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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 243/94

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## INTERNAL

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **INDONESIA, TURKEY**

PLEASE NOTE: Pierre Sané will be in Italy, giving a speech at the Italian Section's press conference to launch AI Week focusing on the rights of the child. He will also be going on a high-level mission to Colombia from 13 to 19 November.

PLEASE NOTE: Indonesia will be sent to international news agencies by the IS Press Office, as well as the Turkey item enclosed in today's news service.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES**

Algeria - 25 October - PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE. SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

APEC - 3 November - A 30 page external document on the human rights situation in Indonesia in the lead-up to APEC is being prepared and has the same embargo as the news release. The document focuses on the restrictions placed on labour activists, critics of the government and criminals. As soon as it is ready the research team will immediately e-mail/fax to key sections for APEC (USA, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Chile, Philippines, UK, Japan and Hong Kong) by the research team this week. All other sections participating in the campaign will receive a photocopy of the report by swiftair. All sections should have the document by 31 October, but please let me know if you need to be included in the list of sections to receive the document urgently by e-mail/fax and I will inform the research team. The news release will be partly based on this document and also broadened out to include other countries in APEC. SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

\*\* Peru/Committee against Torture - 9 November \*\* - News release to coincide with Committee against Torture hearing on Peru

Iraq - 29 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

## **TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES**

Turkey - 24 OCTOBER - SEE NEWS SERVICE 181/94

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AI INDEX: ASA 21/WU 19/94  
EMBARGOED FOR 3 NOVEMBER 1994

Indonesia: "Operation Cleansing" and human rights on the eve of APEC

Indonesian authorities are cracking down on government critics, labour activists and alleged criminals to "clean up" the capital, Jakarta, in the run-up to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit that will be held from the 7 to 16 November.

The crack-down, which began in April with an anti-crime campaign known as "Operation Cleansing", has broadened in recent months to include arbitrary arrest of political detainees, who have in some cases been tortured and ill-treated; the unfair trial and arbitrary imprisonment of labour activists; and the dramatic escalation in the number of unlawful killings of alleged criminals.

"Indonesian authorities are stepping up domestic suppression of freedom of speech and assembly, labour rights and even threatening the right to life, all to preserve Indonesia's international image as a tourist paradise and economic prize," said Amnesty International, which is continuing its international campaign launched on 28 September to spotlight the country's long-standing human rights problem.

"The government is trying to silence those who might raise embarrassing criticisms during the APEC meeting, such as lawyers, journalists, academics and labour activists," Amnesty International said.

One of those threatened with arrest is Dr George Aditjondro, a prominent Indonesian academic charged with "insulting a government authority", a crime punishable by more than a year in prison. Police summoned Aditjondro for questioning on 22 October and again on 24 October. Amnesty International believes this charge is designed to prevent him from engaging in peaceful activities before or during the APEC meeting. If imprisoned, he would be considered a prisoner of conscience.

Within the past two months, authorities have broken up or prevented a human rights speech at a university, a seminar on land rights, a poetry reading on freedom of expression by a well-known Indonesian poet and a meeting between a lawyer and a group of workers. Four magazines have been banned in the past four months, most recently a new magazine, *Simpuni*, creating fear and uncertainty among journalists in Indonesia.

Some of those recently detained for peaceful political activities have been tortured, such as four young men who released several balloons bearing pro-democracy messages in September. Soldiers beat, kicked and shocked them with electric batons and a hand-operated electrical generator.

Despite domestic and international criticism from trade union groups and governments, Indonesian authorities have continued with the unfair trial of Dr. Mughtar Pakpahan and 10 other independent trade union activists accused of "inciting" labour unrest in April. By the end of October, five had been sentenced while trials of six others continue. They face up to six years in prison if convicted for non-violent activities.

Indonesian authorities have also stepped up the anti-crime campaign to ensure a "clean and stable" environment for the APEC talks. Police have shot dead scores of criminals held in custody, claiming they tried to attack police or run away. Yet in many cases, the victims were handcuffed or shot from the front, casting serious doubt on official explanations.

"Leaders of APEC member states should consider the issue of human rights during next week's forum and in meetings with the Indonesia government," Amnesty International said. "The APEC forum is a chance for all governments and business leaders to demonstrate they are genuinely committed to human rights, not just in Indonesia and East Timor, but throughout the region."

The Indonesian government is not alone in violating human rights. APEC, which serves as a forum to discuss regional trade questions and economic cooperation, has 18 member countries from the Asia Pacific region.

Virtually every government attending the APEC meeting has committed abuses, ranging from the death penalty to the curtailment of free expression:

- The United States carried out more executions last year than in any single year since the death penalty was reinstated in the 1970s.

- Last year's figures for executions in China show the highest ever recorded for one year, with more than 1,400 executed.

- In Singapore, the number of executions has jumped recently with 22 people put to death this year, compared with at least five last year.

- During the past 12 months in Australia, 11 Aboriginal people died in police or prison custody. Cruel, inhuman or degrading conditions during detention might have contributed to the high rate of deaths among Aboriginal prisoners, who continue to be imprisoned in disproportionate numbers.

- Many refugees seeking asylum in Thailand faced long periods of detention, fines and forcible return to the countries they fled, after an immigration crack-down was announced in 1993.

- A clamp-down under South Korea's National Security Law led to the arrests of dozens of people exercising their right to freedom of expression and association.

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EMBARGOED FOR 26 OCTOBER 1994

TURKEY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DENIED ACCESS TO TURKEY

The Turkish Government has refused to admit an Amnesty International researcher into Turkey to collect information about human rights violations, according to the human rights organization today.

"This ban contradicts the 'policy of openness relating to human rights issues' promised in a public statement made by the Turkish government in January and comes in a year which has brought an unprecedented volume of reports of human rights violations committed by security forces," Amnesty International said.

"By denying our researcher access to Turkey, the Government is choosing to hide and to deny the torture and killings carried out by its police and gendarmerie rather than confront its worsening human rights violations and take the necessary steps to end the violations."

The organization said that the ability to gather information, to interview victims, to speak to lawyers, community leaders and politicians is essential in safeguarding against human rights abuses by governments and armed opposition groups.

Legal and extra-legal methods are being used to prevent information-gathering in southeast Turkey. The press there has been under severe attack from both sides in the conflict, and officials of the Turkish Human Rights Association have been harassed, threatened, detained and tortured - even abducted and killed.

Amnesty International was officially notified of the government's decision on 16 October by the Turkish Embassy in London. The reasons given by the Ambassador were that Amnesty International's researcher had been in contact with members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), an armed opposition group which has been fighting Turkish security forces for more than ten years, and had "demanded propaganda material ... for the purpose of using them outside Turkey".

Amnesty International has replied to the Turkish Embassy refuting the allegations in detail. The organization has had no contact with representatives of the PKK in Turkey. Outside Turkey, the only meetings Amnesty International has had with persons claiming to represent the PKK were for presenting Amnesty International's concerns relating to the PKK's persistent killing of prisoners and civilians, and the taking of hostages.

Amnesty International's most recent annual report stated that the PKK had been responsible for the killing of more than 200 prisoners and civilians in 1993.

Amnesty International also pointed out in its letter to the embassy that research visits to Turkey are not carried out in secrecy, and that they are in fact announced to the Turkish Embassy before the delegate enters the country.

The ban is imposed under Article 8 of the Law on Passports which provides that "individuals whose motives in Turkey are proved to be detrimental to the security and public order of the country, or to be in assistance of others having the same objective" are to be prohibited from entering the country.

In the last year in Turkey, 19 people have died apparently as a result of torture in police custody; 45 people are reported to have "disappeared". Many others were abducted and killed by members of the security forces or murdered by unknown assailants following a history of harassment or detention by police.

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