
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 208/94

TO: PRESS OFFICERS
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE
DATE: 9 SEPTEMBER 1994

AI INDEX: NWS 11/208/94
DISTR: SC/PO

NO OF WORDS: 1743

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - ZAIRE, CAMBODIA
INTERNAL - INDONESIA & EAST TIMOR

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

****Brazil - 14 September** - PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL RELEASE. SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94. Details of where and when the launch will be in Brazil in NEWS SERVICE 207/94.

****Kosovo - 19 September** - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Indonesia - 28 September - LAUNCH OF CAMPAIGN

News release enclosed. Info sheet to follow tomorrow. Embargo time will be sent out to you next week.

Algeria - 18 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

France - 12 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Zaire - 14 September - Targeted for French-speaking news agencies and French-speaking African media only, as well as sent by IS to Reuters.

Togo - 15 September - See news service 168/94

Turkey - 14 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 181/94

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UPDATE ON INDONESIA & EAST TIMOR MEDIA WORK

1. **LAUNCH:** Paula is going to Bangkok on 14 September to organize the regional press launch of the campaign. If any messages need to be sent to her, please call Dina or Casey at the IS and they will pass them on.

Pierre Sané, Geoff Robinson and Anita Tiessen will be joining her there and will be on the press conference panel.

Because of Thai law, the press conference will be treated as a private meeting - all those who attend must be personally invited. Therefore there will be no media advisory sent out about the event. The embargo time of the launch will be sent out in a News Service next week. No materials should be given to the media before the embargo time.

2. **EU/ASEAN MEETING:** There is a meeting of EU and ASEAN member states being held in Germany on 22 and 23 September, around which some sections may be doing some media work. Please be sure not to make Indonesia & East Timor the big issue in such media work, in order to avoid embargo breaks or sabotaging the campaign launch.

3. **MISSION BEFORE LAUNCH:** Geoff Robinson is planning to go on a short low-key mission to Indonesia just before the launch (we will be informing the government). He will be in Java for a week and will arrive in Bangkok on 25/26 September.

We will issue a news service item for your use, embargoed for 28 September, with updated info on the human rights situation in Indonesia. The fact that he has just been to Indonesia as well as the updated info can be used in your launch news releases or merely as extra info for media interviews to help counteract the usual criticism that our report contains old information.

Following our public request a few months ago to be invited to Indonesia, we received a response last month inviting us at very short notice for talks. Because we couldn't go at such short notice, we wrote back suggesting dates just before the campaign launch and provided the government with a copy of the report for discussion. They have contacted us to say those dates are not suitable - we will pursue this and hope to try to organize talks with them in the future. This may become an issue in the government response to our report, so we will give you more advice on this nearer the time.

4. **APEC:** The second media initiative for this campaign is planned to link to the APEC meeting being held in Jakarta in early November. AI's main focus will be Indonesia, but we will also be looking at the Cultural versus Universality issue and other countries attending who have a poor human rights record, particularly in relation to how APEC itself will address human rights issues. Will keep you posted.

An important part of this media work will be for sections to identify journalists who will be attending this meeting and ensuring that they are thoroughly briefed on our concerns in Indonesia & East Timor - and any other countries you wish to highlight.

The campaign materials will be useful for re-use at this time in possible press packs and there will also be: a news release embargoed for 3 November; and a Focus article in the November AI Newsletter.

5. **HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH:** We have just been informed that Human Rights Watch are unfortunately launching a report on Indonesia shortly before our campaign launch. Obviously we have discussed the implications at length - including with AIUSA who will be most affected by this. However, we will not be changing our plans or the campaign launch timing. We believe HRW's report will be issued around 15 September, but we do not as yet know the exact date.

To help with such questions as "Why are the two leading human rights organizations criticizing Indonesia in the same month", etc. at the time of our launch, we will prepare a short Q&A sheet to clarify the difference between our organizations, the fact that we do not coordinate our work and the difference between our messages. Obviously we can't do this until we see their report, so will keep you posted on this.

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12 SEPTEMBER 1994

ZAIRE: OPEN LETTER ASKS PRIME MINISTER TO MAKE GOOD ON PROMISED HUMAN RIGHTS REFORMS

Three months after the appointment of Kengo wa Dondo as Prime Minister of Zaire and two months after the installation of the new government, arrests and torture of government critics and attacks by military personnel on opposition groups are continuing, sometimes with fatal results.

In July, just a few weeks after taking office, the Prime Minister proposed a series of measures to tackle Zaire's ongoing political crisis. These included improving the functioning of the judicial system, disciplining the army and tightening controls on the widespread use of arms.

"We welcomed these announcements," said Amnesty International, "but two months on no practical steps appear to have been taken, and we have now written an open letter to the prime minister appealing for urgent measures to end the human rights violations that have plagued the people of Zaire for so long."

These include taking steps to ensure Zaire's soldiers and security forces obey the country's own laws. Amnesty International believes that as a former Attorney General (Procureur Général de la République), the new Prime Minister is well placed to take measures to enforce the rule of law in the country.

Members of the opposition party, the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), continue to be under particular threat from the security forces. Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Léon Muntuntu Kadima. He was taken to a detention centre from his home by six soldiers in civilian clothes on 5 July 1994. Amnesty International fears he may have been tortured, and is concerned that he may still be detained.

Only a few days after the Prime Minister promised measures to improve control of the army, one person was reportedly killed and at least five others were injured in an attack on 11 July on the home of one of the UDPS leaders, Etienne Tshisekedi, by members of the Division spéciale présidentielle (DSP), Special Presidential Division. Some people were arrested and taken to prison despite being wounded. Amnesty International has been trying to establish whether legal proceedings against those detained have begun.

Journalists have also been singled out for persecution: on 22 June, Wilfried Owandjankoi was detained for several hours after writing articles critical of President Mobutu Sese Seko. He was released without charge. Shortly before the new Prime Minister was appointed, another journalist, Pierre Kabeya, was found dead on 9 June, his body showing signs of torture. He had written about the trial that followed an attack on the Lubumbashi University campus in May 1990, in which the security forces were implicated in the killing of university students.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL QUERIES SHOOTING DEATH OF CAMBODIAN NEWSPAPER EDITOR

Amnesty International is concerned that a Cambodian newspaper editor, who apparently had no enemies, personal or financial disputes, might have been killed because of the articles he printed in his publication.

"The unexplained violent death of this man, and other acts of intimidation, add to the pressures on journalists to exercise self-censorship," Amnesty International said. "The right to freedom of expression is at stake in Cambodia, as journalists have increasingly come under pressure in recent months not to criticise the government."

Eyewitnesses to the 7 September killing report that newspaper editor Nuon Chan was driving his motorcycle in the centre of the capital Phnom Penh in the afternoon when a group of men approached him on motorcycles. They shot him twice in the back, killing him.

No attempt was made to rob Nuon Chan, and the men who killed him drove away immediately after the shooting, the eyewitnesses said. He was later pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital in the city. Other journalists who worked with Nuon Chan are now in hiding, fearing for their own safety.

Nuon Chan was the editor of the Khmer-language newspaper Samleang Yuvachan Khmer (Voice of Khmer Youth). Since April of this year, when the paper began publishing in its present format, its staff have been warned on three occasions by the government, about articles critical of the conduct of government officials. The previous editor resigned his post on July 22 having received threats to his life. Under Nuon Chan's editorship, the paper published articles critical of government officials, allegedly involved in corruption scandals. It also published articles about the attempted coup which took place in July.

Nuon Chan was summoned to the office of the first Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and to the Interior Ministry, to receive official warnings about the content of the articles criticising the government. Fearing for his safety, he made contact with local human rights associations, to let them know about the pressure he was under from the government.

Other journalists have also come under such government pressure. One newspaper editor was arrested and detained for several weeks over articles published in his newspaper relating to the attempted coup. Charges against him still stand.

Amnesty International calls on the Royal Government of Cambodia to launch an immediate, impartial investigation into the killing of Nuon Chan, to make the results of such an investigation public, and to bring those responsible to justice.

"Freedom of expression is a basic human right, as declared in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," Amnesty International said. "Journalists must have the right to practice their profession without threats and intimidation from government officials".

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