

Media Advisory

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Amnesty International submits concerns to United Nations Committee Against Torture

As the eyes of the world are set on the war in Central Asia, thousands of people are suffering torture in prisons, police stations and military installations in countries throughout the world, across political and cultural borders, Amnesty International warned today, ahead of the 27th session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture.

The organization has presented submissions to the Committee outlining its concerns on torture and ill-treatment in Indonesia, Israel, Ukraine and Saudi Arabia.

Amnesty International regrets the withdrawal of Saudi Arabia's delegation. "We hope the Committee will soon have the opportunity to examine Saudi Arabia's report and discuss these important human rights concerns in the country," the organization said.

The Committee, a 10-member body of independent experts, will meet in Geneva from 12 to 23 November 2001. Amnesty International representatives will be attending the sessions on Indonesia, Israel and Ukraine which will take place according to the following calendar:

Ukraine: Wednesday 14 November, 10 a.m. -- fourth periodic report; Thursday 15 November, 3 p.m. -- replies; Wednesday 21 November, 3 p.m. conclusions and recommendations

Indonesia: Friday 16 November, 10 a.m. -- initial report; Monday 19 November, 3 p.m. -- replies; Thursday 22 November, 3.30 p.m. conclusions and recommendations

Israel: Tuesday 20 November, 10 a.m. -- third periodic report; Wednesday 21 November, 3.30 p.m. -- replies; Friday 23 November, 10.30 a.m. conclusions and recommendations

During the session the Committee will also consider the initial reports of Benin and Zambia.

For further information on Amnesty International's submissions, or to arrange an interview with the organization's country specialists, please call the Amnesty International press office on +44 207 413 5562 or +44 7778 472 116

Background

All states party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, are obliged to submit periodical reports on the legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures undertaken to implement the provisions of the Convention.

Members of the public, the media and non-governmental organizations are allowed to attend but not to participate in the proceedings. TV cameras are allowed into the meeting rooms and experts and government representatives can be interviewed before and after the examination. If you are unable to attend, the UN issues press releases on the day of/the day after the session. These are available from the Secretary to the Committee, Tel: +41 22 917 9288, Fax: +41 22 917 9002, or from the UN website: <http://www.unhchr.ch>

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For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566

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