

Activism and the War on Terror in the Balkans, Ljubljana,

Dear friends,

Amnesty International will be organising a two/three day workshop 'Activism & the War on Terror in the Balkans' in Ljubljana/Slovenia, 13 - 15 April.

This workshop will be targeting young activists (age 18 - 30 years old), interested in human rights and activism, eager to learn and to support further activism in their country and the region.

Please distribute the attached invitation as widely as possible to members of your organisation or people you know have the spirit of activism.

Deadline for applications is 10 February.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jezerca, at: jtigani@amnesty.org.

*'Activism and the War on Terror in the Balkans' *

*Amnesty International ***

Following the wars of the 1990s in the former Yugoslavia, the international community became significantly involved in the region with a strong presence in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina in particular.

Soon after September 11, the Balkans became also an arena of the "War on Terror". Balkan countries were directly or indirectly involved in the transfer of suspects to secret detention places as well as in rendition flights. These cases include the rendition of Khaled El-Masri from Macedonia and the unlawful transfer of six men from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Guantanamo. People alleged to be involved in "terrorism" were unlawfully detained in the US army base Bondsteel in UN-administered Kosovo.

The international community present in the Balkans not only did not do enough to stop these illegal activities but in some cases became complicit in them. In fact, international actors that were deployed in the region to foster democracy and the rule of law were involved in human rights violations.

This happened with the tacit agreement of local authorities and state institutions. In some of the countries the "War on Terror" served as an excuse for further human rights violations.

Amnesty International is organising a two day workshop on youth activism and human rights in the "War on Terror". The workshop will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 13 – 15 April 2007 . The workshop will have an emphasis on youth – and offer a skills-based series of training courses in activist leadership and techniques. It will draw on the expertise of activists from outside and inside Amnesty International and will have an emphasis on training participants to organise their own trainings for other activists in their country of origin.

The workshop will gather in Slovenia around 20 young activists from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia (including Kosovo), and Slovenia.

Amnesty International will be covering the costs of travel to/from your city/country to Ljubljana, lodging, food and visa fees. Amnesty International will give all the support needed for you to apply for a visa to enter Slovenia.

We are looking for young, energetic people interested in human rights and activism, and with a vision to support further activism in your country and in the Balkans. Participants must have a good level of English (as the training and all materials will be in English).

If you are interested in attending this workshop, please send your CV and a 1000 word essay on 'What does 'activism' mean to you? ', at: jtigani@amnesty.org, by 10 February 2007.