
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 60/95

TO: PRESS OFFICERS AI INDEX: NWS 11/60/95
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICEDISTR: SC/PO
DATE: 21 MARCH 1995NO OF WORDS: 1219

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **REPUBLIC OF GUINEA** (this item will be taken to the mission by the delegates); **BRAZIL - embargoed 23 March** (this item will be sent to international media on 23 March)

INTERNAL - **SIERRA LEONE** - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

PLEASE NOTE: We have decided to issue the Brazil news release today with an embargo date of **23 March**.

**** EFAI PLEASE NOTE:** The enclosed item on Republic of Guinea is for priority translation. Can you please E-Mail a copy of the translation as soon as it is done. Thanks - Androulla

**** EDAI PLEASE NOTE:** The enclosed item on Brazil is for priority translation. Can you please E-Mail a copy of the translation as soon as it is ready. Thanks - Androulla

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Campaign on Women - 7 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 12/95, 34/95, 37/95, 42/95 & 44/95
Brazil - 27 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 29/95, 59/95

RWANDA - 6 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 37/95

SYRIA - 11 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 32/95

ETHIOPIA - 25 APRIL - SEE NEWS SERVICE 59/95

GERMANY - 23 MAY - SEE NEWS SERVICE 59/95

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES - 11 May - SEE NEWS SERVICE 59/95

IRAN - 31 May - SEE NEWS SERVICE 59/95

EVENTS AND MISSIONS

The details below are for your information only, and there may or may not be media work involved. Can you please not publicize anything until further notice from the IS.

MISSION TO CHECHNYA 8 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 53, 54 & 58

MISSION TO BURUNDI 13 - 27 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 37/95

MISSION TO KENYA 16 March - 2 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 37/95

MISSION TO HAITI 18 March - 3 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 58/95

MISSION TO CHAD - 27 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 59/95

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AI INDEX: AFR 29/WU 01/95
21 MARCH 1995

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SENDS RESEARCH TEAM TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

An Amnesty International delegation will be visiting the Republic of Guinea from around 21 March to collect information about the human rights developments in the country during the transition towards an elected government.

The delegates are Doctor Stephen Ellis, researcher at the Africa Study Centre in Leiden, Netherlands, and three staff members of Amnesty International's International Secretariat -- Teresa Kordeczka, Adam Lloyd and Gaëtan Mootoo.

Amnesty International representatives last visited Guinea in June 1987 to seek information about secret trials before the State Security Court and secret military trials of several hundred people arrested in 1984 and 1985. There was, however, no government response to a memorandum sent in December 1987 describing the organization's concerns about the secret trials and the proposed series of measures to uphold human rights.

In December 1991 these and other concerns regarding human rights violations in Guinea were made public in a 15-page report entitled, *Republic of Guinea - Amnesty International's concerns since 1984*. The report provided information about recent violations and recommended specific steps which, if implemented by the Government of Guinea, would help to protect human rights. Again, no response was received by the Guinean authorities to this or other concerns raised more recently.

The delegation also intend to meet refugees fleeing human rights violations resulting from the conflicts in both Sierra Leone and Liberia.

ENDS\

INTERNAL -- FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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AI INDEX: AFR 51/WU 01/95
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SIERRA LEONE: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION IN GUINEA WILL MEET SIERRA LEONIAN REFUGEES

On 16 February, Amnesty International called on the Government of Sierra Leone, leaders of insurgent forces and the international community to take urgent measures to stop the killings of defenceless civilians as the conflict in Sierra Leone spread throughout the country.

At the same time, Amnesty International sections were asked to bring the deteriorating situation in Sierra Leone to the attention of their own governments. Sections were also asked to raise public awareness of the toll being exacted on Sierra Leone civilians in a conflict where in addition to rebel forces of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), government soldiers, both deserted and still serving, are responsible for the deliberate killing of unarmed civilians.

Amnesty International continues to actively investigate human rights violations in Sierra Leone. To do this more effectively, the organization has considered sending a delegation to the capital, Freetown, with the aim of gathering detailed information about recent events.

After a careful assessment of the current security situation, however, it was decided that there were serious potential risks to both the Amnesty International delegation and to those whom it might meet to obtain information about human rights violations by both rebel forces and government soldiers.

Although it has been decided to postpone this visit for the time being, the organization will continue to look at the possibility of travelling to Sierra Leone if the security situation improves.

An Amnesty International delegation will, however, be visiting Guinea from 21 March until 4 April. It hopes to gather information from Sierra Leonean refugees who have fled to Guinea to escape the violence in their country. Some 45,000 Sierra Leoneans have reportedly crossed the border into Guinea from Kambia District, Northern Province, since late January 1995.

Following the visit to Guinea, and depending on the information obtained, Amnesty International intends to continue its efforts to publicise its concerns in Sierra Leone through both publicity initiatives and campaigning by its membership.

For further information, refer to the following Amnesty International documents and news releases

- *Sierra Leone: Serious deterioration in human rights is being ignored,*
AI Index: AFR 51/WU 01/95)
- *Amnesty International sends research team to the Republic of Guinea,*
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AI INDEX: AMR 19/WU 02/95
EMBARGOED FOR 23 MARCH 1995

BRAZIL: FIRST VISIT BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S SECRETARY GENERAL TO URGE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION

Mr Pierre Sané, Secretary General of Amnesty International, will be arriving in São Paulo, Brazil on 28 March 1995 to start a two-week visit to the country.

In his first visit to Brazil, Mr Sané will be meeting President Fernando Henrique Cardoso to hear directly what major reforms and concrete plans the new government proposes to tackle the serious human rights situation in the country. He will also be participating in events and activities to promote the development of Amnesty International's Brazilian Section.

Mr Sané will present President Cardoso with a memorandum including 40 specific recommendations -- many of them already discussed by Amnesty International with Mr Cardoso and other presidential candidates prior to the 1994 elections. President Cardoso will also receive a list of over 120 cases affecting nearly 600 individuals which have been taken up by Amnesty International in recent years, many of which remain unresolved.

At 10 am on 30 March Mr Sané will be addressing the plenary of the House of Deputies. He will also meet with the Attorney General, the Foreign Minister and the Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Justice.

Mr Sané will then be visiting the states of Rio de Janeiro, Pernambuco, São Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul. In these states and in the Federal District the Amnesty International delegation will meet with state governors and other authorities to discuss ways of improving respect for human rights. They will also visit communities affected by human rights violations, and will meet with local non-governmental organizations and with the local membership of Amnesty International.

As part of the visit, Mr Sané will be speaking at the Conselho Universitário of the University of São Paulo on 7 April, and will be launching the Brazilian's Sections Campaign on Women and Human Rights, at the Usina do Gasometro in Porto Alegre on 9 April.

Note to editors:

The **meeting with president Cardoso** is scheduled for **29th March 1995 at 3 pm at the presidential palace**, with a press conference immediately after the meeting.
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