

**Human Rights Treks to the Summit:
CHRI launches its 2005 Human Rights Report to CHOGM**

**Media Release from the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
21 November 2005**

Tomorrow, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative's 2005 Human Rights Report to CHOGM will be launched by the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, Hon Dr Tonio Borg.

Every two years – in time for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting – CHRI produces a report on an issue of human rights concern common across the Commonwealth. Ms Maja Daruwala, Director of CHRI, said, "CHRI's 2003 Report, *Open Sesame: Looking for the Right to Information in the Commonwealth*, generated widespread interest at CHOGM 2003 and preceded a global shift towards right to information legislation. In the two years since last CHOGM, India, Uganda and Antigua have all put into place right to information laws, and many other jurisdictions are well on their way."

In 2005, CHRI has turned its attention to the police. Policing is one of the most pressing human rights concerns in the Commonwealth today. "The Commonwealth has some of the best examples of policing in the world. It also has some of the worst," explained Ms Daruwala. "Violence, corruption, torture and discrimination – you name the illegitimate police practice, and a member of the Commonwealth can provide an example. Now is the time to take action – and this year's CHOGM, and CHRI's 2005 Report, are an excellent place to start."

CHRI's Report, titled *Police Accountability: Too Important to Neglect, Too Urgent to Delay*, looks at the human rights implications of policing standards in the Commonwealth and sets out a reform agenda, with real world solutions to the problems of police accountability.

Dr Borg will launch the report and will speak on Human Rights and Policing, giving a Maltese perspective on this critical issue. The Launch will be held in the Lounge of the La Vallette Resort, Dragonara Road, in St Julians, between 4 and 5.30pm on Tuesday 22 November 2005.

The Launch will bring together the Minister for Justice and a number of high profile human rights experts from all over the world. Ms Daruwala said, "Reforms of the police in Commonwealth are too important to neglect, and too urgent to delay. The launch of the Report will be an excellent opportunity for discussion and debate around one of the most burning and controversial issues facing the Commonwealth today."

For more information:

Clare Doube, CHRI: clare@humanrightsinitiative.org or + 356 7992 3629.

Website: www.humanrightsinitiative.org