

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

31 January 2002

AI Index IOR 80/001/2002 - News Service Nr. 20

World Economic and Social Fora: The effects of globalization must be addressed and the rights of all must be protected

New York/ Porto Alegre - As world and business leaders gather in New York and thousands of representatives of the world's civil society meet in Porto Alegre, Brazil, Amnesty International is urging governments and corporations to address the impact of globalization on human rights.

"Human rights must not be 'traded off' for short term profits. Multinational corporations have a legal and a moral responsibility to ensure that human rights -- all human rights -- are respected," said Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International.

"With power comes responsibility. Governments and companies must be held accountable for their actions affecting social, economic and cultural rights, as well as political and civil rights."

While Irene Khan will be engaging in discussions on security and human rights, minorities rights and the responsibility of corporations towards human rights at the World Economic Forum and the "Public Eye on Davos" conference, the Chair of Amnesty International's International Executive Committee, Colm O Cuanachain, will be participating in debates on issues affecting the daily life of ordinary citizens at the World Social Forum .

"Freedom from fear and freedom from want go hand in hand. Human rights are indivisible," said Colm O Cuanachain.

For more information please contact:

New York : Kamal Samari. Hotel Metropolitan +1 212 752 7000 (Room 1027) or +44 777 84721 26 (mobile)

Porto Alegre : Galeno Almeida - Satellite phone 00 881631439019 or 00 55 51 3212 59 38

\ENDS

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>