

MEDIA ADVISORY

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AI INDEX: ASA 17/32/96
47/96
12 MARCH 1996

News Service

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LAUNCHES WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN
ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHINA**

Amnesty International is launching its first ever worldwide campaign on China on 13 March 1996, highlighting increasing repression by a government which clamps down brutally on any action perceived as a threat to the established order.

The organization's Secretary General, Pierre Sané, will launch the campaign and a comprehensive report on human rights violations in China in Bangkok – the first stop in a campaigning tour which includes Hong Kong and Tokyo.

At the press conference, the Secretary General will spotlight the widespread repression of dissent and the use of torture and capital punishment – all of which are underscored by the abuse of the Chinese legal system by the country's officials.

Such human rights violations have taken place against a backdrop of economic reforms which have opened China up to foreign investment. Despite sporadic international protest over human rights violations, foreign governments have failed to consistently condemn the abuse of basic rights for fear of jeopardising investment opportunities.

During the 10-day campaigning tour, the Secretary General will seek meetings with representatives of the Chinese government in Bangkok, Hong Kong and Tokyo, and will also meet with non-governmental organizations and business leaders.

Press conference details:

10.30 am, Wednesday 13 March
Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand, Bangkok

Speaking at the press conference: Pierre Sané, Secretary General, Amnesty International; Pierre Robert, China Researcher; Mardi Remedios M Suplido, member of Amnesty International Philippines and former member of Amnesty International's international board.

The speakers will be available for interviews after the press conference. Interviews can be conducted in English, French and Mandarin.

Materials:

A press pack will be distributed at the press conference, including a 121-page report, *China: No One Is Safe*, an eight-page summary briefing of the report, a news release and information on the business aspect of the campaign. For broadcasters, VHS and BETA copies of a video news release and three eight-minute documentary style stories are available with accompanying scripts. The footage is available for free worldwide broadcast.

For further information, contact:

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