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TASER International, Inc. Demands Amnesty International Withdraw Its Misleading and Defamatory Statements

Calls for Amnesty International to Provide Factual Support for Its Allegations, or Immediately and Publicly Withdraw Them

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., Jun 2, 2004 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- TASER(R) International, Inc. (Nasdaq: TASR), a market leader in advanced non-lethal weapons demanded today that Amnesty International USA immediately withdraw its request for Georgia law enforcement officials to suspend their TASER conducted energy weapon use.

"We believe Amnesty International's ongoing smear campaign against TASER non-lethal weapons and the police who use them is unethical, misleading, and in-fact defamatory," said Rick Smith, CEO of TASER International, Inc. "Amnesty International continues to call for a ban on virtually every non-lethal technology used by law enforcement worldwide. Any rational human being understands that such a policy would leave police with no options but lethal force, directly resulting in the needless loss of thousands of lives each year. Yet Amnesty International continues a techno-phobic rant against non-lethal weapons in general, and TASER energy weapons in specific," said Mr. Smith.

"Amnesty International camouflages its call for a ban as a call for 'additional testing.' However, Amnesty International fails to acknowledge the extensive medical reviews as listed below:

- The government of the United Kingdom, which spent millions of dollars evaluating the safety of TASER technology before approving it for field trials in the UK one year ago.
- Extensive studies conducted at the University of Missouri involving animal testing of TASER electrical wave forms directly across the heart in the presence of various drugs that have shown TASER technology does not affect the heart beat or rhythm in any way.
- Independent tests conducted by Tisdale JE, Shimoyama H, Sabbah HN, Webb CR., College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, that found the heart's sensitivity to electrically induced fibrillation did not increase in the presence of toxic cocaine levels (contrary to implications from lay persons associated with Amnesty International).
- ADVANCED TASER M26 Safety Analysis by the Heart Centre at the Alfred Hospital in Victoria, Australia concluding that the current of the ADVANCED TASER M26 is below the fibrillation threshold specified by Australian Standard AS3859 -- 1991 -- "Effects of current flowing through the human body."
- Medical review by University of Ottawa Heart Institute that the electrical current of TASER devices would not interfere in any significant way with pacemakers.
- Medical evaluation of TASER technology by the Technical Commission of the Swiss Police and the City Police of Zurich.
- Field studies by 4,500 police agencies currently deploying TASER technology. In fact, in every one of these agencies that have studied the impact of the TASER on public safety, these independent agencies have found that fewer people are injured when they use the TASER non-lethal weapons than any other physical force option.

- A Phoenix Police Department study found the TASER reduced injuries to suspects by 67% and reduced fatal police shootings by 50%.
- A Denver Police Department study found the TASER reduced injuries to suspects by over 85%.
- An Orange County (FL) Sheriff's Office study found the TASER reduced the use of lethal force by approximately 80% and dropped injuries to deputies by 80%.
- Injuries to South Bend IN police officers dropped by 66%.
- Medical examiners who have opined on each fatality in police confrontations involving TASER non-lethal weapon use.
- Published studies including the summary that, "The conclusion reached after evaluation... is that the TASER in and of itself does not cause death," as cited in the "Effects of the TASER in Fatalities Involving Police Confrontation," in the Journal of Forensic Sciences Volume 34, March 31, 1991 by Ronald Kornblum, MD and Sara K Reddy, MD.
- A January 1987 study performed at the University of Southern California Medical Center concluded that in addition to its non-lethality, the TASER leaves 0% long term compared with 50% long term injuries for gun shot injuries.
- Electrical analysis of TASER devices by Dr. Theodore Bernstein University of Wisconsin-Madison for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Literature review of TASER technology published in Emergency Medicine Journal by Dr. Anthony Bleetman, PhD, FRCSEd, FFAEM, DipIMC, RCSEd Consultant in Accident and Emergency Medicine of Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, Birmingham, UK.
- A Retrospective Case Series Describing the Injury Pattern of the ADVANCED TASER M26 in Multnomah County, OR by John McManus, MD of the Center for Policy and Research in Emergency Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University; Officer Tom Forsyth of the Portland Police Bureau; Lt Robert Hawks of Portland Fire and Rescue, NREMT-P; Dr. Jon Jui, MD, MPH; Nicholas B. Rayner, of the Multnomah County Department of Public Health in a retrospective case series that describes the injury pattern in Multnomah County, OR for the use of ADVANCED TASER adopted by the Portland Bureau of Police in May of 2002 for less lethal force in which the M26 appears to be a safe and effective non-lethal weapon in this case series.
- Medical Threat Implications: The TASER M26 Less Lethal Weapon published in American Society of Law Enforcement Trainer's Magazine by Dr. William P. Bozeman, MD, FACEP, and physician for the Jacksonville (FL) Sheriff's Office SWAT Team.
- Stun Gun Medical Implications review published in EMS Magazine, July 2003 by Dr. Joseph J. Heck, DO, FACOEP, FACEP, Medical Director of Casualty Care Research Center Las Vegas Field Office, Henderson, NV.
- Medical considerations for TASER Operations by Kalamazoo County Medical Control Authority's EMS Medical Director Dr. William Fales, MD, FACEP.

"Independent medical, law enforcement and legal experts have studied TASER devices for over 30 years since its inception. We have always supported continued medical testing and have never shied away from our safety stance on our products. Unfortunately, Amnesty International continues to ignore years of extensive testing and legal review of TASER technology. Amnesty International continues to call for more medical testing, but they will not provide any specific medical protocols that will satisfy their concerns despite our repeated requests. We challenge Amnesty International to produce a meaningful request for a specific medical safety testing protocol. TASER International relies on medical studies and fact to support our safety record while Amnesty International relies only upon unfounded conjecture to assail it.

"To place the TASER safety in context, each year there are approximately 50,000 deaths in vehicle accidents; 35,000 deaths from firearm related injuries; over 700 deaths from falling out of beds and chairs; over 300 deaths from drowning in bathtubs; and over 40 deaths from reactions to bee, wasp, and hornet stings. And in over 30 years since the first TASER was introduced, there have been exactly zero deaths clearly caused by the TASER. This statement is supported by independent medical examiners. That's why it's so important to look into the actual cause of death, and not engage in the 'guilt by association' approach continually promoted by Amnesty International. Over 70,000 volunteers have been hit with the TASER. Over 45,000 actual suspects have been hit with the TASER in the field. Again, with zero fatalities attributed directly to the TASER.

"Nearly 1 million people die from cardiovascular disease in the United States each year, accounting for 40% of all deaths in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control reports that almost 20,000 people die from drug related causes each year. Yet when a person suffering from both heart disease and toxic drug abuse dies in police custody, Amnesty International consistently and irresponsibly blames the police and their restraint tactics in every single case. In fact, our review of Amnesty International public statements has never found a single acknowledgement that any death following a struggle with police was caused by anything other than some alleged malicious act of law enforcement," said Mr. Smith.

"It is an unfortunate fact that thousands of people die in law enforcement custody each year (based on proportionate calculations from California state data). Some of these people have indeed been subdued with a TASER energy weapon in the course of their struggles with police. In each and every case, independent medical examiners have determined the cause of death to be due to a variety of factors, usually heart disease, chronic toxic drug use, and protracted over-exertion during struggle with law enforcement officers. There has never been a single case where the TASER was named as the primary cause of death by any of these independent medical examiners. Yet Amnesty International cannot accept that these unfortunate deaths are among the 1 million caused by cardiovascular disease or the 20,000 caused by drug overdose, both of which are well understood, common phenomena. Rather, Amnesty International overlooks the obvious causes of death, and contradicts the consensus of the medical community, to assert their unfounded belief that the TASER non-lethal weapon was somehow the real cause of death, only supported by the superstitious conjecture of politically motivated lay persons," continued Smith.

"We believe this pattern of behavior is irresponsible, unfair, and defamatory not only to those of us who manufacture life-saving devices such as the TASER, but to the men and women of law enforcement who put their lives at risk every day to protect the safety of the public. Instead, Amnesty International should be backing a life-saving technology that is being used by police to reduce suspect and officer injuries and has saved well over 4,000 suspect lives based on actual police reports. The TASER conducted energy weapon is significantly, and incontestably helping protect the human rights of suspects and officers alike, which is one of Amnesty International's primary objectives.

"The continued efforts of Amnesty International to call for suspensions and bans on our technology are absurd, and counterproductive to their own publicly stated goals. Amnesty International's call for suspension would actually reduce human rights in situations where the TASER non-lethal weapon is currently being used to safely end dangerous confrontations. TASER technology has proven to be life-saving and not dangerous.

"I challenge Amnesty International to propose a specific medical safety testing protocol. Alternatively, we challenge Amnesty International to meet with us, and we will jointly select a team of medical experts that meet their calls for 'independence.' We will then fund a joint study 50/50 between TASER International, Inc. and Amnesty International, USA using the agreed independent team. If Amnesty International is truly concerned about the underlying science, we challenge them to join us in funding a study to meet their so-far nebulous demands. In the meantime, I have directed our legal team to begin a comprehensive review of Amnesty International's disparaging and unsupported public statements on the safety of TASER energy weapons and advise me and TASER International's shareholders as to various means to protect our company's good name from further unfounded defamatory assault," concluded Mr. Smith.

About TASER International, Inc.

TASER International, Inc. provides advanced non-lethal weapons for use in the law enforcement, private security, and personal defense markets. Its flagship ADVANCED TASER(R) M26 product uses proprietary technology to incapacitate dangerous, combative, or high-risk subjects that may be impervious to other non-lethal means. Its latest product, the TASER X26 is 60% smaller and lighter than the ADVANCED TASER M26 and reduces injury rates to suspects and officers, thereby lowering liability risk and improving officer safety. TASER(R) technology is currently in testing or deployment at over 4,500 law enforcement and correctional agencies in the U.S. and Canada. Call 480-991-0797 or visit our website at www.TASER.com to learn more about the new standard in non-lethal weapons.

Note to Investors

This press release contains forward-looking information within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and is subject to the

safe harbor created by those sections. The forward-looking information is based upon current information and expectations regarding TASER International. These estimates and statements speak only as of the date on which they are made, are not guarantees of future performance, and involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual outcomes and results could materially differ from what is expressed, implied, or forecasted in such forward-looking statements.

TASER International assumes no obligation to update the information contained in this press release. TASER International's future results may be impacted by risks associated with rapid technological change, new product introductions, new technological developments and implementations, execution issues associated with new technology, ramping manufacturing production to meet demand, litigation including lawsuits resulting from alleged product related injuries, media publicity concerning allegations of deaths occurring after use of the TASER device and the negative impact this could have on sales, product quality, implementation of manufacturing automation, potential fluctuations in quarterly operating results, competition, financial and budgetary constraints of prospects and customers, international order delays, dependence upon sole and limited source suppliers, fluctuations in component pricing, government regulations, dependence upon key employees, and its ability to retain employees. TASER International's future results may also be impacted by other risk factors listed from time to time in its SEC filings,

including, but not limited to, the Company's Form 10-QSBs and its Annual Report on Form 10-KSB.

For further information, please contact Steve Tuttle, Director of Communications, at Steve@TASER.com or call 800-978-2737 ext. 2006. Media ONLY Hotline: (480) 444-4000. Visit the company's web-site at www.TASER.com for facts and video.

SOURCE TASER International, Inc.

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