

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

AI Index: ACT 79/001/2007 (Public)
News Service No: 182
24 September 2007

Embargo Date: 24 September 2007 14:30 GMT

Yoko Ono to celebrate Make Some Noise/Instant Karma with Amnesty International

HISTORIC DOUBLE CD FEATURES MORE THAN 20 JOHN LENNON SONGS RECORDED BY U2, GREEN DAY, R.E.M., AVRIL LAVIGNE, CHRISTINA AGUILERA, THE CURE, SNOW PATROL, YOUSSEU N'DOUR AND MORE

(London) Yoko Ono will visit Amnesty International's London headquarters on 24 September to celebrate the success of Make Some Noise/Instant Karma, which has helped focus global attention on the human rights crisis in Darfur. The Make Some Noise/Instant Karma album, released by Warner Bros. Records in June this year, is part of Amnesty International's Make Some Noise campaign, a mix of music, celebration and activism in support of human rights.

The Make Some Noise/Instant Karma album of John Lennon cover songs was made possible due to the generosity of Yoko Ono who granted Amnesty International the rights to all of Lennon's post-Beatles songs and donated all music-publishing royalties to the project.

Some of the biggest international names in music including U2, Green Day, R.E.M., Avril Lavigne, Christina Aguilera, The Cure, Snow Patrol and Youssou N'Dour came together for the album, which will culminate in the release of a digital box set on October 9, John Lennon's birthday. More than 50 artists from every continent have recorded songs and in many cases video pieces for the project.

"I am very honoured that Amnesty International has shown this recognition of my efforts to promote the idea of a more peaceful world," said Yoko Ono. "I feel that we are all on the same path, a path I embarked on with my husband John many years ago, and one that I still feel he is with me on. It is all the more timely as this comes just before I unveil IMAGINE PEACE TOWER in Iceland on October 9, John's birthday. IMAGINE PEACE."

Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International, said the success of the Make Some Noise/Instant Karma record underscores the powerful influence music can have to help change the world. "Make Some Noise/Instant Karma has helped increase global awareness of the massive tragedy that continues to unfold in Darfur, a crisis in which countless civilians have been left unprotected."

"Amnesty International is very grateful for the generosity of Yoko Ono, Executive Producer Jeff Ayeroff and Warner Bros. Records, who together with the support of international artists, have brought a new constituency of youth and music lovers from around the world to take action to end the unspeakable human rights crisis in Darfur," Irene Khan said.

Since its launch in June 2007, the Make Some Noise/Instant Karma double CD has shipped over 500,000 physical copies worldwide and has just achieved platinum status in Ireland and gold in Italy. The album has also achieved considerable digital success, reaching Number One on the iTunes albums chart in Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Luxemburg and Portugal, and the top five spot in almost all other countries.

The October 9 release of the Make Some Noise/Instant Karma digital box set will include all the double CD tracks, plus previously unreleased material exclusively recorded for the project, bringing the total to over 50 tracks.

"The Make Some Noise campaign has succeeded in attracting artists, music fans and most importantly young human rights activists from around the globe to the cause of human rights and the work of Amnesty," said Art for Amnesty's

Bill Shipsey, one of the executive producers of the album.

"The ground breaking venture has attracted over 100,000 activists signing on for actions on the Make Some Noise website and represents a small but important step in the direction of Amnesty International's goal of Globalizing Justice," Bill Shipsey said.

Public Document

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566
Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW. web: <http://www.amnesty.org>

For latest human rights news view <http://news.amnesty.org>