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MEDIA ADVISORY
UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE
CHINA / USA

The United Nations Committee against Torture (the Committee), a 10-member body of independent experts, will review the periodic reports of the governments of China and the USA in its 24th session. The meeting is taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 19 May 2000.

China and the USA are party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Convention), and their governments are therefore obliged to submit reports on the legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures undertaken to implement the provisions of the Convention.

China's report will be examined on 4 and 5 May, while the USA will submit its report on 10 and 11 May.

The examination takes place in public, when the Committee poses questions to the government representatives and makes comments and conclusions about implementation of the Convention. Members of the

public, the media and non-governmental organizations are allowed to attend but are not allowed to participate in the proceedings.

You can attend the examinations. 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 or from the UN website.

As governments' reports can be subject to last minute changes and postponement, you are advised to be in close contact with the Secretary to the Committee in advance of the consideration. He can be contacted at: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland, Tel: 41 22 917 9316, Fax: 41 22 917 9002. Alternatively, you can check on 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