
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 27/94

TO: PRESS OFFICERS
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE
DATE: 10 FEBRUARY 1994

NO OF WORDS: 577

AI INDEX: NWS 11/27/94
DISTR: SC/PO

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - NORTHERN IRELAND

PLEASE NOTE: Apologies - due to delays in finalising the Kuwait news release, we will not have the text ready to send to sections until 21 February, but there is no change to the embargo date.

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

****Indonesia Campaign - end September****

Please note that the Indonesia Campaign has unfortunately had to be delayed until the end of September. A fax explaining why has been sent out to you by Hilary Payne in the Campaigns Unit. From a news perspective, it will make the launch timing far better because 1 October is the anniversary of the 1965 coup - the most important anniversary in Indonesia - and the campaign launch date will be as close to this as possible. I hope this does not cause too much inconvenience - we will go ahead and discuss the campaign at the press officers meeting on 19, 20 & 21 Feb.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

UK - 9 February - SEE NEWS SERVICE 170

Kuwait - 24 February - SEE NEWS SERVICE 170

Women - 8 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 161/26

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

European Parliament & Political killings/"disapps" Handbook - 23 Feb

SEE NEWS SERVICE 22/94

Turkey - 10 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 26

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Saudi Arabia - 31 March more details to follow

Colombia - 16 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 123 + UAs AMR 23/56+57/93

South Africa - 23 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 05/94

News Service 27/94

**AI INDEX: EUR 45/WU 01/1994
10 February 1994**

UNITED KINGDOM: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALLS ON UK GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS ISSUES RAISED IN REPORT ON POLITICAL KILLINGS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Amnesty International is calling on the UK government to stop dodging the crucial issues raised in its report on political killings in Northern Ireland.

"What we've heard so far are critics who say we've said too much or too little, too soon or too late, in the report -- when will we hear serious answers to the allegations of coverups of killings and collusion that are in the report?" Amnesty International said.

The government has not responded to the critical recommendation of the report -- to hold wideranging, independent inquiries into the issues of security force killings and collusion between government forces and Loyalist paramilitaries.

"If the government has nothing to hide, why is it afraid to ask questions," Amnesty International said. "And why is the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary pre-empting the findings and constricting the scope of the current Stevens inquiry by stating that Stevens will not go to Northern Ireland and that no arrests and prosecutions are anticipated."

The only response so far on the critical allegations of collusion between security forces and Loyalist paramilitaries is statistics on charges laid against Loyalist and Republican forces. Those statistics do not clarify how many of the charges against Loyalist paramilitaries were for purely criminal offences and how many were for attacks on Republican suspects targeted by the security forces.

"It also doesn't tell us why inside information about Loyalist groups responsible for dozens of killings was not used to prosecute Loyalists," Amnesty International said. "It doesn't explain why lawyer Patrick Finucane was not warned that he was being targeted for murder."

The response on security force killings as well does not answer the serious allegations of coverups of past killings. The refusal by the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Hugh Annesley, to hand over information about past disputed killings to an inquest simply reinforces suspicions that there has been a cover up of murders by the security forces.

ENDS/