



Appeals for hostages in Iran

At its December 1979 meeting, the International Executive Committee of *AI* reviewed the human rights situation in Iran and reaffirmed its appeal for the release of the remaining hostages held in the United States Embassy in Tehran.

The hostages are being arbitrarily detained in violation of Iran's obligations under international human rights law and of the international legal requirement to extend special protection to diplomats.

AI has used both public and private channels to convey its concern to the Iranian authorities and cabled Foreign Minister Sadegh GHOTBZADEH to confirm that its representatives would be available to meet him.

AI has also informed the Iranian authorities that it is concerned about the possibility that some or all of the hostages would face a trial on charges of espionage without due process.

AI is on record throughout the world as having exposed and condemned the gross and systematic violation of human rights in Iran under the Shah.

Thousands of suspected political opponents were subjected to arbitrary arrest and then held incommunicado for long periods without charge or trial.

Hundreds of political prisoners were executed, most in secret, some while "trying to escape" their torturers.

In 1977 the Shah gave a personal assurance to *AI* Secretary General Martin ENNALS that torture had been stopped.

But an *AI* mission that visited Iran in November 1978 concluded that the torture of prisoners had been systematically practised throughout the country and had not stopped.

In response to human rights abuses in the period following the revolution, *AI* has repeatedly appealed to Ayatollah KHOMEINI and ministers of the Iranian government to halt all executions. The organization has also expressed its concern about reports of numerous political arrests.

The fact that *AI* was highly critical of human rights under the Shah is irrelevant to *AI*'s view that he should not be returned to Iran where he is likely to face the death penalty □

Amnesty International Report
for 1979 published

A summary of *AI*'s latest annual report, covering the period from 1 May 1978 to 30 April 1979, appears on pages 4 and 5 of this issue.



Huber Matos before imprisonment in 1959.



Huber Matos after release in 1979.

Huber MATOS, one of Cuba's best-known political prisoners, was released on 20 October 1979 after serving a 20-year sentence. Señor Matos, an *AI*-adopted prisoner of conscience, was one of Fidel CASTRO's top commanders during the Cuban Revolution, but was accused of plotting and of crimes against state security after breaking with Castro politically.

In a letter to *AI* after his release, Sr. Matos thanked the movement for its efforts: "While nothing could prevent my serving the 20-year sentence in its entirety, there is no doubt in my mind that your endeavours were a determining factor in the preservation of my life during my imprisonment."

Sr. Matos complained that his right to receive correspondence was very restricted. In 1976 he was not permitted to receive any letters. He undertook several hunger strikes "in protest", he said, "against ill-treatment".

- The Cuban Government announced the completion of the program under which it pledged to release 3,600 political prisoners with the freeing of 400 people at the beginning of November.

Among them were the remaining known women political prisoners, including Dr Marta FRAYDE

BARRAQUE, on whose behalf *AI* organized a special appeal in 1978 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

AI welcomed the releases, but remains concerned about others still held. The Cuban Government has said that "those guilty of very grave crimes during the period of the tyranny and those linked to terrorist groups that are still plotting crimes against our people have not been released."

An estimated 1,000 political prisoners remain, including poet Armando VALLADARES and Angel CUADRA LANDROVE, both *AI*-adopted prisoners of conscience, an undetermined number of Jehovah's Witnesses and several hundred prisoners accused of having committed crimes during the government of Batista □

Republic of Korea Ninety-six arrested in Seoul

An internationally known Quaker leader and two former members of parliament were among 96 people arrested in Seoul in November 1979 for holding a peaceful meeting where a statement was read protesting against the indirect election of a new president and calling for a new constitution to ensure democratic elections.

Quaker leader HAM Suk-Hon, former parliamentarians PARK Chong-Tae and YANG Soon-Jik, other religious leaders, writers and academics were among those arrested for holding the meeting on 24 November.

In a telegram sent on 27 November, *AI* urged the government to release them immediately.

AI had already sent a telegram to Acting President CHOI Kyu-Hah on

16 November urging the government to release all prisoners of conscience and asking for details of the charges against at least 76 people whose arrest was announced on 14 November. They were alleged by the authorities to be members of a communist-oriented organization, the South Korean National Liberation Front. Among them were two members of the Korean Committee of *AI*, LEE Jae-Oh and IM Hong-Young. Mr Im, a literary critic, is believed to have been arrested early in October. Mr Lee, a teacher, has been arrested several times since 1971, and was adopted by *AI* while imprisoned in 1977-78. He was adopted again in August 1979 after his arrest on a charge of criticizing the government □

USSR Arrests increase

Nine more dissenters are known to have been arrested in the Soviet Union since the publication on 10 October 1979 of *AI*'s open letter to President Leonid BREZHNEV appealing for the release of prisoners of conscience.

On 22 November *AI* initiated an urgent action appeal in which alarm was expressed at the growing number of arrests of human rights activists reported recently.

The arrests of Father Gleb YAKUNIN, Tatyana VELIKANOVA and Antanas TERLECKAS were reported in the December 1979 *Newsletter*.

Others arrested since 10 October are: Vasyl STRILTSIV, a Ukrainian teacher and member of a group which tried to monitor Soviet compliance with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, arrested on

26 October; Mykola HORBAL, a musician, arrested on 23 October, and Petro ROZUMNY, arrested on 19 October, both Ukrainian human and national rights activists; Fedor SIDENKO, a Pentecostal religious activist, arrested on 16 October; Antonina AGAPOVA, 70-year-old would-be emigrant, arrested on 9 November and reported to be confined in a psychiatric hospital; and Igor KORCHNOI, would-be emigrant and conscientious objector, arrested in mid-November.

With the arrest of Vasyl Striltsiv, six Helsinki monitors are now in custody awaiting trial in the USSR; the others are Eduard ARUTYUNAN, a mathematician and member of the Armenian monitoring group, and four Ukrainian monitors, Oles BERDNYK, Yuri LITVYN, Petro SICHKO and Vasyl SICHKO □

Israel Mayor released

Mayor Bassam SHAK'A of Nablus on the Occupied West Bank was released from custody and returned to his position as mayor on 5 December 1979, after the Israeli Military Governor of the region rescinded a deportation order against him.

He had been detained since 11 November. The deportation order was reported to have been made by Israeli authorities in response to remarks made by the mayor in a private conversation with General Danni MATT,

Coordinator of Israeli Activities on the West Bank. During the conversation Mr Shak'a was reported to have offered an explanation of Palestinian violence against Israel by placing it in the context of the political situation in the Occupied Territories.

AI members took part in an urgent action appeal requesting Mr Shak'a's release and the withdrawal of the deportation order. *AI* was concerned that he was being punished for the expression of his political views □

Indonesia 'Prisoners may not be released'

New statements by Indonesian officials and reports reaching *AI* have revived uncertainty as to whether the Indonesian Government will meet its commitment to release by the end of 1979 all remaining political prisoners who are not to be tried.

The reports suggested that as many as 1,500 prisoners, some of them held for 14 years without trial, might be affected.

In telegrams sent to President SUHARTO and Foreign Minister Mochtar KUSUMAATMADJA on 26 November, *AI* asked for confirmation of assurances it had received earlier from the Foreign Minister. In a meeting at the Indonesian Embassy in London on 15 November 1979, during President Suharto's state visit to the United Kingdom, Mr Kusumaatmadja had told *AI* Secretary General Martin ENNALS that all prisoners scheduled for release would be freed as planned by the end of the year.

The release of some 27,000 prisoners was announced after the Indonesian Government said in 1976 that it would free B category prisoners—those who were said to have been involved in the attempted coup of 1965, but against whom there was not enough evidence to bring them to trial.

The Chief of Information in the Department of Defence said recently, however, that several dozen "uncooperative" prisoners previously held on the island of Buru would not be released. Among them were some of Indonesia's best-known political prisoners, including novelist Pramudya Ananta TUR and poet Rivai APIN. They were expected to be transferred to another prison.

Admiral SUDOMO, chief of the security body KOPKAMTIB, had said earlier that Pramudya Ananta Tur and others had been classified as "hard-core".

Information received by *AI* indicated that the release of well over 1,000 political prisoners had been postponed, and that 600 places had been prepared in Nusakambangan Prison, Java, for the transfer of "hard-core" prisoners □

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in November of the release of 235 prisoners under adoption or investigation and took up 247 new cases.

Campaign for Prisoners of the Month



Each of the people whose story is told below is a prisoner of conscience. Each has been arrested because of his or her religious or political beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin or language. None has used or advocated violence. Their continuing detention is a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. International appeals can help to secure the release of these prisoners or to improve their detention conditions. In the interest of the prisoners, letters to the authorities should be worded carefully and courteously. You should stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. In *no* circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner.

Dimiter KOLEV, Bulgaria

A 69-year-old retired cabinet maker, reported to be suffering from several illnesses, was re-arrested in Bulgaria in February 1979.

Dimiter KOLEV was first arrested in 1974 while trying to leave the country without official permission and was sentenced to 18 months in prison. Shortly after his imprisonment, his sentence was suspended on health grounds. In February of last year, however, he was re-arrested and is reported to be in Buhovo prison. It is not clear whether he is serving the remainder of his earlier sentence or whether he was arrested on charges of planning another attempt to leave Bulgaria without permission.

Dimiter Kolev has served at least two previous sentences as a political prisoner, as a result of which he is reported to be partly crippled. He is reported to suffer from speech paralysis as a consequence of ill-treatment after his arrest in 1974, and from a number of other illnesses, including a tumour on the spine and a kidney disorder. He is said to have suffered two heart attacks in January 1979 and to have been under constant medical supervision before he was re-arrested in February.

In view of Dimiter Kolev's poor health and his age, it is feared that he may not survive his present term of imprisonment.

Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Dimiter Kolev to: Mr Todor Zhivkov, Chairman of the State Council, Sofia, Bulgaria; *and to:* Mrs Svetla Daskalova, Minister of Justice, Sofia, Bulgaria □

D.A. SANTOSA, Indonesia

A former Indonesian administrator is serving a 20-year sentence for alleged involvement in the attempted coup of 1965.

D.A. SANTOSA, who has now served 12 years of his sentence, was tried in 1967, two years after his arrest. His sentence runs from the date

of his trial rather than the date of his arrest. The same is true of some other convicted political prisoners in Indonesia.

AI believes that Mr Santosa did not receive a fair and open trial by internationally accepted standards. This was partly because he was tried on loosely framed charges under the Subversion Law, which has been widely criticized by Indonesian lawyers, and partly because of the political atmosphere prevailing at the time.

D.A. Santosa was an administrator with the rank of district chief. It is believed that the heavy sentence he received may have been influenced by his wife's reputation as a left-wing activist. She was prominent in a number of organizations before 1965, including the women's organization *Gerwani*, which was affiliated to the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI). She was held for several years without trial but was released in the early 1970s.

The Indonesian Government has said it would release all B category prisoners—those who are not to be tried—by the end of 1979; but prisoners like Mr Santosa in A category—those who have either already been tried or whom the government intends to bring to trial—have not been offered the prospect of release before completion of their sentences.

Please write courteously-worded letters asking for a review of Mr Santosa's case, particularly in view of the length of time he has already been imprisoned, the trial procedures and the welcome policy of the Indonesian Government of releasing many political prisoners in recent years. Write to: Admiral Sudomo, Kepala Staf KOPKAMTIB, Jalan Merdeka Barat, Jakarta, Indonesia □

Dr Victor Carlos MARCHESINI, Argentina

A former president of the Misiones Bar Association in Argentina has been imprisoned for more than three years without being formally charged or

brought to trial.

Dr Victor Carlos MARCHESINI, a 49-year-old lawyer, was active in politics and was twice elected provincial deputy in Misiones Province. He was president of the parliamentary group of the *Unión Cívica Radical*, (the Radical Civic Union), the majority party in the province. In 1975 he repeatedly criticized the government of President María Estela Perón for the "excessive repression by the security forces".

On 5 April 1976, two weeks after the military coup in Argentina, Dr Marchesini was arrested. He was placed under administrative detention "at the disposal of the National Executive Power". In response to inquiries about the reason for his arrest, the authorities have replied that he was being held for his "links with subversion" and for "defending subversive elements in the courts", and that his case was being studied.

Dr Marchesini's health is reported to have been seriously affected by ill-treatment in prison. He was first held in Resistencia Prison in Chaco Province under the maximum security regime. Reports this year indicated that, on the closing of Resistencia Prison, he was transferred to Caseros Prison in Buenos Aires.

Protests against Dr Marchesini's detention have been made by the United Nations and the Organization of American States. In July 1979 his case was presented to a special committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which discussed human rights problems in four Latin American countries, including Argentina.

Dr Marchesini was adviser to the Ministry of Economy in Misiones, where he had also been a secondary school teacher. He is married.

Please send courteously-worded letters requesting the immediate release of Dr Victor Carlos Marchesini to: Excelentísimo Señor Presidente de la República Argentina, General Jorge Rafael Videla, Casa Rosada, Balcarce 50, Buenos Aires, Capital Federal, Argentina □

Each year *AI* issues an annual report outlining its efforts to combat political imprisonment, torture and the death penalty throughout the world. In the period from 1 May 1978 to 30 April 1979, the organization broke new ground with the publication of a major report on political imprisonment in China and a translation of the testimony of a released prisoner of conscience in the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. In all, several hundred documents on human rights questions were issued by *AI* during the year. The following article summarizes *AI*'s concerns in all regions of the world in the 12-month period.

Amnesty International Report 1979

The threat of violent death, whether by murder or execution, hangs over political dissenters in countries with differing political systems around the world.

This disturbing trend is highlighted in the *Amnesty International Report 1979*, a country-by-country survey of *AI*'s efforts to combat human rights violations in some 100 countries.

In his introduction to the 220-page report, Secretary General Martin Ennals acknowledges that *AI*'s reports inevitably arouse controversy. He points out, however, that "when governments change and regimes fall, the criticisms voiced by *AI* are normally found to have been cautious understatements of the situation which in reality existed."

The report covers the 12 months to 30 April 1979.

Despite the release of large numbers of political prisoners in some countries, the report indicates that arbitrary arrests, abductions, political imprisonment, torture and the use of the death penalty continued to constitute a global pattern of human rights abuse.

- In Africa, growing concern and recognition of human rights violations were evident, but serious abuses continued.

Political detainees were released in Kenya, Cape Verde, Angola, Guinea and Tanzania. The government of President Idi Amin came to an end in Uganda, where an *AI* report had estimated in June 1978 that up to 300,000 people had been murdered.

In Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), however, intensification of the war was accompanied by a serious deterioration in human rights. By the end of April 1979 several thousand people were believed to be detained under martial law regulations, and both military and civil courts were empowered to impose the death penalty.

In South Africa, there was a further increase in the use of the death penalty: 132 people were hanged in 1978, all but one of them black, and the rate was maintained in the first months of 1979. Detentions, bannings and torture allegations continued.

In Mozambique, the introduction of the death penalty for treason, sabotage and other offences was followed by the execution of more than 20 people within a few weeks. Executions were



Political prisoners benefited from amnesties in some countries during the year, but others were arrested and subjected to torture, joining countless others already in detention. Said Zahari (*upper left*), released after 15 years' detention without trial in Singapore, was finally able to be with his daughter Linda (November 1979 *Newsletter*). Among the thousands of teachers arrested in Peru was this woman (*bottom left*), a member of the national teachers' union. One of 11 imprisoned Helsinki monitors in the USSR, Levko Lukyanenko (*right*), is now serving a sentence totalling 15 years' imprisonment and exile for the non-violent exercise of his human rights.

also reported in Ethiopia, Liberia, Kenya, Nigeria and Somalia.

Extrajudicial killings of political opponents and allegations of torture continued in Ethiopia, though there was some improvement by the end of 1978 after the earlier "Red Terror". About 8,000 prisoners were still believed to be held.

- In much of the Americas, politically motivated disappearances, extra-judicial executions and long-term detention without charge or trial were still common, often under emergency legislation providing legal cover for repression. States of siege, special security measures or similar legislation were in force in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and periodically in El Salvador and Peru.

Political murder and torture, sometimes by security forces or paramilitary death squads, were widespread.

AI published a list of 2,665 out of an estimated 15,000 people reported to have disappeared in Argentina since the 1976 coup.

The report describes the problem of the "disappeared", which had also reached major proportions in Chile, Guatemala and other countries, as one of the worst violations of human rights of our time.

The death penalty continued to be imposed in the United States, where nearly 500 people were under sentence of death when the report was completed, and in the West Indies.

- In Asia, long-term imprisonment without trial remained prevalent in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan. The Indonesian Government released thousands of political detainees but continued to hold many thousands and to make new arrests.

There were thousands of political prisoners from all opposition groups in Afghanistan, as well as allegations of torture and deaths in custody.

The Government of Vietnam was still holding large numbers of people in "re-education" camps. The Vietnamese authorities put the number at 50,000 in February 1977 but AI believes the total to be far higher.

The death penalty was frequent in China and Pakistan. According to Pakistan's Law Minister at least 800 people are executed every year in that country.

At least 7,000 political opponents of the Pakistan Government were

estimated to be in prison by May 1979, most of them supporters of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who was executed in April 1979. Many of these prisoners were flogged.

There were several reports from China of executions of political prisoners.

As The Philippines entered its seventh year of martial law, there were continuing reports of torture, abduction and killing of dissidents by military units.

- The governments of the Soviet Union and other countries of Eastern Europe continued to prosecute dissenters and human rights activists, often under laws banning the non-violent exercise of human rights. Members of movements advocating respect for international undertakings on human rights were arrested or detained in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union.

Activists who tried to monitor Soviet compliance with the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and Charter 77 supporters in Czechoslovakia were sentenced to long prison terms.

Religious dissenters, would-be emigrants and non-conformist writers were jailed in the USSR. The practice of confining dissenters to psychiatric institutions continued, despite international condemnation.

In the German Democratic Republic people were imprisoned for trying to leave the country without permission, or even for seeking permission.

- In Western Europe, much of AI's adoption work was on behalf of imprisoned conscientious objectors to military service.

"Anti-terrorist" measures, enlarging administrative or police power in reaction to political violence, led to restrictions of individual rights in Western European countries.

The United Kingdom and Ireland both set up inquiries after reports by AI on ill-treatment of people detained under such legislation. The results of these inquiries confirmed the causes of AI's concern.

AI said in a memorandum to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) that severe isolation had caused pathological disturbances, both physical and mental, in prisoners suspected or convicted of politically motivated crimes.

A number of members of communist groups have been charged in the FRG under a law banning

"defamation of the state". The report expresses concern that this and other legislation could be used to further restrict freedom of expression.

- In the Middle East and North Africa shifts in international relations as well as domestic upheavals led to new violations of human rights.

Allegations of torture and ill-treatment were reported in a number of countries, including Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Tunisia.

In Egypt, there were waves of arrests in response to opposition to the peace treaty with Israel.

An AI report published in December 1978, before the change of government in Iran, confirmed that there had been systematic use of torture over the previous 15 years.

After the new government took over, several thousand alleged supporters of the previous government were detained without charge. At the time the report was completed more than 150 people had been executed, many after secret and summary trials.

In Iraq, some prisoners benefited from an amnesty in July 1978, but unofficial reports said many thousands of communist supporters were arrested, as well as Kurds and some Christians; some were reported to have been tortured to death.

Ill-treatment of communists and Palestinians was reported in Jordan, of Kurds and Marxists in Syria and of trade unionists in Tunisia.

In Israel and the Occupied Territories, where arrests also occurred in response to opposition to the Camp David agreements, AI was concerned about the practice of administrative detention without charge or trial and the lack of effective procedures to protect people in custody.

- During the year AI sent missions to 21 countries to gather information, observe trials and meet officials. The countries included Afghanistan, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Israel, Malaysia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Romania, the United States of America and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

AI spent £1,245,748 from its international budget during the year and disbursed an additional £251,631 in relief to political prisoners and their families.

The Amnesty International Report 1979, 220 pages, is published in English by Amnesty International Publications, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England. Price: £2.50 (US \$5.00) □

Iraq

Prisoner releases now confirmed

Confirmation has been received from several unofficial sources that all prisoners whose cases had been investigated or adopted by *AI* in Iraq were released under a general amnesty announced on 16 August 1979 (October 1979 *Newsletter*). They include:

- 86 Kurds charged with political involvement in the Kurdish Revolution;
- 14 former freemasons, all elderly professional men charged with espionage in 1974, and excluded from a 1978 general amnesty;
- members of the Shi'i community, several thousand of whom were reported arrested in mid-1979 after anti-government demonstrations in support of the Iranian Revolution;
- at least 10 Christians given prison

sentences in April from one to 5 years in prison for attending unauthorized religious meetings (March 1979 *Newsletter*). Several hundred were reported arrested in November 1978;

– members of the Iraqi Communist Party (ICP), including seven former army officers who had been held incommunicado since November 1978 (July 1979 *Newsletter*) and who were feared to be dead. In 1978 and 1979 a campaign of intimidation against the ICP—whose activities are legal in Iraq—was marked by large-scale arrests, detention without charge or trial, and torture that led to death in some cases.

A total of 725 prisoners, including 400 Kurds and 24 communists, were officially reported to have been released. However, some unofficial sources claim that up to 4,000 political prisoners benefited from the amnesty □

Yugoslavia

Professor Aras refused amnesty

Professor Davor ARAS, the Yugoslavian prisoner of conscience who was granted a temporary suspension of sentence in February 1979 on grounds of ill-health, has been excluded from a recent amnesty and refused permission to travel abroad for medical treatment (May 1979 *Newsletter*).

Professor Aras, who is in urgent need of a heart operation, had his petition for pardon on the occasion of the Yugoslavian national holiday on 29 November rejected. His current suspension of sentence was due to

expire on 23 December. If it is not renewed, he will have to return to prison to complete the 6½-year sentence imposed on him in 1975 after he was convicted of "criminal offences against the state".

AI medical groups in several countries have offered free treatment for Professor Aras. Medical experts in Yugoslavia are understood to have recommended that he should seek specialist treatment in Switzerland. However, the latest reports indicate that he is likely to be operated on at the Belgrade military medical academy □

Appeal to United Nations to abolish death penalty

In an international effort to mobilize support for the abolition of the death penalty, *AI* members and supporters throughout the world have launched a petition calling on the United Nations and its member states "to take all necessary steps for the immediate and total abolition of the death penalty throughout the world."

The aim of the appeal, for which *AI* will collect signatures from prominent figures and members of the public, is to focus attention on the issue of the death penalty at the forth-

coming Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in August 1980 in Caracas, Venezuela.

The appeal declares that the abolition of the death penalty in all countries would represent a "great advance in the respect of governments for the human person".

Next month, the *Newsletter* will reproduce the full text of the appeal and urge all readers to collect signatures for it by the end of May □

United Nations Police code to be adopted

The United Nations General Assembly is expected to adopt a Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.

Approval of the code would climax a five-year effort that started at the 1974 session of the Assembly.

The code would prohibit the infliction, instigation or toleration by any law enforcement official of any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Law enforcement officials would be obliged "to prevent and rigorously oppose any violations" of the code. Where such violations did occur, the incidents would have to be reported to superior officers. Where necessary, the violations would have to be reported to a body authorized to review complaints and remedy grievances.

The code would commit law enforcement officials to "respect and protect human dignity and maintain and uphold the human rights of all persons."

Under the code, no official may invoke superior orders or exceptional circumstances such as a state of war or a threat of war, a threat to national security, internal political instability or any other public emergency as a justification for torture.

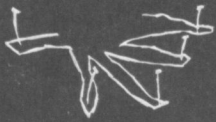
The code will apply not only to the regular police, but also to "military authorities, whether uniformed or not", or security forces when these exercise police powers.

The code goes part of the way towards meeting a call issued in June 1975 by an *AI* police seminar that called for a sweeping international code of police ethics.

The final text was expected to receive General Assembly approval by the end of the year □

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amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture

appeals

Amnesty International opposes the torture of prisoners in all cases, wherever and whenever it is practised. Any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a violation of the international human rights standards unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. International appeals can help to alleviate the plight of prisoners being subjected to cruel treatment. Your letters should follow carefully the instructions given below.

Republic of Korea Christians tortured before trial

Seven members of the Korea Christian Academy, an educational institute that runs an educational program to raise the "civic consciousness" of labourers, farm workers and women, are reported to have been tortured during interrogation by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) following their arrest in March 1979.

All seven were held incommunicado until they were formally indicted on 4 May 1979, although the charges against them had been made public on 16 April.

During interrogation the defendants were asked to sign "confessions" admitting charges including possession of illegal books, listening to radio broadcasts from North Korea and other communist countries, indoctrinating others with socialist ideas through educational activities, and praising North Korea.

According to reports smuggled out of prison, the director of the Academy's rural program, LEE Woo-jae, was tortured continually for one week. He was beaten and his body was burned with cigarettes. It is reported that he is now unable to read, possibly as a result of an eye or head injury.

Mrs HAN Myung-suk, secretary of the Academy's women's program, is reported to have been stabbed repeatedly in the face with a ball-point pen, and to have been so badly beaten that she could not move. Lee Woo-jae was forced to watch her being tortured.

The head of the Academy's labour program, Ms SHIN In-ryung, was forced to listen to Mr Lee and Mrs Han being tortured, and all three were told they would be charged with espionage if they did not sign the "confessions".

The other four defendants are reported to have been stripped naked,

hung upside down and beaten. They are: Academy staff members, HWANG Han-shik, CHANG Sang-hwan, KIM Sae-gyun, and CHUNG Chang-yol of Hanyang University.

During their trial in September 1979, Justice LEE Yong-wu is said to have refused to accept as evidence for the prosecution the statements made to the KCIA and the Prosecutor's Office because of the torture allegations made by the defendants.

Nevertheless, the seven received prison sentences ranging from 1½ to 7 years with an equal number of years loss of civil rights. They were convicted under the Anti-Communist Law, the National Security Law and the penal code for possessing illegal literature, namely *Hyndae Sasang Yungu* (Studies in Modern Thought), listening to North Korea radio and for forming a group to carry out these activities in an organized manner.

All seven have been adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience. They are appealing against their sentences.

Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for their immediate and unconditional release and expressing concern about their state of health to: His Excellency President Choi Kyu-hah, The Blue House, Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea □

USSR Trade unionist confined

Another member of an unofficial trade union group has been confined to a special psychiatric hospital—the severest form of psychiatric confinement—in the Soviet Union. Anatoly POZDNYAKOV, a worker, was arrested in Moscow on 10 September 1979, ostensibly for "hooliganism", and sent for psychiatric examination. He was adjudged "not accountable" for his actions and a Moscow court ordered him confined to a special hospital for an indefinite period.

AI believes the reason for his confinement was his participation in an unofficial workers' group, the "Association of Free Trade Unions of Workers in the Soviet Union". Several members of the group have been sent to psychiatric hospitals, apparently for trying to exercise the rights of freedom of expression and association (April 1978 *Newsletter*).

Five members of another unofficial trade union group have been imprisoned, sentenced to internal exile or confined to psychiatric hospitals within the last year (December 1979 *Newsletter*).

AI does not yet know to which hospital Mr Pozdnyakov has been sent. It is particularly concerned that he has been ordered into a special psychiatric hospital. This form of confinement is reserved under Soviet law for those who "represent a special danger to society".

AI continued to receive reports throughout 1979 of ill-treatment of prisoners of conscience in psychiatric hospitals, including the administering of harmful, medically unjustified drugs.

Please write courteously-worded letters to N.A. Shchelekov, the Minister of Internal Affairs, who is responsible for special psychiatric hospitals in the USSR, urging the immediate release of Anatoly Pozdnyakov. Express concern that he is apparently being confined for political rather than for medical reasons, and ask for his official diagnosis to be made public. Write to: SSSR, 103009 Moskva, ul. Ogarieva 6, Ministerstvo Vnutrennikh Del SSSR, Ministru NA Shchelekovu □

Memorandum to government Guatemalan trade unionists threatened with death

To be a leader or active member of a trade union in Guatemala means risking one's life, said an *AI* memorandum to the Guatemalan Government in November 1979.

The memorandum followed a visit by a three-member *AI* delegation that met high-ranking government officials in August 1979 to discuss the increase in political kidnapping, torture and murder (October 1979 *Newsletter*).

AI appealed to the Guatemalan Government to invite the Organization of American States to investigate

allegations that the authorities were unable or unwilling to stop the violence, much of it directed against the political opposition and student and peasant leaders, as well as trade unionists.

The delegation was sent to investigate the upsurge in political killings, many of them carried out by semi-clandestine death squads that often include uniformed members of the military and security forces. It reported that leaders and supporters of political parties intending to contest

the 1982 elections were among prime targets for intimidation and assassination.

The mission, which visited Guatemala from 10 to 15 August 1979, consisted of Dan GALLIN, General Secretary of the International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Associations; Fernando ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA, former President of the Spanish Cortes (parliament) and now a member of the governing *Unión de Centro Democrático*; and a member of *AI*'s International Secretariat □

Thomas Hammarberg appointed next *AI* Secretary General

Swedish journalist Thomas HAMMARBERG has been appointed *AI*'s next Secretary General.

Mr Hammarberg, 38, will succeed Martin ENNALS, who has filled the post since 1968 and whose current term of office expires in July 1980.

As Secretary General, Thomas Hammarberg will be responsible for coordinating the work of *AI*'s 200,000 members and supporters in more than 120 countries against political imprisonment, torture and execution in all parts of the world. He will head *AI*'s 150-member International Secretariat in London.

A former foreign editor of the Swedish newspaper *Expressen* and correspondent for Swedish Radio, Mr Hammarberg was chairperson of *AI*'s International Executive Committee (IEC) from 1976 to September 1979.

His appointment to a five-year term as Secretary General was announced on 14 November 1979.

Mr Hammarberg has travelled widely as a journalist in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. In the course of his work for *AI* he has gone to Northern Ireland to lead an inquiry into allegations of torture (1971), to the Soviet Union to meet *AI* members (1974), to Turkey to discuss human rights issues with the government (1974 and 1978), and to Cuba to visit prisons and meet government officials (1977).

He is the author of books on Swedish immigration policy and the treatment of gypsies, and has contributed to other works on international relations and human rights.

Born on 2 January 1942, he wrote his first newspaper stories when he was 13, contributing football reports



to a local paper in Sweden. He earned his degree from the Stockholm School of Economics, and has worked as a school-teacher and youth leader.

Mr Hammarberg joined *Expressen* in 1969 and became its foreign editor in 1973. From 1976 to 1978, he was with Swedish Radio.

He joined *AI* in 1965 and became a member of the IEC in 1971.

He was named to his new post after the IEC considered a field of more than 150 candidates from some 20 countries □

GDR Court convicts Reiner Hoefler

A trial in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) of prisoner of conscience Reiner HOEFER resulted in conviction in November 1979 after the court had refused an *AI* observer permission to attend.

Reiner Hoefler was arrested last May in connection with an open letter he wrote to Erich HONECKER, Chairman of the GDR State Council, which was published in the weekly *Der Spiegel* in the Federal Republic of Germany. The letter criticized aspects of the political and economic system in the GDR.

Mr Hoefler was reported to have been sentenced to 4½ years in prison. He was believed to have been convicted of "incitement hostile to the state", but the charges were not made public.

Austrian lawyer Dr Alfred FRISCH was able to enter the courtroom to ask the president of the court for permission to attend as an *AI* delegate, but he was refused and the trial was held *in camera*, as is usual for prisoners of conscience in the GDR □

Professor Hiroshi SHINMI, chairperson of *AI*'s Japanese Section, died suddenly on 5 December of a heart attack.

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