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YES, I want to make a mid-year contribution to Amnesty International to help stem the incidence of human rights abuses. My tax-deductible donation is enclosed in the amount of:

[ ]$40 [ ]$60 * [ ]$80 [ ]Other _____

* *A gift of this much or more is desperately needed!*

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Ms. Donna K. Johnston
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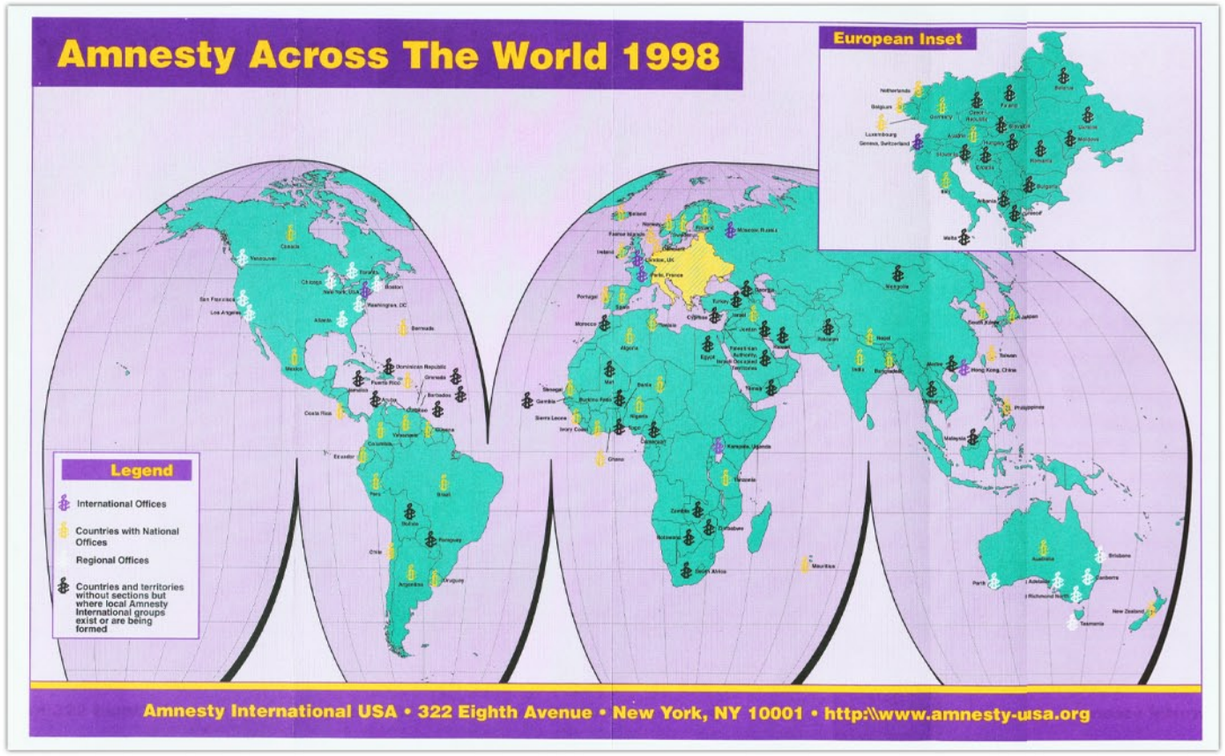

WILLIAM F. SCHULZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Imagine that armed gunmen appear in your neighborhood and kill four of your neighbors.

"Better dig about 70 graves," one of them advises coolly. "We're coming back later."

Go ahead -- call 9-1-1. The police will promise to help ... but nothing will ever be done.

Dear Amnesty Member,

The citizens of Carmen de Atrato, a small town in Colombia, began this year in stark terror when the scenario described above actually happened to them.

Traditional New Year's Day celebrations were shattered when paramilitary gunmen brutally murdered four men from the town. One was shot in front of his family at his home.

One was wounded and taken to the hospital. The gunmen followed, and killed him while he was being treated.

Local teens and young adults were told to leave town, or they would be killed, too.

People of the town were warned that up to 70 new graves needed to be prepared in the local cemetery as there was going to be a "cleansing" operation in the area.

The police and military are -- at best -- helpless before the paramilitary groups. In fact, in most cases Amnesty has very good reason to believe that the groups are working together.

This grim history, as shocking as it is, was the launching point for what may turn out to be one of the most abusive years in the modern struggle for human rights. Too many nations condone the torture of their citizens ... extrajudicial executions ... detention without trial or charge ...

... and in each country, far too many people must live with the torment that the next time the gunman appears, it may be a husband or wife ... a cousin or dear friend ... even a son or daughter who will be laid to rest in a waiting grave.

I'm turning to you now, and to all of Amnesty International USA's members, to ask for a special mid-year contribution to further our efforts on behalf of human rights all around the world.

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