



MEDIA ADVISORY

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2006 INTERNATIONAL CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL TO BE HELD MAY 21, 2006

WHAT: The 2006 International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, one of the oldest and largest grassroots mobilization campaigns addressing HIV/AIDS, will be celebrated in more than 100 countries around the world to raise public awareness about the AIDS pandemic and encourage local activism and dialogue with policy-makers. The campaign is organized by the Global Health Council, located in Washington, D.C.

WHEN: Sunday, May 21, 2006.

WHERE: Among the hundreds of Candlelight Memorial programs to be held, several particularly noteworthy events will occur in the following locations:

Barcelona, Spain—There will be a three-day national event including round table discussions; music and entertainment; workshops and activities for both children and adults; booths for organizations; an AIDS memorial quilt. The Mayor of Barcelona and other political figures will participate in the events. HIV diagnoses among injection drug users dropped steeply in Spain in the 1990s, but high HIV prevalence remains in the northeast of the country and on the Balearic Islands, according to UNAIDS.

Local Host Organization: Projects dels NOMS-SIDA

Spokesperson: Ferran Pujol i Roca

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Lagos, Nigeria—Nigeria has become a hotspot for the Candlelight this year, accounting for nearly 15 percent of the 850 memorials worldwide. Nigeria also has the third highest prevalence for HIV infection in the world, after India and South Africa – with between 3.2 and 3.6 million cases recorded in 2003, according to UNAIDS.

Coordinating Organization: Prince Femi Adegbaiké

Spokesperson: Youth Awareness Campaign Against AIDS (YACAA)

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Medan, Indonesia—More than 6,000 women from poor villages plan to attend the Candlelight activities in Medan, Indonesia. According to UNAIDS, Indonesia needs to scale-up their responses to HIV infection to avoid a serious epidemic in the future.

Coordinating Organization: Humaniora Foundation

Spokesperson: Endang Lestari

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United States – Local community organizations are gathering in [Washington, D.C.](#), to honor those who have been affected there. The country's capital has the highest rate of new AIDS cases in the United States. The program will feature Jeanne White, mother of Ryan White, along with numerous local and national organizations.

Coordinating Organization: The Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC)

Spokesperson: Monika Gerhart

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To learn more about the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, visit

www.candlelightmemorial.org.

More Candlelight coverage in [Canada](#), [New Zealand](#), [India](#), and the [Philippines](#).

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