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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 114/93

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - SOUTH AFRICA, ETHIOPIA, TURKEY

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

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Yugoslavia/Kosovo - 23 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 104/113

Sudan - 29 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 88

Myanmar - 8 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 111

EJEs and "Disappearances" - 20 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 113

## TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

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Togo - 5 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 111

Francophone Summit - 11 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 111

## FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Iran - 3 November (International)

Venezuela - 10 November (International, linked to EJEs & Disappearances)

## CORRECTION TO SUDAN SECTION-LEVEL ACTION (AFR 54/28/93)

TO: Press Officers, Campaign coordinators, Sudan coordinators, EAFRAN coordinators, Outreach coordinators  
FROM: Campaign Unit

Please note: Page 5, last paragraph, lines 7 and 8: "a number of foreign aid workers were among the victims" should be replaced by: "four Sudanese employees of USAID, the European Commission and the United Nations were among the victims".

Apologies for this mistake. Please could you ensure that all relevant members of your section who are involved in this action and who may use the internal background information are informed of this change. Many thanks.

AI INDEX: AFR 53/WU 03/93  
10 SEPTEMBER 1993

**SOUTH AFRICA: ANC NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FAILS TO ACT AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS**

On 29 August 1993 the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress (ANC) responded publicly to the report of the ANC-appointed Motsuenyane Commission, an independent inquiry into human rights abuses by ANC members during the 1980s (see AFR 53/WU 02/93, 24 August 1993).

The Motsuenyane Commission found that torture and killings were carried out during the 1980s by ANC personnel in the ANC's camps in exile and identified a number of the alleged perpetrators. The ANC's National Executive Committee accepted the Commission's findings. The Committee also said it accepted collective responsibility for the abuses and apologized unreservedly to the victims. However, the ANC's leadership declined to take prompt steps to discipline the perpetrators identified by the Commission or to remove them from positions of authority over others.

The ANC's National Executive Committee placed much emphasis on past and continuing human rights violations committed against ANC members and supporters by the South African government and its agents. They argued that steps by the ANC to discipline its own members and have them brought to justice should be matched by simultaneous steps on the part of the government. They called upon the government to set up immediately a "Commission of Truth" to inquire into "all the violations of human rights ... from all quarters", to "provide the moral basis for justice" and help prevent any repetition of abuses in the future. This would be consistent with the government's clear obligation under international law to investigate all reports of political killings, torture and other human rights violations by its security forces.

Amnesty International remains concerned that the South African authorities have steadfastly refused to acknowledge responsibility for past and ongoing human rights violations by the security forces, and have failed in all but a handful of cases to bring perpetrators to justice. However, in Amnesty International's view this failure on the part of the government does not excuse the ANC from taking prompt and firm measures to discipline human rights violators within its own ranks.

Amnesty International welcomes the work done by the Motsuenyane Commission to expose human rights abuses and identify the perpetrators. It also welcomes the ANC's acknowledgement of collective responsibility for human rights abuses committed by ANC personnel. But the organization urges the ANC's National Executive Committee to take immediate steps to, at the very least, ensure that individuals identified by the Commission cease to hold positions which could in any circumstances give them authority over prisoners or responsibility for the use of force, now or in the future. The ANC should provide financial compensation for victims or their relatives, and should offer all necessary assistance to those still in need of medical, psychiatric or other support because of abuses suffered in exile at the hands of ANC personnel.

Amnesty International once again urges the South African government to ensure that urgent independent and thorough investigations are mounted into all allegations of human rights violations by members of its security forces and to bring those responsible for such violations to justice.

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AI INDEX: AFR 25/WU 03/93  
10 SEPTEMBER 1993

**ETHIOPIA: PROFESSOR ASRAT WOLDEYES RELEASED, SIX OTHERS STILL HELD**

(Update to News Service 91/93 dated 4 August 1993 - Arrests of two government opponents and court witnesses)

Professor Asrat Woldeyes, president of the opposition All-Amhara People's Organization (AAPO), who was arrested on 19 July 1993 and charged with political offences, was released on bond by an Addis Ababa district court on 31 August 1993.

Amnesty International has learnt that a total of six other people were also arrested and charged in the same court case, including Sileshi Mulatu, an AAPO official, Teshome Bimerew, a university student accused of possessing an AAPO leaflet, and four farmers. These six are still detained.

According to Amnesty International's information, the Addis Ababa High Court overruled the district court which had ordered their release on bond at the same time as it released Professor Asrat Woldeyes. The reasons for the High Court judgment are not known. All six detainees are held in the Central Prison in Addis Ababa (known as "Karchele"), where they are allowed brief family visits. No trial date has been set. The prosecution witnesses who had been detained have now been released.

Amnesty International is continuing to press for the unconditional release of the six detainees, and the withdrawal of the charges against all defendants, including Professor Asrat Woldeyes, as it believes they were arrested for their peaceful opinions critical of the government.

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AI INDEX: EUR 44/WU 03/93  
10 SEPTEMBER 1993

**TURKEY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URGES PKK TO RELEASE CIVILIAN PRISONERS**

Amnesty International yesterday wrote to the General Secretary of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), Abdullah Öcalan, expressing concern about a number of prisoners who, according to reports, are being held by PKK units in Turkey.

The organization has previously written to him raising questions about a number of killings of prisoners, including civilians, allegedly perpetrated by PKK guerrillas. Amnesty International is now concerned, in particular, about the safety of Alaaddin \_eref, a cartographer for the \_ler Bankas\_, who was reportedly abducted by PKK guerrillas on the evening of 16 August near the village of Kaygusuzlar, Dicle, Diyarbak\_r province. Two others, Ömer Yazg\_l\_ and F\_rat Demirel were abducted with him and were released hours later, but Alaaddin \_eref's whereabouts remain unknown.

Amnesty International unconditionally condemns the ill-treatment or killing of any prisoners - abuses which are specifically forbidden under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 which establish minimum humane standards for internal armed conflict. Amnesty International also opposes the taking of hostages, and asked for Abdullah Öcalan to inform the organization why Alaaddin \_eref, a civilian, is still being held, and what arrangements are being made for his release.

In recent months, a number of foreign tourists have been captured and held for several days or weeks by guerrillas of the PKK, but were later released. German citizens Albrecht Christoph Lehmann and Henry Butler, Swiss citizens Nico Pianta and Giuseppe Rezzonico, Italian citizens Anna D'Andrea (wife of Nico Pianta) and Angelo Palega, and the New Zealand citizen Paul Thompson are currently being held. These prisoners are clearly exposed to considerable risk while held by armed groups in conflict with government troops in mountainous areas, and Amnesty International urged their prompt release.

The human rights organization also requested information about the grounds on which two soldiers \_rfan \_han and Burhan Kat\_lm\_, who were abducted near Erel\_ in Van province, and NCO Zafer Özp\_nar held by PKK forces in the Yüksekova district of the Hakkari province, continue to be held.

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