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AI Annual Report 1981

Call for end to double standards on human rights abuses

Pointing to a tendency among governments to regard certain abuses as "more acceptable" when committed by friends than by enemies, *AI* has called for an end to hypocrisy among governments on the subject of human rights.

The call is made in the *Amnesty International Report 1981*, published on 10 December, an objective account of the use by governments around the world of political imprisonment, torture and executions, and of the struggle to stop these practices.

The 426-page report has individual entries on 117 countries, regional reviews and analyses of trends, abuses and standards in human rights. It covers the period from 1 May 1980 to 30 April 1981.

The facts and human suffering the report details range from political killings by Bolivian troops to the con-

finement in remote labour camps of Soviet citizens who dissent from official policies. It provides carefully checked information on mass executions in Iran, detention without trial in Zaire, the tortured bodies of suspected critics of the government found regularly in El Salvador, and other challenges to the world's conscience.

The introduction to the report stresses that governments must stop subordinating human rights to foreign policy goals. Declaring that human rights are indivisible, it says: "The hypocrisy about human rights must be ended. To do less is to risk undermining respect for human rights everywhere."

The report also emphasizes that few of the governments holding prisoners of conscience openly admit that they have violated international human rights standards—even though most have endorsed those standards. Many invoke escape clauses, arguing that they are protecting security or public order. "Some," it says, "offer their own



Mutilated bodies of torture victims found in El Salvador in mid-1980

interpretations of international standards, claiming for example that freedom of expression does not include the right to advocate communism or, alternatively, to agitate against communism." Some have laws making dissent a criminal offence.

The report points out that although it is impossible to determine whether repression is increasing, public awareness of it is clearly rising. "It is now harder for states to hide repression," it says.

The report describes the work of *AI*, which this year marked its 20th anniversary of mobilizing public pressure

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Somalia

Plea for 13 feared seriously ill in detention

A woman prisoner of conscience who was detained in 1978 and tortured over a period of several months is one of 13 political prisoners whose names are known to *AI* and who are believed to be seriously ill in detention in Somalia.

Saida Botan ELMI (prisoner of the month in March 1981) was seized and tortured—with electric shocks and by being raped—because her husband joined an external opposition movement. She is now reported to be in a mental hospital.

AI medical groups have appealed to the Somali authorities to give proper medical treatment to Saida Elmi and 12 other political prisoners, most of

them prisoners of conscience; the appeals included a call for the release of all prisoners of conscience.

Many political prisoners have been held incommunicado for several years in remote prisons in Somalia without charge or trial, and without adequate medical treatment. Basic treatment is available from prison medical orderlies but there is no system of regular prison visits by qualified doctors and specialist treatment in hospital is reportedly often refused. Prisoners frequently become ill as a result of the harsh conditions, which include a particularly poor diet, little exercise or access to the open air and sunlight and long-term solitary confinement

in cells which may have either continuous artificial lighting or hardly any lighting at all.

The prisoners in this *AI* appeal, include: Abdirahman Sheikh ABDISHAKUR (known as "Aswad"), chief of cabinet in the pre-1969 civilian government and chronically ill since his detention in 1974; Abdullahi Farah ALI ("Holi"), former General of Police and Ambassador to Sudan, detained in 1975 and suffering from loss of hearing and certain unspecified allergies; Yusuf Omer AZHARI, a lawyer and former Ambassador to the USA, who has suffered from chronic gastric and liver complaints since his

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'Disappearances' Worldwide campaign launched

A worldwide campaign to expose and halt the use by governments of "disappearances" as a means of eliminating suspected opponents was launched by *AI* on 1 December 1981.

During the campaign, which runs until the end of January 1982, *AI* members and supporters in more than 100 countries will make a concerted effort to spotlight the practice by which uncounted thousands of people have been abducted and made to "disappear" either by government forces or with their complicity.

Documented

The abuse, which also inflicts terror and suffering on family and friends of the victim as well as other suspected opponents, has been documented in the last decade in country after country—in Chile, Argentina, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea, the Philippines, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and other nations. In addition to the mass killings that took place in Kampuchea under the Khmer Rouge and in Uganda under the government of Idi Amin, there were also many "disappearances".

Many of the victims are feared dead, but the special mark of "disappearances" as a tool of repression is that people remain unaccounted for, missing without trace, and that government officials claim to have no knowledge of them. Families are left without even the solace of mourning, in permanent uncertainty. Sometimes a released prisoner reports having seen one of the "disappeared" alive in captivity, but for most families this is followed by more years of anxious waiting.

Mutilated bodies

In Guatemala, where many thousands of people have "disappeared" in the last 15 years, many bodies have been found mutilated so as to be unidentifiable. In Argentina, where it is estimated that up to 15,000 people may have "disappeared" after the 1976 military coup, a network of secret detention camps was created. Torture was commonplace and many of those sent to the camps are feared dead, though the government still refuses to account for them.

AI members around the world will use letters, appeals, posters, meetings and other public events to call attention to such victims as a Filipino trade union leader, a merchant in Zaire,

an Ethiopian church leader, a teacher in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Among other places in which "disappearances" have been reported, sometimes under governments no longer in power, are Afghanistan, Brazil, East Timor, Syria, Morocco, Mexico and Namibia.

AI's campaign aims at strengthening and increasing efforts already under way to counter the terror technique of "disappearance". The United Nations has recognized the problem and called on member governments to cooperate in finding the victims and ending the abuse. The UN Commission on Human Rights has set up a working group to seek facts and act on them; it reported after its first year that some of the many people it sought had been released or traced after it asked for information. (For an outline of some legal aspects of "disappearances", see the feature article in the December *Newsletter*) □

CHINESE PRIESTS ARRESTED

Police in Shanghai arrested four Roman Catholic priests in the city on 19 November 1981. They are Father Vincent ZHU Hongsheng, aged 65, and Father Joseph CHEN Yuntang, 73, both Jesuits; Father Stanislas SHEN Baishun, 78, and Father FU Hezhou, 70.

The charges against them are not known to *AI* but they are believed to have been detained for refusing to join a government-sponsored Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association, which is not recognized by the Vatican.

On 4 December *AI* appealed to the Chinese authorities to make public the charges against the priests or release them immediately □

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in November of the release of 44 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 113 cases.

DEATH PENALTY

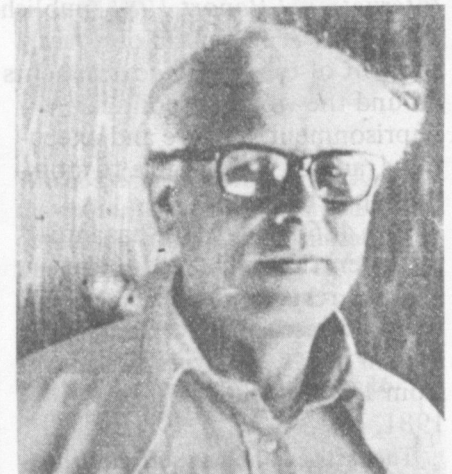
AI has learned of 306 people being sentenced to death in seven countries and of 246 executions in seven countries during November 1981.

USSR Call for release of Dr Sakharov

On 7 December 1981 *AI* appealed to President Leonid BREZHNEV of the USSR for the release of the Soviet prisoner of conscience Dr Andrei SAKHAROV, who—with his wife—is reported to have been hospitalized by the authorities on 4 December, the 13th day of their hunger-strike.

Dr Sakharov, a Soviet Academician and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, was forcibly exiled to the city of Gorky on 22 January 1981. He and his wife, Elena BONNER, went on hunger-strike on 22 November to protest against the authorities' refusal to grant an exit visa to Lisa ALEXEYEVA, married by proxy to Elena Bonner's son, who lives abroad.

In its letter to President Brezhnev *AI* said it was concerned about the



Dr Andrei Sakharov

reportedly serious deterioration in Dr Sakharov's health. It pointed out that it had previously expressed concern that the forcible exile had been imposed on him by the Soviet authorities "directly on account of his public activities in defence of human rights"; it was concerned also that this action contravened international human rights instruments ratified by the Soviet Government which guarantee the right to freedom of conscience.

AI also expressed concern that Lisa Alexeyeva had been refused permission to visit Dr Sakharov: "This denial of family contact to a prisoner of conscience is especially disturbing when the prisoner is on hunger-strike."

At the time of going to press, the Soviet authorities were reported to have told Lisa Alexeyeva that she had been granted a visa to leave the country and Dr Sakharov and his wife were said to have ended their hunger-strike □

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.

REBECCA Asrate, Ethiopia

A student of international relations at the University of London at the time of her arrest, she has been held without charge or trial since her return to Ethiopia in 1974.

Rebecca Asrate, now 29, returned to Ethiopia in July 1974, concerned about the arrest of her father, Ras ASRATE Kassa, former Chairman of the Crown Council. She was arrested in September, when the Provisional Military Administrative Council, the *Derg*, assumed power. She and detained female relatives of Emperor Haile Selassie and prominent officials under the overthrown imperial government were initially held under house arrest in Addis Ababa, where relatives were allowed to visit and take them food. The government said they were in "protective custody".

On 23 November 1974 Rebecca Asrate's father and over 50 other political detainees held without charge or trial were summarily executed on the orders of the *Derg*.

In September 1975 she and other women prisoners were transferred to *Alem Bekagne* (End of the World) prison in Addis Ababa, including her mother, Princess ZURIASH WORQ Gebre Igziabehar, and sister, TERUWORQ ("Mimi") Asrate, 24. Three of her brothers are held separately in the prison but are denied contact with them; they are: MULUGETTA Asrate, 31; KASSA Asrate, 26, and WEND-WOSSEN Asrate, 21.

Rebecca Asrate is held in a former clinic in the prison with eight other women. Only two or three visits are allowed a year, although detainees may receive food and other necessities from relatives and can exchange short letters with them. During her long detention, Rebecca Asrate began to suffer from a severe disease, diagnosed as lupus erythematosus, which resulted in extensive peeling of her skin. The authorities have seriously delayed allowing her adequate medical treatment.

Please write courteous letters appealing for the release of REBECCA Asrate and the other members of her family detained with her to: His Excellency MENGISTU Haile Mariam/Head of State of the Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia/Provisional Military Administrative Council/ PO Box 5707/Addis Ababa/Ethiopia.

Liliana Graciela VOGLER, Argentina

A university student aged 17 when she was arrested in 1975, she is serving a nine-year prison term for "subversive activities".

Liliana Graciela Vogler was arrested on 25 June 1975 at her home in Rio Cuarto, Córdoba Province, and is reported to have been tortured during the first two days of her detention by the Provincial Police. She is reported to have been forced, under torture, to sign a declaration drawn up by the police that she and two friends were involved in political activities and possessed subversive literature. She is said to have been told later that she and her family would be killed if she did not confirm the declaration in court. She confirmed it—but at the end of preliminary hearings stated that she had been beaten during detention.

After other student arrests in Rio Cuarto, the city's Federal Judge ordered her to be transferred there from Córdoba Penitentiary for a new investigation into her case. In court again, she told the judge that she had been tortured and forced to sign the declaration, having previously obtained a promise of his protection if she spoke out. However, when she came to sign the record of the hearing she found no mention of her denunciation.

Five days later part of the Vogler family's house was blown up. On 22 November a bomb destroyed another part of the house and the prisoner's father, Guillermo Vogler, was told he would be killed if he did not leave

the city within 72 hours. He was arrested on 18 December and held without charge in Córdoba Penitentiary for two years; he now lives abroad in exile.

Liliana Vogler was charged under Law 20.840, which refers to "subversive activities". *AI* believes there is evidence to suggest that the information on which her conviction was based was extracted under torture.

Please send courteous appeals for her release to: Exmo Sr. Presidente Interino de la República Argentina/General Horacio Liendo/Casa Rosada/Balcarce 50/Buenos Aires C.F./Argentina.

CHEN Lü, China

A technician and a member of the Human Rights Alliance, he has been detained without trial for more than two and a half years since his arrest in Peking on 29 March 1979.

CHEN Lü, aged about 39, was a member of the Human Rights Alliance, an unofficial group of activists in the "democracy movement". On 1 January 1979 it published a Chinese Declaration of Human Rights; its 19 articles included calls for freedom of thought and opinion; for the release of all prisoners held for their beliefs; for the right to criticize government and Communist Party leaders and for direct elections.

Chen Lü's arrest coincided with a ban by the authorities on unofficial publications. In April 1979 there followed further arrests of activists in the "democracy movement". Chen Lü has not been formally charged or tried and it is believed that he has been sent for "re-education-through-labour", an administrative punishment which does not require a trial or judicial procedure but can be imposed by police order.

Please write courteous letters appealing for his release to: His Excellency Zhao Ziyang/Prime Minister/Peking/People's Republic of China.

The Amnesty International Report 1981 is an objective account of the use by governments around the world of political imprisonment, torture and executions, and of the struggle to stop these practices. It has separate entries on 117 countries, containing information gathered by AI in the 12 months up to 30 April 1981, and reporting on the movement's work. A summary of the regional coverage appears below.

Annual Report 1981

The facts and human suffering detailed in AI's annual report range from political killings by Bolivian troops to the confinement in remote labour camps of Soviet citizens who dissent from official policies. It provides carefully checked information on mass executions in Iran, detention without trial in Zaire, the tortured bodies of suspected critics of the government found regularly in El Salvador, and other challenges to the conscience of the world.

No comparisons are made because there are no ways to quantify the misery caused by the repression catalogued in the report.

The publication's 117 separate country reports are arranged according to region.

Africa

Despite the release of many political prisoners in Africa during the year, abuses of human rights remained widespread and people of widely divergent views were prisoners of conscience in many countries, including opponents of *apartheid* in South Africa, opposition politicians in Uganda, teachers and students in Mali.

Political prisoners were being held without trial in most of the 41 sub-Saharan African countries covered in the report. Such detention without trial, often under harsh conditions and without adequate safeguards against ill-treatment, has been one of the most persistent problems in the region.

Reports of torture came from a number of countries, including Mali, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda and Zaire.

Among nations where political prisoners were released were Swaziland, where all political detainees were freed unconditionally, Angola, Cameroun, the Central African Republic and Ghana.

Some prisoners were released in Ethiopia, but they were only a small

"Amnesty International does not work against any government; only against repressive policies and practices. It says nothing about the merits of the views of the victims. Its members are of many religions and of none, they are conservative and communist, rich and poor, black and white, from east and west, from colonial powers and from their former colonies. They can join in Amnesty International's work because its mandate is precise and incontrovertible."

from Introduction to AI annual report

proportion of those still held and new arrests continued. In Guinea, some long-term prisoners were released but fears rose about several hundred others, unaccounted for since their arrest several years earlier.

Use of the death penalty continued: in South Africa, more than 100 convicted criminals were hanged and three African nationalist guerrillas were sentenced to death. Death sentences and executions were also reported in Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique and Zaire. In Zimbabwe, however, all death sentences passed in the first year of independence were commuted in April 1981.

The Americas

The abduction and "disappearance" of suspected government opponents, torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention without trial were reported from many nations in the Americas.

Among the political changes affecting human rights was a military coup in Bolivia in July 1980, marked by political killings and other gross abuses.

In El Salvador and Guatemala, thousands of people "disappeared" or were found murdered after being seized without warrant by security forces.

Other governments in the region failed again to account for people who had "disappeared" either during the year or previously after being seized

by their security forces or groups acting with government complicity. The numbers of the "disappeared" varied widely, but the countries included Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay.

In a disturbing pattern, the security forces of Latin American countries cooperated with each other in killings, "disappearances" or torture on several occasions. AI received information on such cooperation involving the security forces of Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, El Salvador and Honduras.

Many Latin Americans fleeing abuses in their own countries failed to find asylum. In May 1980, hundreds of people, most of them women and children, were reported to have been shot dead by Salvadorian troops as they tried to cross into Honduras. This was reported to be a joint operation by Salvadorian and Honduran forces.

Salvadorians, Guatemalans or Haitians were forcibly returned from the USA, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Mexico, Honduras and the Dominican Republic to their own countries, where they risked ill-treatment and imprisonment in some cases.

AI's opposition to the death penalty in all cases was a major focus of its work on the USA, where nearly 800 people were under sentence of death by the end of April 1981. Executions took place in Jamaica and the Bahamas, and death sentences were passed in Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Guyana, St. Kitts, Trinidad and Cuba.

Asia

Long-term political imprisonment and "preventive detention" continued in a number of Asian countries during the year. Detention without trial, inadequate trial procedures and the death penalty were used in much of the continent.

There was limited improvement in respect for human rights in some countries with the release of considerable numbers of political prisoners, notably in Viet Nam, the Philippines, Burma and Laos. But reports of

"disappearances" and extrajudicial killings continued to come from the **Philippines**. Many people were still held without trial in "re-education" camps in **Viet Nam** and **Laos**.

Serious abuses of human rights were reported in the **People's Republic of China**, with arbitrary arrests and increased restrictions on civil liberties. The trial at the end of 1980 of 10 former political and military leaders failed to meet international standards of fairness: many of the charges were purely political and an assumption of guilt was clear in official statements from the outset.

From **India** came reports of widespread police brutality and deaths in police custody. There were also incidents of torture and killings of political activists by police. Preventive detention was re-introduced.

Among states where long-term political imprisonment continued were **Taiwan (Republic of China)**, where *AI* knows of prisoners held for 30 years, **Indonesia**, **Malaysia**, **Singapore** and **Brunei**.

In **Pakistan**, hundreds of prisoners of conscience were tried by military courts with no provision for defence lawyers or appeal. Many were sentenced to floggings as well as imprisonment. In **Bangladesh** too, civilians faced political charges before military courts.

In the **Republic of Korea**, restrictions on political activity and expression were accompanied by political trials, and torture and ill-treatment of political prisoners.

AI presented United Nations bodies with more information on the "disappearance", summary execution and imprisonment of people arrested in **East Timor** by Indonesian military authorities.

Use of the death penalty resumed in **Malaysia** and in **India**. In **China**, it was applied for a wide range of criminal and "counter-revolutionary" offences. Hundreds of people are executed every year in **Pakistan** and executions were also known to have taken place in **Bangladesh**, **South Korea**, **Taiwan**, **Singapore** and **Thailand**.

Europe

Human rights violations in Europe included imprisonment of people for expressing their beliefs, torture, ill-treatment of prisoners, the effect of anti-terrorist measures on the fairness of trials and the use of the death penalty.

In the **Soviet Union**, repression of all forms of dissent continued. *AI*

learned of some 200 people arrested during the year for the non-violent exercise of human rights, mainly of expression. Of these, about 30 were confined to psychiatric hospitals.

Hundreds of people were imprisoned in the **German Democratic Republic** for trying to leave or to get permission to leave the country. Political arrests, detention and imprisonment were also reported from **Yugoslavia**, **Bulgaria**, **Czechoslovakia**, **Poland**, **Romania** and **Albania**.

In **Turkey**, torture (which had already been widespread before the coup) was so widely and systematically used that it was clear it had official sanction. By April 1981 *AI* knew of 20 people reported to have died in custody since the military takeover of September 1980.

From **Spain** came more reports of ill-treatment and torture of suspects held under anti-terrorist laws.

There were reports that prisoners of conscience had been beaten in **Poland**, **Czechoslovakia** and **Romania**. Some prisoners in psychiatric hospitals in the **Soviet Union** were ill-treated through the abuse of powerful drugs.

In Western Europe, the use of emergency and anti-terrorist measures tended to erode guarantees of fairness in the treatment and trial of suspects.

In **Italy**, *AI* investigated possible political abuse of the criminal justice system.

Imprisoned conscientious objectors to military service were adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience in both Eastern and Western Europe.

Executions were carried out in **Turkey** for the first time since 1972. In Western Europe generally, a trend towards abolition of the death penalty continued. Death sentences were passed in several countries of Eastern Europe.

Middle East

Reports of the holding of prisoners of conscience, unfair trials and executions came from many countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

In **Iran**, more than 700 executions—often after unfair trials—were reported during the 12 months covered by the report. Many executions were carried out in **Iraq**, where trial procedures, particularly for political prisoners, were also often inadequate; the death penalty was also carried out in **Tunisia**, **Libya**, **Egypt**, **Jordan**, **Syria**, **Saudi Arabia** and the **People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY)**.

Extrajudicial executions were reported in **Syria** and **Iraq**. **Libyan**

"When governments use methods, illegal even under their own laws, to kidnap and kill their own citizens—without acknowledgement, let alone trial — Amnesty International insists that they accept responsibility for the 'disappeared' and murdered."

from Introduction to *AI* annual report

authorities appeared to encourage the killing of **Libyan** citizens abroad.

Serious allegations of torture or ill-treatment of prisoners came from a number of countries, including **Morocco**, **Algeria**, **Tunisia**, **Libya**, **Egypt**, **Israel** and the **Occupied Territories**, **Jordan**, **Syria**, **Bahrain**, **Iraq** and **Iran**. *AI* published detailed evidence of the torture of political prisoners in **Iraq**.

Deficient trial procedures and detention without trial of political prisoners were reported from **Morocco**, **Algeria**, **Libya**, **Israel** and the **Occupied Territories**, **Jordan**, **Syria**, **Iraq**, **Saudi Arabia**, the **PDRY**, **Bahrain** and **Iran**.

In a number of countries human rights violations took place under emergency laws giving the authorities special powers and restricting the rights of the individual; or under special procedures for dealing with alleged offenders against state security. This happened in **Israel** and the **Occupied Territories**, **Jordan**, the **PDRY**, **Morocco**, **Algeria**, **Libya** and **Iraq**. *AI* published a report on its mission to **Israel**, examining the procedures and practices applied to security suspects in custody.

All those in **Tunisia** adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience during the period covered by the report were released from prison, although some were still subject to restrictions.

There was evidence of a growing awareness of human rights. For instance:

- The Inter-African Lawyers Union, including members from **Morocco**, **Algeria**, **Tunisia** and **Egypt**, was formed in May 1980 and set up a Permanent Commission of Human and People's Rights.
- The annual meeting of the Arab Lawyers Union in June 1980 approved action to seek an end to torture and the death penalty.
- The Third Islamic Summit Conference, at which most governments in the region were represented, decided to establish an Islamic Court of Justice □

China Prisoner's account of jail ordeal

A prisoner of conscience in the People's Republic of China has written a 196-page account of his imprisonment without trial, describing his arbitrary arrest and the ill-treatment he suffered while detained in Peking, including police threats, being forced to wear a gas mask, being beaten by warders and five months' solitary confinement.

The account, which reached *AI* recently, is by LIU Qing (prisoner of the month in September 1981); it covers the period of his detention in Peking from 11 November 1979 to June 1980, when he was sent for three years' "re-education through labour" to Lotus Temple camp, near Huaxian in Shaanxi province, an administrative punishment which, under Chinese legislation, does not require a trial and can be imposed by a police order.

Liu Qing (the pen-name of Liu Jianwei), aged about 34, is a machine technician and was an editor of the prominent unofficial journal *April Fifth Forum*.

He was arrested on 11 November 1979 when he went to Peking Central Police Station to ask about the detention of fellow-activists in the "democracy movement".

According to his account, which he calls "Memories and hopes of a disillusioned man—I place my complaint before the court of society", his interrogators at Peking Central Police Station showed contempt for recent Chinese legislation guaranteeing the rights of the accused. His insistence on the proper legal procedure led one of his police interrogators to say: "This is an organ of the dictatorship of the proletariat. You needn't think there's

anything special about you. We have ways of dealing with you, Liu Qing. You had better answer our questions or you can forget about leaving."

The following day, Liu Qing was served with a 15-day detention order and transferred to a holding centre in Peking. He says that because he refused to write a confession and continued to demand an open trial, he was placed in solitary confinement from November 1979 to April 1980. During this five-month period his health deteriorated: according to his account, his hair began to fall out, his left leg went numb and his eyesight got worse (he was short-sighted when detained).

One day in April 1980 he was hustled back into his cell after he had been taken out for exercise and had refused to clasp his hands below his stomach as the warders required: he considered this demeaning. He says the incident resulted in ill-treatment: "When I was brought back to the cell my body was covered with blue and purple bruises from the beating. I had been forced to wear a gas mask that made it very hard for me to breathe, and I was burdened by handcuffs that cut into my flesh."

Reports of recent torture or ill-treatment of detainees in China are rare. Liu Qing's testimony suggests that his was not an isolated case of ill-treatment. He describes another detainee being handcuffed continuously and forced to wear a gas mask. He refers also to another "democracy movement" activist, WEI Jingsheng, being held in solitary confinement in a Peking prison; Wei Jingsheng, sentenced on political charges in October 1979 to 15 years' imprisonment, has been adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience. □

South Africa Human rights lawyer murdered

Griffiths MXENGE, a 46-year-old former political prisoner and well-known lawyer in human rights cases, was murdered in Durban on 20 November 1981. Originally from the Eastern Cape, Griffiths MXENGE had practised as an attorney in Durban for some years and had acted for the defence in a series of political trials.

According to reports, Griffiths MXENGE was apparently abducted when he left his office on the evening of 19 November. His mutilated body was found next morning at a local sports stadium. He had been stabbed and his throat had been cut.

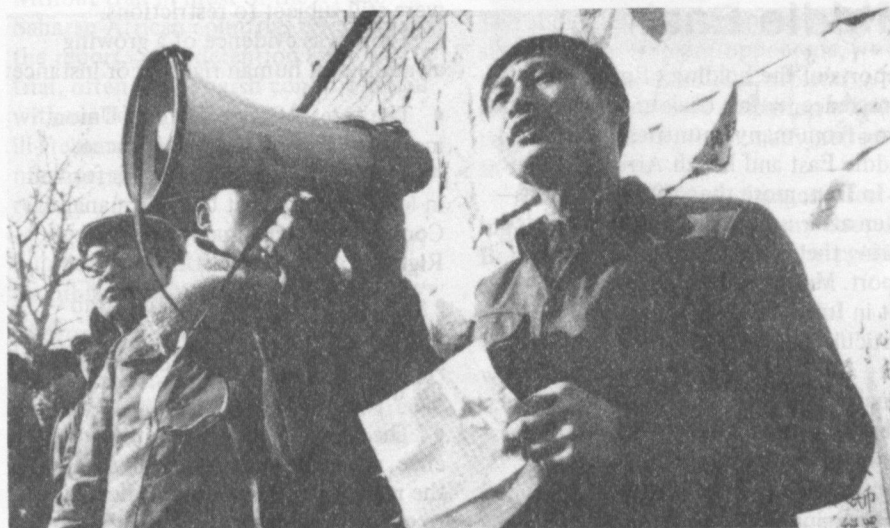
He had been detained without trial on several occasions and had also served a prison sentence on Robben Island for supporting the banned African National Congress. After his release, he was restricted under a banning order for five years.

No arrests in connection with his murder had been made by the end of November. His wife is reported to have blamed right-wing white extremists for his death.

Security police raids

Cedric MAYSON, a former prisoner of conscience adopted by *AI*, and other well-known critics and opponents of *apartheid* were detained in security police raids early on 27 November 1981. Those arrested included Sam KIKINE, Emma MASHININI and Rita NDZANGA, all prominent black trade union officials; Nick HAYSOM, a lawyer and former student leader; and several white students active in trade union organizations. All were detained under a provision permitting 14 days' incommunicado detention without charge—no reasons were given for the arrests. Relatives have been denied access and cannot find out where the detainees are held. Their cases have been taken up by *AI*.

A number of other trade unionists, students and churchworkers have been detained without trial and held incommunicado for up to several months. They too were held initially under the 14-day detention provision but after two weeks were transferred to detention under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act. This stipulates that detainees be held incommunicado and permits detention without charge or trial for an unlimited period. □



Liu Qing addressing a meeting in Peking before his arrest.

Zambia

Treason trial: another delay

The long-delayed treason trial in which 13 defendants are accused of plotting to overthrow the Zambian Government (see August 1981 *Newsletter*) has again been postponed.

On 18 November 1981 the defendants objected to the Attorney General's decision to send them for summary trial in the High Court and several days of legal argument followed. Defence objections were eventually overruled by the judge, Mr Justice CHIRWA, on 3 December, but he ordered certain of the charges to be dropped. The trial was then expected to begin later in the month.

The trial is a sequel to President Kenneth KAUNDA's announcement in October 1980 that an alleged conspiracy against the government had been uncovered and forestalled. A number of prominent Zambians were arrested, including Edward SHAMWANA, a lawyer; Valentine MUSAKANYA, former Governor of the Bank of Zambia; and Major-General Christopher KABWE, Commander of the Air Force. They were held without charge under administrative detention orders, signed

by the President, until May 1981, when they made a brief court appearance to be charged with treason.

Several new arrests were made in June and July 1981, when the government announced that a plan to help the defendants escape had been uncovered. At least three lawyers involved in the defence were detained. One of them, Mundia SIKATANA, was later added to the list of defendants in the treason trial, replacing Major-General Kabwe, who was discharged and released suddenly and without explanation.

Nakaka Chisanga PUTA, a lawyer representing Valentine Musakanya, was arrested on 2 July 1981 and is currently held under a presidential detention order. He brought a petition under the constitution for a writ of *habeas corpus*, alleging ill-treatment in detention and a breach of fundamental rights. His petition was rejected in the High Court on 4 December, although the judge conceded that he had been subjected to inhuman treatment when first detained. *AI* has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience □

Turkey

Fears for detained teacher

The family of a Turkish high-school teacher, Bahadir DUMANLI, have expressed fears for his safety after he and his wife, Aytin, were taken into custody on 29 October 1981 and transferred to a prison in Istanbul. The family have had no word of his fate or exact whereabouts.

His wife, who works in a bank and is aged about 38, was released and returned to her children on 7 December.

The family's anxiety for Bahadir Dumanli is all the more acute because of the death in custody of his wife's brother, Ataman INCE, on 26 October. He had been detained in early October. His parents were informed that the cause of death was tuberculosis. However, they say he was in good health when detained. They were not allowed to have his body for burial.

Bahadir Dumanli is about 40 years of age. Relatives say that he and his wife have not been involved in political activities.

On 16 November *AI* sent a telex to the Turkish Ambassador in London asking for information about Bahadir and Aytin Dumanli and for an investigation into the death of Ataman Ince. No reply had been received by the time of going to press.

AI missions to Turkey both before and after the military coup of September 1980 reported that torture of people detained for political reasons was widespread and systematic (see July 1980 and March 1980 *Newsletters*, for example). *AI* believes that torture is still taking place there.

Although the period for which prisoners can be detained without charge has been halved from 90 to 45 days, they still have no access to lawyers or family during this period, a situation which increases the danger of ill-treatment. *AI* has urged the authorities to reduce the period in detention and to allow access to family and lawyers throughout □

Honduras

Refugee camp workers are shot dead

Lucio AGUIRRE, a worker for the Roman Catholic relief agency, CARITAS, was shot dead by a Salvadorian soldier as he tried to prevent other soldiers from abducting Salvadorians from La Virtud refugee camp in the department of Lempira, Honduras, on 7 December 1981.

Three weeks earlier, on 16 November CARITAS' La Virtud coordinator, Elfidio CRUZ, had been seized in another incident reportedly involving the abduction of refugees by the Salvadorian army. His bullet-ridden body was found two days later.

Cable to government

In a cable to the Honduran Government afterwards, *AI* expressed concern about the killing of Elfidio Cruz and about reports of abductions by the Salvadorian army from the refugee camps of La Virtud, Guajiniquil and La Cuesta on 16 November.

AI also cabled the Salvadorian authorities expressing grave concern at reports implicating the Salvadorian army in abductions and attempted abductions of Salvadorian refugees from the camps in Honduras. It asked for an investigation into the reported incidents and for the authorities to ensure the safety of any refugees who may have been forcibly returned to El Salvador □

Somalia

Continued from page 1

detention in 1978; Yusuf Osman SAMANTAR ("Barde Ad"), a lawyer and socialist politician who has been detained several times since the 1969 coup, most recently in 1978, and suffers from diabetes and nervous complaints; and Abdillahi Warsame NUR, a member of parliament detained in January 1981 after protesting in parliament against abuses by the Somali security forces, who is said to be ill as a result of bad treatment.

A year ago *AI* organized urgent appeals for a number of sick prisoners in Somalia. The government dismissed *AI*'s concerns as "unfounded", but provided no information on any of the prisoners concerned. Medical care for prisoners is not known to have improved since then □

Torture allegations in Iran

Some prisoners tortured to death, then 'hanged', say reports

A number of prisoners in Iran are reported to have died under torture recently and some of the victims are alleged to have been hanged afterwards to make it appear that the cause of death was formal execution.

Information about three prisoners alleged to have been hanged in September 1981 after dying under torture has been received by *AI*. Two of them, Hamid and Hamed (family names not known to *AI*), were hanged in Kerman on 16 September. The two men were left hanging in public all day. The third alleged victim, Mohammad Mehdi BARY, is said to have been arrested in Roud Sar in September.

Other prisoners who are said to have died under torture include Akbar SABERI, Jamshid JALILPOUR and Rahman RAHNOMA, all reported to have been held in Tabriz.

AI annual report

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for the release of prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners, and an end to torture and the death penalty.

On 1 May 1981 its members were working on behalf of 4,517 individual prisoners in 64 countries, either adopted by the movement as prisoners of conscience—imprisoned only for their beliefs or origins—or being investigated for possible adoption. In the previous 12 months, 894 such prisoners had been released and 1,475 new cases taken up. This was in addition to broader efforts for much larger numbers of people under threat.

Relying on its members and supporters for finance, Amnesty International spent £2,027,756 on its international program during the year and £144,306 on relief to prisoners and their families. (A summary of the report's regional coverage appears on pages 4 and 5.) □

AI's membership

The *AI* movement now has more than 325,000 members, subscribers and supporters in over 150 countries or territories throughout the world. It has 41 national sections.

During 1981 *AI* received hundreds of allegations of political prisoners being tortured in Iranian prisons, particularly in Evin Prison, Tehran. *AI* has more than 200 detailed statements alleging torture, in some cases supported by photographs and medical reports. Methods of torture described include beating, kicking, whipping with cables, banging heads against the wall, burning with cigarettes, burning with a hot iron and mock executions.

In Evin Prison, *AI* has been told, prisoners are tied to a bed and have their backs, buttocks and the soles of their feet burned in a special room called *autog-e autoo*, the ironing room.



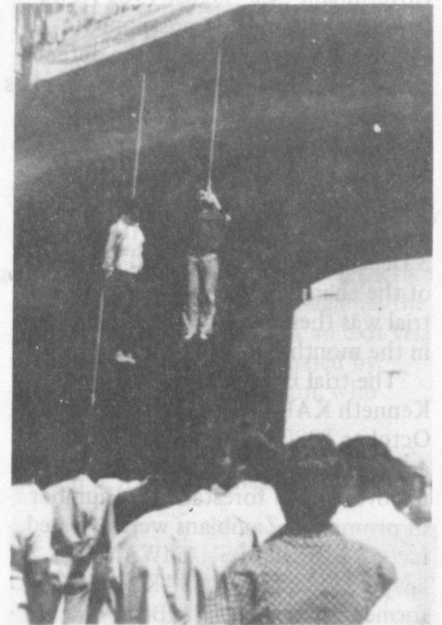
This photograph shows the condition of a 17-year-old girl's foot 17 days after she was released from custody in Iran on 22 October 1981. The sister of a member of the *Mujahideen* organization, she is alleged to have been beaten on her feet with whips, sticks and electric cables; one torture session is said to have lasted four and a half hours, and after being beaten her feet are said to have been plunged into cold water and then beaten again. The victim's name is being withheld for her own safety.

In another part of Evin Prison called *zir-e zamin-e haqiqat*, basement of truth, prisoners are said to be burned with cigarettes; interrogations are reported to be carried out here.

In all cases the torture is alleged to be carried out by Revolutionary Guards.

On the basis of its information *AI* considers there is reason to believe that torture is now being carried out routinely in some Iranian prisons, in particular Evin Prison.

On 7 December 1981 it wrote to the Prime Minister, Housein MOUSAVI, about the information it had received



The bodies of two prisoners alleged by the authorities to have belonged to the opposition *Mujahideen* organization. The two men—known only as "Hamid" and "Hamed"—are reported to have died under torture and then to have been "executed". Their bodies were left hanging in public all day on 16 September 1981.

and urged the Iranian authorities to issue a public, unequivocal condemnation and prohibition of torture.

AI's letter noted that an official investigation into torture had been carried out by the Iranian authorities earlier in 1981 and that the investigatory body had concluded that torture had occurred in some instances but was not systematic. *AI* called for a new investigation □

PRISONER RELEASED

Franz KOBOLD, of the German Democratic Republic, (prisoner of the month in June 1979) was released on 30 September 1981.

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