISK OF TORTURE AFTER RECENT ARRESTS

More than 15 journalists and other professionals arrested by the Yemen political security police over the weekend may be subjected to ill-treatment or torture while in detention, Amnesty International said today.

An Amnesty International delegation was in Yemen when the arrests took place on 17 and 18 July, which followed a seminar held by the Yemen Times newspaper on "The future political perspectives of Yemen".

Dr. 'Abdul-'Aziz al-Saqaf, the editor-in-chief and publisher of the Yemen Times and Ahmad al-Sufi, a journalist, were among at least four of the detainees who were released 24 hours after their arrest. Both had been beaten and Ahmad al-Sufi was chained with leg-irons.

"In view of their treatment, we have serious concerns for the well being of those still under arrest", Amnesty International said.

The human rights organization's delegates have urged the authorities that all those held in connection with the seminar should be unconditionally released.

Amnesty International's delegates are in Yemen to conduct research into human rights concerns including the arrests of thousands of political opponents since the beginning of the civil war in May. Although the majority were released following a general amnesty decree by the Presidential Council, hundreds of suspected political opponents remain in detention throughout the Republic of Yemen.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that some detainees may be subjected to torture or at risk of "disappearance". The delegates plan to raise all these concerns with government officials during their stay.

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ARGENTINA: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GRAVELY CONCERNED AT ATTACK ON JEWISH ORGANIZATION IN BUENOS AIRES

Amnesty International is gravely concerned about the killing, on 18 July, of at least 26 people and the wounding of more than a hundred others in a bomb attack, directed against a Jewish organization in Buenos Aires. Responsibility for the attack has reportedly been claimed by a group called the Islamic Command.

This is not the first time the Jewish community in Argentina have been targeted, in a similar incident in March 1992 30 people were killed and more than 220 injured when a bomb destroyed the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires.

"We condemn all deliberate and arbitrary killings by armed opposition groups and we are calling for a full investigation into this attack", Amnesty International said today.

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