



Amnesty International newsletter

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TORTURE CHARGES RENEWED BISHOP TJI IS AMONG THOSE FREED IN SOUTH KOREAN PARTIAL AMNESTY

BISHOP TJI HAK-SUN, Honorary President of *AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S* South Korean Section, was freed from prison on 17 January in a conditional amnesty declared by President **PARK CHUNG-HEE** for a majority of the 203 students and civic and religious leaders jailed last year under since-revoked emergency decrees.

Monsignor Tji, Roman Catholic Bishop of Wonju, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment last August (September 1974 *Newsletter*) on charges of having given relief money to the well-known poet **KIM CHI-HA**, who was also freed in the amnesty. Also released were the Presbyterian minister Reverend **PARK HYOUNG-KU**, and **KIM DONG-GIL**, an internationally known professor of American history.

But the President refused to extend the amnesty to 22 alleged members of the outlawed People's Revolutionary Party, which is accused of being a link between a banned student's organization and North Korea. Seven of the 22 remain under sentence of death.

On his release, Bishop Tji addressed a crowd of some 400 followers at Myongdong Cathedral and thanked them for their prayers on his behalf.

Many of the released students ignored official warnings to refrain from further criticisms of the Park regime and charged that agents of the South Korean Intelligence Agency (KCIA) had extracted confessions from them under torture (see *CAT Bulletin*).

Wives of some of the 22 men whom President Park refused to release said they themselves had been interrogated by the KCIA and forced to sign confessions of their husbands' guilt under threat of reprisals against their families. They claimed that their husbands were innocent, accusing the prosecution of fabricating the cases against them for propaganda purposes and

'CARABANCHEL 10' SENTENCES CUT—FOUR RELEASED

A Spanish appeal court on 11 February sharply reduced the long-term sentences imposed in late December 1973 on a group of *AI*-adopted trade unionists who became known as the "Carabanchel 10" (January 1974 *Newsletter*).

Four were released immediately because they had already been detained for the time to which their sentences were cut. The other six had their imprisonment cut to 6 years from original sentences that varied from 17 to 20 years.

The 10 were originally jailed for a total of 162 years after a three-day trial in Madrid in which they were charged with "illegal association". They had been arrested 18 months earlier on the grounds of a monastery and accused of holding a meeting there in their alleged capacity as leaders of a banned "workers' association".

An *AI* observer, English lawyer **EDMOND McGOVERN**, who attended the December 1973 trial, condemned the prosecution case as inadequate and called the charges a violation of freedom of association as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He also described the sentences as outrageous and said the 18 months the

of submitting evidence based on confessions extracted under torture.

The amnesty followed closely a referendum on 12 February aimed at securing President Park's authority to apply his controversial 1972 constitution which confers virtual life presidency and authoritarian powers on him. Many of those released are outspoken critics of the constitution who were sentenced by court-martial to varying terms of imprisonment under Emergency Decrees 1 and 4 which were passed early in 1974 and revoked later in the year.

AI OFFICIALS VISIT ETHIOPIA

AI Deputy Secretary General **HANS EHRENSTRALE** and Deputy Head of Research **JOHN HUMPHREYS** visited Addis Ababa 1-14 February, where they discussed human rights questions with Ethiopian government officials, including Minister of Justice **ATO BELACHEW ASRATE**.

They also attended two sessions of the special courts-martial set up by the Provisional Military Administration Council last November to try persons arrested after the military began its takeover in February 1974 (December *Newsletter*).

While in Addis Ababa, Mr Ehrenstrale and Mr Humphreys also attended a meeting of the Organization of African Unity's Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees, with which *AI* has observer status.

A report on the mission is being prepared for *AI's* International Executive Committee.

Plyushch's Health Deteriorates in USSR

The medical condition of the 34-year-old Ukrainian cyberneticist and *AI* adoptee **LEONID PLYUSHCH** (August and November 1974 *CAT Bulletins*) has continued to deteriorate in the Dnepropetrovsk special psychiatric hospital, where he has been confined for over two years, according to reports reaching *AI* in February. Since late 1973 Mr Plyushch has

defendants had spent in detention awaiting trial was unacceptable by any international standard.

Another *AI* observer, Swiss lawyer **CHRISTIAN GROBET**, attended the appeal hearing on 11 February. The court cut the sentences on the grounds that it had not been proven that the 10 were the leaders of the association.

The four *AI* adoptees who were set free immediately after their original 12-year sentences were cut to 2 years 4 months were **FRANCISCO ACOSTA ORGE**, **MIGUEL ANGEL ZAMORA ANTON**, **PEDRO SANTISTEBAN HURTADO** and **LUIS FERNANDEZ COSTILLA**.

The six still detained after their sentences were cut to 6 years are (original sentences in brackets): the well-known workers' leader **MARCELINO CAMACHO ABAD** (20 years), the Jesuit worker-priest Father **GARCIA SALVE** (19 years), lawyer and journalist **NICOLAS SARTORIUS** (19 years), shop assistant **EDUARDO SABORIDO GALAN** (20 years), metalworker **FERNANDO SOTO MARTIN** (17 years), and metalworker and taxi-driver **JUAN MARCOS MUNIZ ZAPICO** (18 years).

been "treated" with large doses of depressant drugs, including halperidol and insulin. Since the autumn of 1974 he has been injected with the drug "triftazin". According to his wife, these drugs have caused Mr Plyushch "pains in the stomach and heart ...shivering, allergy reaction, oedema and nervous depression".

Mrs Plyushch has undertaken criminal proceedings against the medical staff of the hospital on the grounds that "for the last one and a half years my husband has been given incorrect medical treatment *deliberately*".

Leonid Plyushch, former member of the Initiative Group for the Defence of Human Rights in the USSR, was arrested in January 1972 on charges of "anti-Soviet activity". Doctors at the Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry in Moscow diagnosed him as suffering from "creeping schizophrenia with messianic and reformist ideas". He was not allowed to attend his trial, held *in camera* in January 1973, at which the court ruled that he should be detained in a special psychiatric hospital.

SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PARAGUAY, URUGUAY, ARGENTINA

AI, in a statement issued on 12 February, accused Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina of gross violations of human rights through anti-subversion measures introduced under states of emergency in each country.

According to varying estimates, between 500 and 1,200 persons suspected of conspiring against President ALFREDO STROESSNER were detained in Paraguay in a wave of arrests in December 1974. They are reportedly being subjected to brutal torture during interrogations, which has resulted in the death of at least one victim.

Recent evidence points to a further spread of arbitrary arrests, ill-treatment and torture in Uruguay. Victims include dissidents who are recognized by the authorities themselves as non-violent, such as members of the organized labour movement, teachers, students and political leaders (January *Newsletter*). Although there are occasional releases, including a number of trade unionists in the beginning of January (February *CAT BULLETIN*), a new wave of arrests of workers and students in mid-January was again followed by allegations of torture.

Similar repressive measures have swept Argentina since the imposition last November of the state of siege which allows for arrest and detention without warrant. Here, too, these measures have reached far beyond suspected militant extremists and have affected much wider circles, including political opponents from parties that themselves condemn violent methods. Recent reports indicate that in a nationwide massive security crackdown some 1,000 people had been arrested by mid-February.

AI also charged that para-police and vigilante groups in the three countries were cooperating in an ongoing wave of kidnappings, abductions and assassinations of political opponents and suspects. This cooperation also extends to the official police forces, *AI* said, citing the recent statement by the police chief of Cordoba, Argentina, that as far as the police forces of the three countries are concerned, "there are no longer any frontiers".

"In all three countries emergency regulations aimed at combatting real or imagined subversion have led to detention procedures that make practically any detained person liable to become a helpless victim of arbitrary and cruel treatment," the statement said. "These repressive measures and the cooperation between para-police forces of Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina in kidnapping and/or murdering their citizens who flee across the border have made a mockery of the respective governments' proclaimed adherence to the rule of law."

AI Takes up 113 New Cases in Egypt

AI has adopted 113 Egyptians, who were arrested during the demonstrations in Cairo on 1 January 1975. The demonstrations began after the 1975 budget was announced. Workers gathered to protest against their low wages and the high cost of living, and they were joined by hundreds of students and leftwing sympathizers.

Many were arrested and *AI* received the names of 116 detainees (three of whom have since been released), comprising workers, students, lawyers, writers and journalists, including 12 women. Some are well-known as ex-members of the Communist Party, banned in Egypt since the early 1960s, and were imprisoned during the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser's era.

AI ATTENDS GENEVA MEETING

HENRY JACOBY and FREYDOUN KADJAR, both of the Swiss Section, represented *AI* at two major international meetings in Geneva during February: the 31st session on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law. *AI* legal adviser NIGEL S. RODLEY also was present during the first week of the meetings.

AI submitted major communications to the commission alleging gross violations of human rights in Brazil, Chile and Indonesia (February *Newsletter*). On 11 January Mr Jacoby made an oral intervention on *AI*'s behalf. *AI* also joined with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in calling for recognition by the commission of the right of conscientious objection.

At the diplomatic conference, *AI* together with other NGOs, worked for better implementation of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict and for greater protection of the victims of non-international armed conflict. Much of *AI*'s work deals with countries where there is civil strife.

Haiti Releases 26 after Canadian Publicity

Haiti released 26 political prisoners on 22 January 1975 following publicity in the Canadian press about prison conditions in the Caribbean state. Five of the names on the official list were adopted by *AI* on the grounds of longterm detention without trial. A further three names are on *AI*'s files.

Observers point out that these names may not correspond to genuine releases. Only one has been confirmed so far—that of Jean Bernadel, ex-director of the Banque Royale du Canada. *AI* has accordingly written to the Haitian Government requesting that it prove the validity of the releases by showing these men to the press. Otherwise, in the words of *Haiti Observateur*, it will have been an "amnesty for zombies."

AI Urges Clemency for Prisoners in Gabon

AI urged President OMAR BONGO of Gabon on 17 February to grant an amnesty to political prisoners who have been held without trial in the West African state since 1972.

The prisoners, who include teachers, students and civil servants, were arrested between July and October 1972 and reports at the time said they would be charged with "possession of banned documents". But no trial date has ever been set and they have been detained for the past 2½ years in a special "political" block in the Central Prison in Libreville, capital of Gabon.

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to President Bongo earlier urging him to exercise clemency and free the detainees. The letter pointed out that the amnesty would be in keeping with the extensive human rights provisions of the country's 1967 constitution, which guarantees personal liberty.

Prisoners of the Month Campaign

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Participants in the Campaign are reminded that appeals must only be sent to the officials named at the end of each case. In no circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner.

FROM PAST CAMPAIGNS

Uruguay Allows Arismendi to Go to USSR

RODNEY ARISMENDI, aged 61, secretary general of the banned Communist Party of Uruguay, who was on the *Prisoners of the Month Campaign* in November 1974 has been granted political asylum in the Soviet Union. A member of the Uruguayan parliament for 27 years, until it was closed in June 1973, he was arrested on 8 May 1974 in Montevideo, allegedly for being in possession of false papers. On 5 January he was released apparently on condition that he left the country.

Georgii Vins Sentenced to 5 Years' Imprisonment

The "dissident" Baptist pastor GEORGII PETROVICH VINS (who was on the October 1974 *Prisoners of the Month Campaign*) was tried in late January 1975 in Kiev after being held in pre-trial detention for a month longer than the nine months allowed by law.

Some of the charges against him were apparently dropped before or at the trial, but Mr Vins was found "guilty" of "infringement of the person and rights of Soviet citizens under the pretext of conducting religious ceremonies" and sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment to be followed by 5 years internal exile.

Efforts by AI to obtain permission to send an observer to the trial were ignored by Soviet authorities.

Sitor Situmorang Transferred to House Custody

Sitor SITUMORANG, the Indonesian writer and poet (September 1973 *Campaign*), has been released from detention in Salemba Prison, Jakarta, and is now being held under house custody.

THIS MONTH'S CAMPAIGN

Huber MATOS Benitez, Cuba

HUBER MATOS, born on 26 November 1919 in the Oriente Province of Cuba, was originally a school-teacher by profession. After supporting Fidel Castro's revolution against the former Batista regime, he was appointed commander of the rebel army for the province of Camaguey. On 19 October 1959, after expressing his firm opposition to the increasing communist dominance of the revolution, he resigned from the rebel army. Two days later he was arrested on the personal orders of Fidel Castro. He was charged with treason and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment by a revolutionary tribunal in December 1959.

Over the past 15 years Señor Matos has been held in several different prisons including Castillo del Morro, Isle of Pines, La Cabaña, Guanajay, Castillo El Principe, and again La Cabaña in the town of Havana.

In the late 1960s the Cuban government initiated a rehabilitation program for political prisoners, giving preferential treatment to prisoners who renounced their political opposition to the Castro government. Prisoners in the plan were distinguished by the wearing of blue as opposed to yellow uniforms. A minority of the political prisoners allegedly refused to wear either uniform, and are now compelled to dress only in their underclothes. Huber Matos' wife, who now lives in the United States, has alleged that he is now detained in Cabaña, wearing only underclothes, without adequate medical treatment.

Please send politely worded cards appealing for his release to: Fidel Castro, Premier Ministro, La Habana, Cuba; and to: Raul Dorticus, Presidente de la Republica,

La Habana, Cuba; and to: Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Vice Prime Minister for International Relations, La Habana Cuba.

Saths COOPER, South Africa

SATHS COOPER, aged 24, who, as public relations officer for the Black Peoples' Convention (BPC), was one of the most articulate leaders of the black consciousness movement in South Africa, was "banned" in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act in February 1973. The banning order, which was imposed for an initial period of 5 years, subjected him to house arrest and other restrictions, and was designed to terminate his political activities.

However, following a political rally in support of Frelimo in Mozambique, which was organized jointly by the BPC and the South African Students Organization, and which was held in defiance of a government ban, Saths Cooper was one of about 40 BPC and SASO leaders arrested in terms of the Terrorism Act. He did not attend the rally and was arrested at his home on 26 September 1974. His brother Revabalan and his wife Vino were also among those arrested. Revabalan is still detained uncharged but Vino was released after 46 days in detention. Saths Cooper, together with 12 others, has now been charged with offences under the Terrorism Act and has appeared in court. Despite being detained for four months before being brought to court, however, he has been denied bail.

Under the provisions of the Terrorism Act, the South African security police are empowered to hold a suspect incommunicado for as long as they need in order to obtain "satisfactory" answers to their questions. In the past, several persons have died in mysterious circumstances while detained under the act. On the one occasion that Saths Cooper was allowed to see his lawyer, he alleged that he and several others were being continuously tortured. As a result, the lawyer tried to obtain an injunction preventing the police from further interrogating the detainees but was unsuccessful. Recently, Saths Cooper had an epileptic fit and had to be rushed to hospital from Pretoria Central Prison.

Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for his release to: Hon. B. J. Vorster, Prime Minister, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa.

NG Hee Chick, Malaysia

NG HEE CHICK, now aged 29, was born in China but her family moved to Malaya when she was 10. She has Malaysian citizenship. She entered Nanyang University in Singapore to study education in 1965 but was subsequently expelled following student disturbances which the authorities alleged were communist-inspired. Miss Ng returned to West Malaysia where, in June or July 1967, she was detained under the Internal Security Act. This act empowers the Minister of Home Affairs to serve a detention order on a person if he is satisfied that the detention of that person is necessary to prevent him or her from acting in "any manner prejudicial to the security of Malaysia". Miss Ng's arrest followed the detention of her brother in October 1966—he does not have Malaysian citizenship and he is now held under a banishment order in Seremban Prison, awaiting deportation. Miss Ng is held in a special detention camp in Taiping.

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Some detainees have been held without trial for periods of 10 years or more under the terms of the Internal Security Act. All detention orders are subject to review by an Advisory Board at six-monthly intervals, but this board has powers of recommendation only and cannot order the release of prisoners.

Please send courteously-worded cards, in English, appealing for the release of Ng Hee Chick to: Tan Sri Haji Muhammad Gazali bi Shafie, Minister of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Jalan Datuk Onn, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and to: Tun Abdul Razak bin Hussein, The Prime Minister's Department, Jalan Datuk Onn, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

More Murders, Disappearances in Guatemala

AI groups began working in February to try to locate five persons among the many who have "disappeared" in Guatemala. A compilation of news items from the Guatemalan press during January indicated that disappearances and "death squad" murders have continued unchecked in the country. The news reports gave information on the violent deaths of 41 persons. Almost all the deaths were attributed to bullet wounds.

The five persons whose disappearances AI groups are investigating are FELIPE MONTESINA GIRON, FREDY ADRIAN GONZALES OLIVA, ALBA RUBIDIA AGUILAR, ALFREDO SANCHEZ GONZALEZ and OSCAR ANIBAL FLORES ESTRADA.

Early in January, AI groups were asked to investigate the disappearance of the brothers HERNANDO, MANUEL, BAUDILIO and HERMELINDO SUCHITE and ISMAEL PORTILLO. They were taken away at gunpoint in five separate cars early one morning last October by 20 men wearing olive green uniforms and armed with sub-machineguns who raided the village of Mariscos, forcibly assembled the villagers and selected the four brothers and Señor Portillo from them. The bodies of the five, displaying signs of torture, mutilation and bullet wounds, were found a week later, according to information which has just reached AI.

AI Observer Sent to Yugoslav Writer's Trial

AI sent an observer to the trial of the prominent Yugoslav dissident writer MIHAJLO MIHAJLOV, held in Novi Sad 24-27 February. Mr Mihajlov, a former AI adoptee who spent almost 4 years in prison from 1966-1970 for publishing a critical book based on a trip to the Soviet Union, is charged with publishing articles abroad allegedly hostile to Yugoslavia's social system. If found guilty, he faces a maximum sentence of 12 years' strict imprisonment.

The AI observer, Dutch criminal law specialist FRITS RÜTER, also was AI's observer at the trial last October of AI adoptee DJURO DJUROVIC and Mrs ZAGORKA KOJIC-STOJANOVIC (January Newsletter). Professor Rüter will be reporting on the Mihajlov trial to AI's International Executive Committee.

AI Mission Checks on Prisoners in Sri Lanka

A British lawyer, LOUIS BLOM COOPER, and YVONNE TERLINGEN, researcher on South Asia at the International Secretariat, represented AI on a mission to Sri Lanka 8-15 January. The mission's main purpose was to report on the trials, detention and imprisonment of political prisoners.

The vast majority of the prisoners were detained after the April 1974 uprising by the *Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna*, a political group of young Sinhalese who were dissatisfied with the pace of political and social reform.

Mr Blom Cooper and Miss Terlingen met Minister of Justice FELIX DIAS BANDARANAIKE and other senior legal and prison officials during the visit. This was despite a statement by a Sri Lanka Ministry of Justice official last July that "the Sri Lanka government is unlikely to cooperate with Amnesty International in the foreseeable future, and is also not likely to take seriously any report issued by this organization in regard

to alleged conditions in other countries."

But the mission was granted access to any part of the legal system it wished to see, and it held discussions with convicted and unconvicted prisoners, including the uprising's alleged leader.

The AI delegates also met the most senior members of the judiciary and attended the trials now in progress before the Criminal Justice Commission, specially set up to try alleged insurgents.

AI Asks Peru Not to Impose Death Penalty

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote on 29 January to President JUAN VELASCO ALVARDO of Peru asking him not to apply the death penalty provisions of a new decree law to combat political terrorism.

The law, decreed by Peru's military government in December, provides the death penalty for a broad range of crimes. Under it, trial procedures are to be summary, with no right of appeal. Trials are to be carried out within 48 hours of arrest and sentences are carried out within 48 hours of the end of the trial.

PRISONER RELEASES AND CASES

The International Secretariat learned in January of the release of 157 AI-adopted prisoners and took up 326 new cases.

Malaysia Frees 13 but Others Still Held

Malaysia has freed at least 13 University of Malaya lecturers and students detained after a number of campus disturbances in December, according to information reaching AI in February. Among them were Professor TENGKU SHAMSUL BAHRAIN (January Newsletter) and GURDIAL SINGH NIJAR, a lecturer in law.

Those still detained without trial include ANWAR IBRAHIM, president of the Malaysian Youth Council, Professor SYED HUSSEIN ALI, head of the Department of Sociology, University of Malaya, ABDUL RAZAK AHMAD, a well-known lawyer and official of the opposition party *Partai Sosialis Rakyat Malaya* and JULIET CHIN, former secretary general of the University of Singapore Students Union.

At least four other persons, including LIM MAH HUI, another University of Malaya lecturer, have been detained under the Internal Security Act since the original wave of arrests.

AI News in Brief

Indonesia Arrests Former AI Adoptee Again

AI cabled President SUHARTO of Indonesia on 17 February expressing deep concern for journalist MOCHTAR LUBIS who has just been re-arrested. Mr Lubis, founder and editor of the newspaper *Indonesia Raya* and a former AI adoptee, was imprisoned for 10 years without trial by the former regime of President SUKARNO for exposing and criticizing political and administrative malpractices. He is presently President of the Press Foundation of Asia.

The Indonesian Intelligence Agency said Mr Lubis' arrest was "aimed at finding out his possible involvement" in the demonstrations that took place in January 1974 during the visit to Jakarta of the then Japanese Prime Minister, KAKUEI TANAKA.

Republic of Vietnam Detains 18 Journalists

On 6 February, the Republic of Vietnam government announced the arrest of 18 journalists. Among those reported detained were the prominent cartoonist "CHOE" (pen-name of NGUYEN HAI CHI) and the writer VU HANH (pen-name of NGUYEN DUC DUNG), a former AI adopted prisoner. The arrests took place immediately after the seizure of nine daily newspapers which had attempted to publish a six-point indictment of President NGUYEN VAN THIEU made by the Roman Catholic-led Anti-Corruption Movement.

Austrian AI Group Fundraises at a Graveyard

Group 41 of St Oswald, Austria, raised 1,200 schillings for AI in October through a fundraising display held in front of a local graveyard. Under a banner reading "Think of the Living Dead, Too", they passed out leaflets to visitors, sold matches and solicited money for AI.

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LEADING JUDGE DENOUNCES TORTURE IN BRAZIL SUPPORT SOUGHT FOR OFFICIAL INQUIRY INTO DISAPPEARANCES

Throughout the past year a campaign has been gathering force in Brazil for an official investigation into the disappearance of some 20 detained persons during the past 18 months, whom many fear have been tortured to death by secret police units operating independently from the Ministry of Justice. The Catholic Church led by the Archbishop of São Paulo, Don EVARISTO ARNS, the opposition party *Movimento Democrático Brasileiro* (MDB), the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) and the families of the disappeared have been particularly active in the demands for an investigation.

Recent liberalization of censorship has strengthened the voices of concern about the many violations of basic human rights in Brazil. Most newspapers published remarks by a leading magistrate, Judge ALIOMAR BALEEIRO of the Supreme Federal Tribunal, who told a legal symposium in São Paulo on 29 January 1975 that serious crimes had been committed against important rights: "These crimes are the illegal arrests, the tortures, the disappearances—if somebody disappears nothing more is found, not even the ashes of his corpse—and the oppression of the freedom of thought."

The prestigious newspaper *O Estado de São Paulo* was able to print advertisements placed on behalf of the missing by their families, and hopes were rising that news about them would soon become available. However, on 6 February Minister of Justice ARMANDO RIBEIRO FALCAO, pressured by the mounting publicity into issuing a statement, dashed such hopes by denying any knowledge of their whereabouts.

Previously, on 30 January, the Minister had announced on radio and television a number of arrests of members of the Brazilian Communist Party. He stressed the dangerous militancy of the PCB, in spite of the fact that the Moscow-line PCB does not advocate the armed road to revolution. Subsequent reports from reliable sources have indicated that many of these recently arrested persons have been subjected to ill-treatment and torture. Another distressing aspect of this new development is, the official announcement that various pamphlets found in

the raided PCB headquarters proved that the PCB had participated in last November's elections by supporting the *Movimento Democrático Brasileiro*.

It is widely believed that this attempt to link the PCB to the MDB is a deliberate effort to develop a weapon against the newly elected MDB members who will take their seats in Congress when it reconvenes in March, since pressure is building for the MDB to call for an investigation into the disappearances. If the government is able to threaten the new deputies with losing their political rights and hence their seats in Congress because of alleged links with the PCB, it may be able to head off the investigation and thus continue ignoring public demands to produce the missing.

It is highly important that the present efforts to obtain an investigation into the disappearances receive the widest possible support, not only for the sake of those missing (if they are still alive) and their relatives, but also because it would strengthen the forces inside Brazil that seek a restoration of democracy and human rights. We therefore appeal to you to send courteously-worded letters to: General Ernesto Geisel, Presidente da Republica; to: Exmo. Armando Ribeiro Falcao, Ministerio da Justica, Espl. do Ministerios bl 10; and to: General Golbery do Couto e Silva, c/o Palacio Presidencial, all in Brasilia (DF), Brazil. In your letters, request that those listed missing be produced, or else that the circumstances of their death or disappearance be disclosed. Also urge that those arrested recently be treated fairly, in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Please send also letters of support for an investigation into the disappearances to the following MDB deputies: Ulisses Guimaraes, Franco Montoro, Lycaneus Maciel, and Marcos Freire, Movimento Democrático Brasileiro, Camara do Deputados, Brasilia (DF), Brazil.

The missing persons are: Paulo Stuart Wright (October 1974 *CAT Bulletin*), Honestino Guimaraes, Luis Ignacio Maranhao, Ieda Santos Delgado, Humberto Camara, Fernando Augusto de Santa Cruz Oliveira, Eduardo Collier Filho, Walter de Souza Ribeiro, Thomas Antonio da Silva Meirelles Neto, Ana Rosa Kucinski Silva and Wilson Silva (January 1975 *Newsletter*), Ivo Valenca, Dimas Perrin, David Capistrano da Costa, Jose Roman, Joao Massena Melo, Fernando Augusto Fiuza de Melo, Maria Margarida Rocha Melo, Caiuby Alves de Castro, Issami Nakamura Okamo, Ruy Frazao.

New Charges of Torture against Nicaragua

New charges of ill-treatment and torture of political prisoners in Nicaragua have been levelled against the government of President ANASTASIO SOMOZA, after armed guerillas had obtained the release of 14 political prisoners to Cuba by kidnapping 12 prominent government officials (including two cabinet ministers) and businessmen on 27 December 1974 in the capital Managua.

A SOUTH KOREAN TALE OF TORTURE

"This made them angry and the torture began. At first they placed ballpoint pens between my fingers and crushed my hands. The pain was terrible but I continued to deny charges that students were planning an armed revolution. They would hang me upside down, tie a towel around my mouth and run water into my nostrils. The beating would continue all the time. I was half unconscious when they attached electric wires to my toes. The shocks jolted my body and all I can remember are my own screams.

"The worse days were the rainy days. I hated them. The intelligence men would use the sharp ends of their umbrellas to prod us around the cells. But please remember I got off lightly. Other prisoners suffered worse pain."

The Times of London quoted NA BYONG-SHIK, saying this after his release on 15 February from a prison in Seoul (see page one of March *AI Newsletter*). *The Times* also reported the statement of another released prisoner, Professor KIM DONG GIL, who quoted an interrogator about the need to get written confessions: "There is no alternative. We have orders from the top to get it".

Two of the former prisoners, JOSE BENITO ESCOBAR and DANIEL ORTEGA, stated in Havana that political detainees in Nicaraguan prisons are subjected to physical abuse ranging from blows with clubs to electric shocks in the most sensitive parts of the body.

Members of the Nicaraguan opposition in exile in neighbouring countries have also denounced the repressive methods by which the wealthy Somoza family has ruled Nicaragua and controlled most of its private enterprise for almost 40 years. The extremely poor peasant population in the rural areas are suffering particular hardship under this regime, which mainly uses the allegedly ruthless National Guard to keep them under control (October 1974 *CAT Bulletin*).

X-Ray Evidence of Torture of Greek Cypriot

Dr JEANNE SMEULERS from the *AI* Dutch Section has provided the CAT Department with documentation, including x-rays, of torture by electrical shock that was given to a 29-year old Greek Cypriot sailor and former prisoner of war in Turkey in September 1974. The sailor was transported after capture to Turkey along with 400-500 other prisoners of war. The group was held in a large cellar that was filled with water to a height of about 4 centimeters for 15 days, thus preventing the prisoners from resting and causing the spread of diseases.

Most of the time the prisoners were handcuffed and blindfolded. When torture was given, however, blindfolds were taken away so that they could witness others receiving shocks or having fingernails removed. On 2 September an iron band was clamped around the sailor's neck with screws, and through this he was given an electrical shock that lasted about 20 seconds. (Dr Smeulers estimates from the victim's description of his physical reaction that the strength of the current was 100-200 volts.) There was no reason other than terror for the torture—this particular man was not an officer, and he had no information of value to his Turkish captors.

The victim was returned home in a release of prisoners of war in September, and in Cyprus he was examined medically, but only for diseases that he might have brought to the island. In November he arrived in Holland, where he complained to doctors of pain in the neck with radiation to the head, paresthesia of the fingers, stomach pain and sleep disorders. He is still unable to sleep lying down and is fearful of closing his eyes because of his memories of torture.

X-rays, as read by a Dutch neurosurgeon, reveal probable fractures and secondary arthrosis of two cervical vertebrae (C3-C4), such as are often seen after a trauma, especially a blow to one side of the head. The fractured cervical vertebrae mean that the blood vessels to the brain are inhibited, thus causing severe headaches. Although the patient is in no acute danger, the damage is irreversible.

The doctors who submitted this report note that strong electrical shocks under these circumstances can cause paralysis or death if the victim happens to have congenital or other malformations of the vertebrae.

APPEAL

Genova Forest Case Woman Also Tortured

After allegations of ill-treatment and torture of GENOVEVA FOREST and others, who were arrested following the bombing of a Madrid cafe on 13 September 1974, had received widespread international attention (December 1974 *CAT Bulletin*), similar reports have reached the outside world about another young woman, detained in connection with the same case.

When the group of nine had been arrested, MARIA LUZ FERNANDEZ ALVAREZ, a 24-year-old librarian at the Cuban Embassy in Madrid, took care of Genoveva Forest's children,

but a week later she herself was arrested, and *AI* recently received allegations that she was subsequently subjected to the same brutal treatment as the others. Her friends in prison saw her last on 29 September, when she was transferred to the Yeserías women's prison in Madrid. Her face looked very tired and old, she was badly bruised, particularly on her arms, and bald spots showed on her head where strands of hair had been pulled out.

In addition Maria Luz Fernandez was held in isolation and incommunicado for almost four months, an exceptionally long period of incommunicado detention even by Spanish standards. The method of isolating a detainee is, according to another member of the group who underwent it, "worse than the most severe torture, for it makes a human being lose life's normal equilibrium and arrive at a situation where everything is possible: suicide, acceptance of anything".

Several strong letters of protest by her detained friends about her treatment were smuggled out of prison in the beginning of January, and two days later the incommunicado was lifted. With 14 other detainees, including the original group of nine, she is now awaiting trial for the cafe bombing. Two of them, Genoveva Forest and ANTONIO DURAN, also face charges of complicity in the assassination of Prime Minister LUIS CARRERO BLANCO in December 1973, and it is feared that the death penalty may be asked for them.

There are strong indications that these charges are false, and *AI* is investigating possibilities to adopt these people as prisoners of conscience. *You can help by writing courteously-worded letters, urging humane treatment and a fair trial for Maria Luz Fernandez and the others, and requesting an independent inquiry into reported ill-treatment, to:* Excelentísimo Señor Don Carlos Arias Navarro, Presidente del Gobierno, Presidencia del Gobierno, Castellana 3, Madrid, Spain.

HOPEFUL SIGNS

Denmark: In February a member of the CAT Department visited Copenhagen for meetings with Dr INGE KEMP GENEFKE, several of her medical colleagues and members of the *AI* Danish section concerning various medical research projects that are underway in Denmark. One group of doctors and medical researchers is engaged in trying to determine whether torture by electric shock leaves lasting dermatological or neurophysiological signs. A second project concerns methods of storing, transporting and analyzing torture victim's blood, urine or saliva for traces of certain chemicals. A third group of doctors are preparing themselves for missions, developing suitable techniques for examining allegations of torture.

Medical Code: The Irish Medical Association has given its approval to a draft code of ethics regarding doctors' involvement in the treatment of prisoners. The British Medical Association will also consider the draft code before it is passed on by both associations to the World Medical Assembly in Tokyo this October for adoption. The code deals with the issues of artificial feeding of prisoners, commitment of political dissidents to mental institutions and the interrogation of prisoners. On this last subject the draft code reads: "No doctor should take part, directly or indirectly, in interrogation procedures or in torture of prisoners."

Greece: The former commandant of the notorious Boyati military prison north of Athens was remanded in custody recently, along with three of his subordinates, on charges of torturing political prisoners under the 7 year Greek military junta. Lieutenant Colonel PETROS GOROS, the first military officer still serving in the Greek Army to be charged with offences committed under the junta, has been jailed in his own prison.

Philippines: Following protests and allegations of torture against the military made by two Roman Catholic priests and other martial law detainees held at Camp Olivas near Manila (February *CAT Bulletin*), charges have been filed against five army officers, according to Secretary of National Defence JUAN PONCE ENRILE. In addition seven military men have been dismissed and six others who served at the camp have been officially reprimanded.

AI WORKSHOP ON TORTURE

Unforeseen circumstances have delayed the printing of the report of the *AI* workshop on human rights (January, *CAT Bulletin*), but it will be ready soon and distributed to all *AI* national sections. Copies can be ordered, free of charge, from Amnesty International Publications, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England. A contribution for postage and for larger orders will be very much appreciated.