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INTERNAL

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **ANGOLA** (Following news reports today (Friday 18 Nov) that UNITA has pulled out of the Angolan peace talks, the research team has just heard that the peace treaty will not be signed on Sunday 22 November as planned. However, we are taking this opportunity to send out a news release talking about civilian killings by both sides. This press statement is being targeted to southern African media. The primary AI concern is killings which appear set to continue, whether the war continues or a peace treaty is signed. The other major concern for AI is the importance of human rights guarantees in any peace treaty. This concern could be highlighted if a peace agreement is eventually signed, because media focus will be on whether the UN will re-enter Angola. Press Officers can refer to last year's document on Angola, Angola: Assault on the right to life (AI Index: AFR 12/04/93), which details the human rights safeguards necessary for any lasting peace.

PLEASE NOTE: The Indonesia research team are receiving a great deal of new information as arrests and riots continue in Dili, East Timor. Last week they produced a rapid response document: Indonesia & East Timor: The 12 November Protests, AI Index: ASA 21/53/94, which was sent to selected sections, but has not yet gone in the weekly mailing. They plan to produce another short update to be used in conjunction with this report containing new info coming in today and over the weekend, which should be ready by Tuesday. We will issue this to journalists in Indonesia, including international correspondents. Please let Paula know on Monday if you need it (if you didn't receive the previous document you won't receive it and you will need both) and if you'd like us to embargo it for Wednesday instead of sending it out immediately. X5564

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Pakistan - 24/25/28 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 254/94

Sudan - 25 January - SEE NEWS SERVICE 261

Turkey - 8 February - SEE NEWS SERVICE 261

Northern Iraq - 22 February - SEE NEWS SERVICE 261

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

India - 27 November - SEE NEWS SERVICES 256 & 257

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18 NOVEMBER 1994

ANGOLA: ON BRINK OF PEACE BOTH SIDES SHOW UTTER DISREGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Both the Angolan Government and the *União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola* (UNITA), National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, are deliberately killing suspected opponents.

UNITA troops are reported to have executed dozens of prisoners before fleeing from their stronghold in the city of Huambo, which government forces recently recaptured. Government forces, according to UNITA, have extrajudicially executed suspected UNITA sympathizers in Huambo and Uige.

As continued fighting flouts the truce signed on 15 November, Amnesty International is calling on both the government and UNITA to tell their troops to stop killing those not involved in combat.

"Even on the brink of peace, both sides have shown an utter disregard for human rights," the organization said.

A new peace agreement known as the Lusaka Protocol, which was due to be signed on Sunday 20 November, appears to be in jeopardy after the latest truce failed because of continued fighting. A previous peace agreement, the Peace Accords for Angola, signed in May 1991, broke down after elections held in September 1992.

Amnesty International said a lasting peace would only be achieved if both sides committed themselves to respecting human rights. This would include cooperating with a thorough and independent investigation into all suspected extrajudicial executions or deliberate and arbitrary killings. The organization asked both the government and UNITA to make firm, public commitments to respect human rights.

"Any peace agreement must have proper human rights protection built into it, including a system of independent human rights monitoring," Amnesty International said. "In 1993 and 1994 we called for strong guarantees to be included in this peace agreement; one of the reasons why the 1991 agreement broke down was because the lack of investigations into political killings led to further killings."

Government forces reportedly gunned down Eduardo Domingos in the southern town of Lubango in October. Amnesty International is continuing to inquire into UNITA allegations that government forces extrajudicially executed UNITA sympathizers, such as Domingos, as it attacked or entered towns held by UNITA.

Domingos, a 42-year-old professor of economics, had been among many UNITA supporters arrested in January 1993, then released a month later. His house had been wrecked and his car burned. Domingos wanted to leave Lubango but the authorities refused to allow him to leave. He was killed on 2 October 1994, allegedly by government security officials.

Between 6 and 9 November 1994 the government army took control of Huambo, which UNITA had captured in March 1993. Journalists who visited the city on 13 November found the bodies of prisoners who had apparently been executed several days earlier. There were three bodies of men in the courtyard of the Provincial Prosecutor's Office which UNITA had used as a prison and others in private houses which had been used to hold prisoners.

Some of the bodies, which were dressed in prison-issue long T-shirts and grey trousers, showed injuries which appeared to have been caused by torture. In other areas bodies had been thrown into shallow wells. The journalists spoke to local people who had come to identify the bodies and told how their relatives had been arrested on suspicion of supporting the government. In some cases they had been allowed to visit their relatives in prison but in other cases they never saw them again. UNITA has denied that it killed prisoners.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Angola has a long history of mass killings of political opponents by both the government and UNITA. Even during the implementation of the May 1991 peace accords, which was monitored by the United Nations (UN), there were further political killings. These were never adequately investigated, with the result that the use of violence as a political weapon increased.

The Lusaka Protocol, if it is signed, will not bring a lasting peace unless the cycle of deliberate killings of civilians and other human rights violations is stopped. Amnesty International has called for the new peace agreement to include strong measures to protect human rights. Among other things, it has urged that human rights monitors, working with a UN coordinator, should be deployed throughout the country.

The May 1991 peace agreement broke down after UNITA disputed the results of elections held in September 1992 and reassembled its army. Between October 1992 and January 1993, government forces extrajudicially executed hundreds of suspected UNITA supporters in the capital, Luanda, in Lubango and other cities. Since then both sides have deliberately killed prisoners.

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