

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 10 00 HRS 11 AUGUST 1995**

A INDEX : ORG 50/14/95

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN SLOVENIA FOCUSES ON EMERGING HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND VIOLATIONS.**

Hundreds of Amnesty International activists from around the world will be showing their support for the growing human rights movement in Eastern and Central Europe, as the organization's major international meeting starts in Slovenia this week.

"In a region where people couldn't even join Amnesty International up until the end of the 1980s, our members in 26 countries are part of a growing human rights movement," said Pierre Sané, Secretary General of Amnesty International.

"By holding our International Council Meeting (ICM) in Slovenia, we are showing our solidarity with those activists working to build a new human rights culture in the region."

The ICM -- Amnesty International's biannual internal decision making meeting -- will be debating, among other issues, how to effectively act on the changing human rights violations of 1990s. Increasingly, human rights violations are taking place in situations of armed conflict or government breakdown, with people frequently killed in the streets rather than held in prison cells.

In the run up to the first United Nations World Conference on Women for a decade, the organization will be highlighting women's issues in its campaigning in Slovenia, and debating issues of concern to women, including female genital mutilation.

The hundreds of Amnesty International delegates in Slovenia will also be showing their concern about the fate of people who have "disappeared" or gone missing since the beginning of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia in 1991. More than 50 relatives of people who have "disappeared" in Croatia and Bosnia will lead a public event (11 August) to share their direct experience of these human rights violations and help to set the agenda for a major Amnesty International action on "disappearances" in the region later this year.

"With each successive wave of human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia, the victims from earlier waves of violations tend to get pushed further and further into the background," said Mr Sané. "Thousands of people from that region are still waiting for the truth about their "disappeared" or missing family members."

Since the recent capture of Srebrenica by Bosnian Serb forces, Amnesty International has launched a special action for those who have suffered the latest wave of human rights abuses. In

response to this the organization is stepping up its actions and mobilizing its global membership to hold a "Worldwide Day of Action on Bosnia" (11 August).

---

Note to Editors: The International Council Meeting is an internal decision making meeting of Amnesty International. Media are invited to attend the related public activities (listed below) and to interview ICM participants about their work and experiences with Amnesty International. The meeting itself, however, is closed to the media and public, and ICM participants are not available to conduct interviews on the internal discussions.