

MEDIA ADVISORY

Monday 16 January 2006

ART IMITATES LIFE: DIRECTOR OF *LORD OF WAR* ATTENDS UN ARMS TRADE MEETING

The film *Lord of War*, starring Nicolas Cage and launched Tuesday 17 Jan on DVD, depicts an arms broker who does not care who buys his guns or what they do with them. For once, the screenwriters were not making it up. The character might be fictional, but his activities and methods mirror those of the real arms dealers who fuel conflicts in Africa.

This week, UN member states are arguing over the agenda for the second world summit on small arms, which will take place in June. By the end of the week, thousands more people will have been killed by guns.

The writer and director of *Lord of War*, Andrew Niccol, is visiting the UN for a reception and screening of the film. He will talk about why he made the film and how easy it was to procure the weapons he needed for filming. In addition, experts from the Control Arms Campaign will highlight the human suffering caused by the arms brokers and explain what needs to be done to stop them.

Extra features on the new DVD of *Lord of War* include interviews with Ambassador Sylvester Rowe of Sierra Leone who is chairing this week's UN small arms meeting, and with Brian Wood, an Amnesty International expert on arms brokers.

Place: Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium, 46th St and First Ave. Photo ID reqd
Date: Tuesday 17 Jan
Time: 5.45 – Reception
6.30 - Presentation
6.45 – Screening of *Lord of War*

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The Control Arms Campaign is a joint initiative by Amnesty International, Oxfam and the International Action Network on Small Arms. Control Arms is campaigning for an Arms Trade Treaty to prevent weapons transfers to countries where they will be used for human rights violations or to hinder development.

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