



Political Detainees Freed in Rhodesia

More than 700 out of a total of 950 political detainees are reported to have been released from detention in Rhodesia during April following the conclusion in March of an internal settlement agreement between Prime Minister Ian SMITH and three black political groups led by Bishop Abel MUZOREWA, Reverend Ndabaningi SITHOLE and Chief Jeremiah CHIRAU. Those freed include supporters of Bishop Muzorewa and Reverend Sithole and also a number of detainees known to support the Patriotic Front led by Joshua NKOMO and Robert MUGABE, which operates from exile and is not a party to the internal settlement.

In early May, *AI* wrote to Bishop Muzorewa and the other black members of the Executive Council to request a full list of all those freed from detention and to appeal for the immediate release of some 250 political detainees who remain imprisoned. *AI* also requested clarification of the status of convicted political prisoners currently under sentence of death, following an announcement by Bishop Muzorewa and Reverend Sithole that they would not agree to further executions. *AI* urged that those concerned should not merely be granted an indefinite stay of execution but should have their sentences formally commuted without delay.

APPEALS ON BEHALF OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THAILAND

On 17 May, *AI* appealed to the government of Thailand to release various categories of political prisoners. At the start of an international campaign on behalf of Thai prisoners, *AI* released a document describing its concern for those political prisoners:

- arrested before the military coup of 6 October 1976 and charged with alleged violations of the Anti-Communist Activities Act;
- arrested during the coup of 6 October in connection with events at Thammasat University;
- detained by emergency decree on suspicion of being "dangerous to society";
- arrested in remote areas and held without trial on suspicion of being communists or communist sympathizers.

AI urged the Thai government to release unconditionally those prisoners detained without trial and to release on bail those who are currently on trial. *AI* estimates that the number of political prisoners held in Thailand, including those detained by emergency decree, amounts to several hundred and possibly as many as a thousand.

AI also criticized changes in Thai law following the 1976 coup. Among these was a constitutional provision allowing the prime minister to order the summary execution

of offenders without trial, which has been used on at least nine occasions to execute people accused of serious crimes. Martial law decrees which allowed the detention of political prisoners without trial, were also criticized.

Since the 6 October coup, all political parties and political gatherings have been banned. The press has been subject to censorship and the government has suppressed trade union activities by banning strikes and other forms of demonstration by workers.

PRESIDENT URGED TO INTERVENE IN BRAZILIAN HUNGER STRIKE

On 4 May, for the second time in three weeks, *AI* cabled President Ernesto GEISEL of Brazil asking him to do all in his power to end a hunger strike of nearly all of the country's 200 political prisoners.

The hunger strike began on 12 April in what is considered to be Brazil's worst prison, the Professor Barreto Campelo Penitentiary in Itamaraca, Pernambuco State, and has now spread to nearly every other prison in the country. All 15 political prisoners in Itamaraca have been transferred to a military hospital where they are refusing medical treatment and only accepting sugar and water. Great concern has been voiced about the health of one of them, Rholine Sonde CAVALCANTI, who is diabetic.

The strikers were protesting at the protracted solitary confinement of Rholine Sonde CAVALCANTI and Carlos Alberto SOARES, both of whom have been detained in this way since September 1975 at Barreto Campelo. The Secretary of Justice for the State of Pernambuco, Sergio HIGINO, has for the first time enforced part of the Law of National Security, whereby persons sentenced to life imprisonment must be separated from other political prisoners, to isolate the two men completely.

Itamaraca is the only prison in the country where the rule has been enforced

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MORE ARRESTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

More arrests and convictions of human rights activists in Czechoslovakia have recently come to *AI*'s notice:

● In March Michal KOPAL, a worker, and Ivan MANASEK, a student, were arrested in Prague on charges of "incitement" (article 100 of the Czechoslovak penal code). The two had allegedly produced and attempted to distribute previously unpublished information about conditions in the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

● On 2 March legal proceedings were instituted against two Roman Catholic priests, Marian ZAJICEK and Robert GOMBIK, for dissemination of the Charter 77 manifesto.

All four men are signatories of Charter 77.

● Protestant priest Miloslav LOJEK, serving in the army, was detained on 19 December 1977 for distributing Charter 77 documents among his fellow soldiers. He was sentenced on 9 March this year by the military court in Plzen to 15 months' imprisonment on charges of incitement (article 100) and undermining the political and moral authority of the army (article 288). Since Mr Lojek was barred in 1975 from holding religious services, he was employed as a worker before being called up to the army.

● Gustav VLASATY, an employee in the chemical industry and an active trade unionist, was detained on 30 January for displaying on a wall clippings from the party newspaper *Rude Pravo* announcing salary increases next to his payslips showing no rise in his own pay. He was sentenced on 5 April to 20 months' imprisonment for incitement (article 100).

● Ivan JIROUS, an art historian and artistic director of the non-conformist rock group Plastic People of the Universe and a signatory of Charter 77, was sentenced on 11 April in Prague to 8 months' imprisonment for breach of the public peace (article 202). On 5 May the appeal court increased his sentence to 18 months at the request of the procurator. Ivan Jirus had been arrested on 25 October 1977 after an exhibition at which he spoke lightly of youth organizations and made an "offensive remark" about an official. His arrest came one month after his release from a previous 18 months' prison sentence.

All seven men have been adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience.

President Urged to Intervene in Brazilian Hunger Strike

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and some local authorities consider such isolation to be illegal.

AI stated that the solitary confinement of Rholine Sonde Cavalcanti and Carlos Alberto Soares constitutes an inhuman and arbitrary punishment, which can harm the mental and physical health of the prisoners.

● The hunger strike ended on 9 May when permission was given for Rholine Cavalcanti and Carlos Alberto Soares to mix with the other political prisoners several days a week.

ARCHBISHOP REPORTED RELEASED IN GUINEA

Unconfirmed reports from West Africa suggest that the Guinea government may have released one of the country's most prominent political prisoners, Roman Catholic Archbishop Raymond Marie TCHIDIMBO.

Monseigneur Tchidimbo, the Archbishop of Conakry, had been imprisoned for 7 years. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour in January 1971, together with 67 others convicted of complicity in a commando raid on Conakry, Guinea's capital, in November 1971. The Guinean government blamed Portuguese colonial forces and Guinean opposition elements for the attack.

Tchidimbo and those imprisoned with him were sentenced by a special Supreme Revolutionary Tribunal made up of the entire 75-man Guinean National Assembly. Those who were tried by this tribunal were given no opportunity to defend themselves, and many were not even present during the proceedings. More than 60 received life sentences; 58 others were executed.

Tchidimbo's release comes at a time when diplomatic relations between Guinea and neighbouring West African countries, particularly Senegal and Ivory Coast, are improving. It is widely believed that pressure from these two countries has been an important factor in obtaining the release of Mgr. Tchidimbo, who remains Archbishop of Conakry.

According to *AI's* information, Tchidimbo had been imprisoned since 1971 at Camp Boiro in Conakry, Guinea's main prison camp for political prisoners, where more than 1,000 such prisoners are held. They are not allowed to communicate in any way with the outside world and cannot receive visits from their families. Conditions at the Camp are also reported to be extremely harsh and many prisoners are believed to have died as a result of ill-treatment, starvation or disease.

Recently, *AI* has attempted to focus international attention on the plight of political prisoners in Guinea by initiating a prison adoption program. Two prisons, Camp Boiro itself and the Kémé Boureïma Prison at Kindia, where many political prisoners are also held, have been adopted by *AI* groups who are seeking substantial improvements in prison conditions.

OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY CONDITIONS IN ITALY'S "SPECIAL PRISONS"

AI has welcomed the opportunity to undertake a study of conditions inside the maximum security prisons in Italy with the cooperation of the authorities.

A letter from *AI* on 8 May to Franco EVANGELISTI, Under-Secretary to the Italian Council of Ministers, welcomes Mr Evangelisti's statement of 5 May that the Italian government would cooperate with *AI* in carrying out such an inquiry. The letter continues: "In this understanding *AI* has decided (under article 1c of its Statute) to take responsibility for the establishment of a proper investigation of conditions in special prisons in Italy.

"As a first step to such an investigation *AI* requests the Italian government to confirm formally that it is willing and ready to permit the *AI* nominated personnel to visit prisons in special category, to meet with prisoners, prison personnel and other relevant authorities in Italy, and to view documentation pertinent to the investigation.

"In requesting the cooperation of the Italian government in an investigation of special prisons *AI* does not in any way imply that it is more or less concerned with conditions in this category of penitentiary establishment than with conditions in any other type of prison facilities in Italy.

"The modalities and procedures for the carrying out of this investigation have still to be decided within *AI* and possibly in consultation between *AI* and other qualified bodies specialist in the field of human rights and prison conditions."

AI had already at its International Council Meeting in 1975 decided to seek ways of studying conditions in maximum security prisons in Western Europe.

DETENTIONS AND KILLINGS IN EL SALVADOR

AI cabled President Carlos Humberto ROMERO of El Salvador on 11 April expressing concern at reports of detentions, killings and torture during a military operation in San Pedro Perulapan, a rural community in Cuscatlán Province. The operation, which began in mid-March was directed against leaders and members of the two major Salvadorean peasant federations, FECCAS (Christian Salvadorean Peasant Federation) and UTC (Union of Rural Workers). Government communiqués issued before and during the operation claimed that peasants belonging to these unions were killing members of the para-military rural vigilante force ORDEN, setting fire to farms and kidnapping or forcing the owners to flee.

Refugees fleeing from the area under military control to the capital, San Salvador, disputed the government's version of events and claimed that the violence had been provoked by members of ORDEN. ORDEN which is directed by the Ministry of Defence and headed by the President, functions both as a security force and a political

organization. According to the refugees, a FECCAS leader, Tránsito VASQUEZ was captured on 20 March by 40 members of ORDEN. The following day his body was found, decapitated and badly mutilated. It was recovered by members of FECCAS and UTC who forced five members of ORDEN to bury the body. Soon afterwards, the government instructed the families of ORDEN members to evacuate their homes and take shelter in the school house of San Pedro Perulapan because army units were about to enter the province to commence a military operation.

A series of attacks by the combined forces of the National Guard and ORDEN took place in several districts of Cuscatlán. An unknown number of people were killed, wounded or "disappeared". In San Pedro Perulapan, 50 peasants were reportedly killed and over 50 wounded. Seventy people were arrested, homes were ransacked and burned by the security forces and hundreds of peasants fled the area abandoning their homes and possessions. Journalists who attempted to enter the area were turned back at military road-blocks.

Monseñor ROMERO, Archbishop of San Salvador, urged the government to allow an independent commission of inquiry to help those who fled their homes and to investigate the disturbances. A further appeal was made by the Archbishop that the military operation should be stopped as it could only lead to more violence. Appeals for an amnesty for those arrested during the disturbances have come from the Church and legal circles.

The government's claims that the peasant federations had organized a rebellion in San Pedro Perulapan, an area noted for peasant union activity, is seen by observers as an attempt to discredit the federations. Calls by the federations for minimal social reforms, such as increased access to agricultural credit and the return of land presently occupied by military forces, have met with no response from the government.

NEWS OF PAST CAMPAIGNS

On 25 March Ahmed Fu'ad NEGM of Egypt (March *Prisoners of the Month Campaign*) was sentenced to one year's imprisonment by the Central Military Court in Cairo. Mr Negm, a well-known poet, was arrested with six others in November 1977 after attending an illegal political meeting at Ain Shams University, Cairo. The court acquitted three persons and sentenced two others, Muhammad Fathi MAHMOUD and Magdi Abdul Hamid BILAL (both students at Ain Shams University), to 3 years and 3 months respectively. The court decided that the case of a seventh student, Medhat Ezzedin ABDUL GHAFAR did not fall within its jurisdiction. The sentences now await ratification by President Anwar SADAT.

Prisoners of the Month Campaign

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. It is important for the prisoner that messages to the authorities are worded carefully and courteously and that they are never sectarian.

Sonny VENKATRATHNAM, *South Africa*

Sonny VENKATRATHNAM, a prominent member of the Unity Movement in South Africa, was restricted under a 5-year banning order in early April. He had just completed a 6-year prison sentence at Robben Island, South Africa's main political prison.

Under the terms of his banning order, Sonny Venkatrathnam is under partial house arrest and is subject to other restrictions on his freedom of movement, association and expression. The terms of the order make it an offence punishable by imprisonment for him to communicate in any way with two other former Robben Island prisoners, Frank ANTHONY and Robert WILCOX.

They were released at the same time as Mr Venkatrathnam and also banned. The three men were held together for 6 years on Robben Island and were in daily communication. Now that they have completed their sentences, the Minister of Justice has, without recourse to the courts, prohibited them from further contact with one another.

Sonny Venkatrathnam was previously banned from 1965 to 1970. In February 1971, he was detained without charge for several months under section 6 of the Terrorism Act and held in solitary confinement. Later that year, he was charged, together with 12 other members of the Unity Movement, with conspiracy to overthrow the South African government. At the trial, several of the defendants alleged that they had been severely tortured during detention at a special interrogation camp in an isolated part of the Mkambathi Forest in the Eastern Cape. Sonny Venkatrathnam was convicted and sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment. He served the full sentence on Robben Island: political prisoners, unlike convicted common law offenders, receive no remission of sentence in South Africa.

Please send courteously worded appeals for the immediate lifting of the banning orders on Sonny Venkatrathnam, Frank Anthony and Robert Wilcox, to: The Honourable James Kruger, Minister of Justice, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa.

LI Zhengtian, *People's Republic of China*

LI Zhengtian, aged 36, was born in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province, People's Republic of China, and studied at a primary school attached to the Canton Fine Arts College. He graduated from the college in 1966, when the Cultural Revolution started. Like millions of young people, he participated in the Cultural Revolution and wrote posters

and articles. He was reportedly arrested in August 1968, during the waves of arrests which marked the end of the Cultural Revolution, and detained for three years in Canton. After his release in 1971, Li worked in his college library and again began writing articles and wallposters.

Li is one of three authors of a wallposter signed *Li Yizhe* and entitled *Concerning Socialist Democracy and Legal System* which was displayed in Canton in November 1974. The poster covered about 100 meters of a street wall and criticized the repression which had taken place under Lin Biao, former Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party who disappeared in 1971. The poster stated that many miscarriages of justice committed under Lin Biao had not yet been rectified and demanded that steps be taken to respect the "people's democratic rights" and protect their human rights.

Li Zhengtian was apparently the main author of the poster, but two other men, Chen Yiyang and Wang Xizhe, had contributed to its writing. The pseudonym *Li Yizhe* was a combination of parts of their three names.

The poster was officially criticized as "reactionary" and Li, Chen and Wang were taken to "criticism meetings" in Canton. In early 1975, the three men were sent away from Canton to work "under supervision", which means restricted freedom and work under surveillance. Li Zhengtian was reportedly sent to a mine in Shaoguan district, north of Guangdong province, which is said to have a mixed labour force of prisoners and civilian workers. He was still there at the end of 1976. In early 1977 it was reported that Li, Chen and Wang had been officially labelled "counter-revolutionary", which usually indicates a formal punishment.

Various sources reported in mid-1977 that Li Zhengtian had been sentenced to life imprisonment. An official court announcement, posted in Canton and dated 3 June 1977, reportedly said that Li was sentenced to life imprisonment for advocating a "counter-revolutionary" program in his poster. It is not known whether Chen Yiyang and Wang Xizhe were sentenced at the same time, but it has been reported that more than 10 people were sentenced in connection with the *Li Yizhe* case.

The present whereabouts of Li Zhengtian, Chen Yiyang and Wang Xizhe are unknown. Unconfirmed reports say that two of them are in labour camps in Guangdong province, while the third is in Yunnan province.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Li Zhengtian, to: Chairman Hua Guofeng, Peking, People's Republic of China.

José CARPIO, *Ecuador*

José CARPIO was detained on 19 October 1977 in La Troncal, Cañar Province, Ecuador, along with ten other leaders of the *Federación de Trabajadores Libres del Azuay* (Federation of Free Workers of Azuay). They were arrested in connection with an incident at the Aztra sugar mill.

On 18 August 1977, the Supreme Council of the Ecuador government increased the price of sugar by almost 50%. At the same time, they issued a decree which stated that this increase would not lead to a rise in salary for the sugar workers. This violated the terms of collective agreements which provided for automatic wage increases with every increase in sugar prices.

In October, 1,800 workers at the Aztra sugar mill went on strike in protest at the company's refusal to abide by the collective agreements. Reports say that nearly 700 workers and their families were occupying the mill on 18 October when 150 police surrounded the building, giving the workers and their families two minutes to leave.

The police blocked all the exits except a small rear door. As people tried to escape through this door, the police attacked with teargas and guns. Official sources state that 25 people drowned in the irrigation ditch next to the factory. Trade unionists say that more than 100 people were killed and that some of them were shot by the police.

José Carpio has been held since then in the *Cuartel Modelo* in Guayaquil, although several leaders arrested with him have since been released. He will probably be tried by the *Intendente General de Policía* of Cañar Province, under Decrees 105 and 1475 which were passed following a 24-hour general strike called by the country's three major trade union federations on 18 May 1977. Decree 1475, promulgated on 26 May 1977, extended Decree 105 of the Constituent Assembly of 1967 under which the organizers of strikes "prejudicial to public peace and the national economy" were subject to between 2 and 5 years' imprisonment and fines of up to £200. Lower penalties were decreed for participants in such strikes.

Decree 1475 also assigned the status of "Special Judges" to the *Intendentes Generales de Policía* who are civilians answerable directly to the Ministry of the Interior. They are in charge of public order and internal security at a provincial level and normally only deal with minor offences. Decree 1475 gave the *Intendentes* the power to try summarily and sentence strikers under Decree 105 without the right of appeal.

Please send courteously worded appeals for the immediate release of José Carpio to: Vicealmirante Alfredo Poveda Burbano, Presidente del Consejo Supremo de Gobierno, Palacio de Gobierno, Quito, Ecuador.

PRISONER RELEASES AND CASES

The International Secretariat learned in April of the release of 121 prisoners under adoption or investigation and took up 158 new cases.

ELECTION PROTESTORS ARRESTED IN THE PHILIPPINES

More than 600 people were arrested in Manila on 9 April during a demonstration protesting against alleged fraud and intimidation in The Philippines elections of 6 April.

On 10 April *AI* wrote to President Ferdinand MARCOS urging the release of the demonstrators and pointing out that, according to the press reports, the demonstration had not involved any violence.

It was reported on the same day that President Marcos' cabinet had determined to take "preventive and preemptive" action against any open dissent from his rule of martial law imposed in September 1972.

Most of the arrested demonstrators were released on 19 April, although 558 still face charges of violating article 146 of the revised penal code (illegal assembly). Over 30 remain in detention. They include opposition campaign coordinators and seven leaders of the opposition: former Senator Francisco RODRIGO Sr; attorney Teofisto GUINGONA; law professor Aquilino PIMENTEL; attorney Joker ARROYO (a member of the Civil Liberties Union of The Philippines); attorney Francisco RODRIGO Jr and Father Romeo INTENGAN, a Jesuit priest.

All known cases are being adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience.

TRIALS OBSERVED IN EGYPT

During April, *AI* delegated Olivier GUIGNABAUDET, Assistant Legal Adviser at *AI*'s International Secretariat, to observe sessions of two trials taking place in State Security Courts in Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt.

On 16 April, Mr Guignabaudet attended the initial hearing of the trial of 176 persons, most of whom have been adopted by *AI*, arrested for political reasons following the food riots of January 1977. During the trial, the Egyptian Bar Association made a formal request to the tribunal concerning the case dossier for the prosecution. This dossier contained 11,000 pages and the number of copies printed was apparently insufficient for the needs of the lawyers for the defence. In addition, the dossier was available at the formidable cost of £E500 (£680, \$1,238). The Bar Association urged that an adequate number of the prosecution dossiers be printed, and that a complete dossier be given to each defence lawyer free of charge. The tribunal agreed to the first request only and decided to adjourn until 16 May. The court also decided that six defendants who had previously escaped arrest but who were present at the court hearing should be released. They were, however, arrested on leaving the court. *AI* subsequently wrote to Mr Ibrahim Al QALYOUNI, the Prosecutor-General, expressing concern at the reported arrest of these persons and requesting clarification of their present situation.

The second trial concerns 19 persons originally arrested in 1973 and charged under article 98A (a) of the penal code with membership of illegal political parties.

During 1975, *AI* had sent two observers to attend parts of their trial and the group was finally acquitted in May 1976. During 1977, however, President SADAT vetoed the court decision with the result that the 19 are being retried in Alexandria. On this occasion, Mr Guignabaudet was able to hold talks with members of the tribunal and defence lawyers and to meet some of the prisoners. At the time of writing, this trial is still in progress.

APPEAL TO NEW PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN

Following the violent overthrow of President Mohammed DAOUD of Afghanistan, *AI* urged President Nur Mohammed TARAKKI of the newly proclaimed Democratic Republic to intervene to prevent further political killings of people associated with the former administration.

In its cable of 4 May, *AI* appealed to the new government to protect the lives of all those exposed to the danger of being killed for political reasons, including surviving members of the family of the former President Daoud and ministers in his administration. Mr Daoud and many members of his family were killed during the coup which began on 27 April.

Expressing concern at reports of large scale political arrests in Kabul and the provinces, *AI* urged the immediate release of all persons arrested for political reasons.

MISSION VISITS SYRIA AND JORDAN

French jurist Christian BOURGUET and Wendy LEVITT, from *AI*'s Research Department, visited Syria from 11-17 March to discuss with the government matters of concern to *AI* including detention without trial and reported ill-treatment of prisoners.

They discussed with Minister of Justice Adib NAHAWI the use of martial law regulations under the present state of emergency, a matter to which President Hafez ASSAD had drawn attention and forthwith prohibited in his 8 March speech to the People's Assembly, on assuming the presidency for a second term. The minister was asked to send *AI* the names of 179 people whose release was announced as a result of the presidential statement on the misuse of martial law. The delegates asked for the names of 104 political prisoners whose release had been reported.

The delegates discussed the 72 cases for whom *AI* groups are currently working, all detained without trial for several years. Attention was drawn to reports of continued abductions from Lebanon. Forty four such cases reportedly in detention were named.

The delegates met Dr Haitham KELANI, Director of International Relations at the Foreign Ministry, but were refused a meeting

with Minister of Interior Adnan DABBAGH. Talks on legal matters were held with the President of the Constitutional Court, Maître Jamal NAAMANI; President of the Syrian Bar Association Maître Sabah al RIKABI and other leading constitutional lawyers.

● *AI* Deputy Secretary General Dick OOSTING and Wendy LEVITT visited Jordan from 17-20 March. They discussed with Minister of Interior Suleiman ARAR the cases of 47 political detainees reportedly detained without trial from one to five years. They also met with Mr Faleh al TAWHEEL, Director of International Organizations at the Foreign Ministry. Discussions on the legal situation in Jordan relating to *AI*'s concerns were held with the President of the Jordan Bar Association Ibrahim BAKR and other leading lawyers.

SWAZILAND DETAINS SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES

At least 14 South African political refugees, all members of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), were detained in Swaziland between 7 and 10 April. They included Gus NDLOVU, the main representative in Swaziland of the PAC, an African nationalist organization which was banned in South Africa in 1960 following the Sharpeville killings, when 69 PAC supporters demonstrating against the Pass Laws were shot dead by the South African police. Since 1960, the PAC has operated from exile with its headquarters in Tanzania but with branches also in Swaziland and Lesotho.

AI cabled Swaziland's Deputy Prime Minister, Zonka KHUMALO, on 10 April expressing concern about the detentions and the possibility that the detainees might be forcibly repatriated to South Africa where they could face prosecution on political grounds. Subsequently, Mr Khumalo was reported to have stated that the detainees would not be sent back to South Africa but would be held in detention as prohibited immigrants until arrangements could be made for them to go to other African countries. He also reportedly said that the decision to arrest the PAC members followed discussions between the Swaziland government and Potlako LEBALLO, probably the most prominent PAC leader outside South Africa, who recently visited Swaziland from his base in Tanzania. This has led some observers to suggest that the arrests occurred because of a leadership dispute within the PAC following the death of the organization's founder, Robert SOBUKWE, in South Africa last February (April *Nesletter*).

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER is published monthly by: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England. Printed in Great Britain by Hill and Garwood Ltd., Fourth Way, Wembley, Middlesex. Available on subscription at £6 (US \$15) per calendar year.



amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture

June 1978 Volume V Number 6

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Release of Pakistan Mission Report

On 15 May *AI* released the report of its mission to Pakistan, which took place from 20 to 25 January. The report expresses concern at the introduction of stern martial law provisions in Pakistan which curtail fundamental freedoms and provide for preventive detention.

AI expresses particular concern about the practice of trying civilians charged with political offences before military courts, which often inflict sentences of flogging. *AI* considers flogging to be "a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment", as proscribed in international law. The report states that at least 160 political prisoners have so far been sentenced to flogging. *AI* is disturbed that this unusual punishment is used in Pakistan and inflicted on prisoners who often appear to have done no more than exercise the right of freedom of speech and expression guaranteed in the constitution.

In his foreword to the report, Thomas HAMMARBERG, Chairman of *AI*'s International Executive Committee, criticizes the application of the death penalty in Pakistan and points out that the recent public executions of civilians tried by military courts have constituted a dangerous precedent.

He also repeated *AI*'s appeal to the Pakistan government to commute, on humanitarian grounds, the death sentences imposed on former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali BHUTTO and his four co-accused convicted of murder (*April Newsletter*).

In a number of recommendations in the report, *AI* urged the Pakistan government:

- to abolish the practice of trying civilians before military courts;
- to abolish immediately flogging of political prisoners;
- to repeal present legal instruments providing for preventive detention of political prisoners;
- to abolish special courts, particularly those trying political prisoners;
- to admit international observers to all stages of all trial proceedings against Mr Bhutto, including the stage of appeal; to allow international organizations access to the former prime minister in prison; and to repeal preventive detention orders against leaders of the Pakistan People's Party.

The above recommendations were made in the context of the extensive cooperation received by the *AI* delegation during its January visit to Pakistan. The delegation, consisting of Professor Mūmtaz SOYSAL, Vice-Chairman of *AI*'s International Executive Committee, and Yvonne TERLINGEN, a member of *AI*'s International Secretariat, met Chief Martial Law Administrator, General Mohammad ZIA-ul Haq, as well as other prominent government officials and lawyers and relatives of political prisoners. The delegation attended military

trials of civilians in Lahore but was not given permission to meet Mr Bhutto in prison during his trial.

The report estimates the number of political prisoners in Pakistan at the time of the mission to be several hundred. Several thousand supporters of the former prime minister have since been arrested under martial law provisions, many of them for protesting against the death penalty imposed on Mr Bhutto.

On 1 May, 26 journalists in Lahore were arrested under martial law for attempting to stage a hunger strike in protest against the closure of the daily newspaper *Musawat* which supports the Pakistan People's Party. As of 15 May, when *AI*'s report was released, 71 journalists had been arrested under martial law of which more than 30 had been sentenced to imprisonment and have undergone flogging in prison. These include Masudullah KHAN, a senior sub-editor on the *Pakistan Times* who is known to have a leg disablement □

ETHIOPIA: 'RED TERROR' VICTIM'S EXPERIENCE OF TORTURE

AI has received a great deal of information from Ethiopia on torture and political killings carried out during the military government's "red terror" campaign against suspected "counter-revolutionaries", which has been continuing since November 1977. A consistent pattern has emerged of widespread arbitrary arrests, systematic torture, large-scale exemplary killings, and mass political education in custody (*April Newsletter*).

AI believes that the following account of a 17-year-old university student's experience, received from a reliable source, is a typical case. The name of the youth cannot be released for fear of reprisals against him and his family. His brother was one of about 2,500 people killed on suspicion of anti-government political activity in the first phase of "red terror".

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DEATHS UNDER TORTURE CONTINUE IN PARAGUAY

Since *AI* published detailed information on 10 deaths and 20 disappearances in Paraguay, in September 1977, thousands of people throughout the world have petitioned President Alfredo STROESSNER to launch an inquiry into these cases and to apply the basic human rights and legal safeguards of the Paraguayan constitution to political prisoners.

No such inquiry has taken place. *AI* has now received information alleging that in February another political prisoner, died at the hands of the Paraguayan torturers.

Ana GONZALEZ, aged 31, was arrested by two plainclothes policemen on 31 January and taken by private car to the Third Police Station for questioning. An hour before her arrest, she had been dismissed from her job in a textile firm.

It is believed that the only possible reason for her dismissal was her defence of her rights as an employee and the rights of her fellow women workers, many of whom receive salaries far below the average minimum.

Ana Gonzalez was reportedly brutally tortured in the Third Police Station, a well-known torture center. She received several blows to the head and her nails were pulled out. She was reportedly in a coma and on the point of death, when she was taken to the Red Cross Hospital under plainclothes police guard.

Members of her family were threatened and told to say that she had had a traffic accident.

On the evening of 8 February the police ordered her brother, who was at her bedside, to leave the hospital. He was told that Ana would be deported to Argentina the following day and that she would cross the border at Ita Enramada.

Her family waited there at the appointed time but Ana did not arrive. The police said that she had crossed the border an hour earlier.

Instead, Ana Gonzalez' body was handed over to her family by the police on 15 February, again with strong threats. The police insisted that the funeral vigil should not take place at her home but in another district.

Ana's body was completely mutilated. Her hands had been cut off; organs and legs destroyed and the body showed deep wounds from head to foot.

Her family was given three days to leave the country □

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Rochambeau NESTOR, Luc
DESELMOURS, Ceres DACCUEIL,
Haiti

Rochambeau NESTOR, Luc DESELMOURS and Ceres DACCUEIL are three political prisoners who were last seen in Fort Dimanche prison, Haiti, in September 1977 when President Jean Claude Duvalier declared an amnesty to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Duvalierist rule in the country.

Rochambeau Nestor, a law professor at the Archahaie Lycée, was arrested in 1969 and had been detained since 1976 in cell Number 7 at Fort Dimanche. Luc Deselmours was arrested in July 1976 and detained in cell Number 2 since October 1976. Ceres Daccueil had been detained in cell Number 4 since September 1976. None of the three prisoners had been brought to trial.

After the release under the amnesty of 104 political prisoners the government stated there were no more political prisoners in Haitian jails. Nestor, Deselmours and Daccueil were not among those released, nor were they included in a list received by *AI* of 103 political prisoners who had reportedly died in detention in the prison since 1972. The 103 named prisoners appear to have died of illnesses caused by the poor prison conditions—lack of sanitation, deficient diet and no proper medical attention. The most common illness reported was tuberculosis (72 out of 103 cases). Torture and unofficial executions also took place in the prison.

Fort Dimanche prison was reportedly closed for repairs after September 1977. *AI* is therefore concerned about the whereabouts and safety of the three prisoners who are among a substantial number of political prisoners whose whereabouts have never been revealed by the Haitian government since the amnesty and the temporary closure of the prison.

Please send courteously worded appeals asking for information on the legal status and whereabouts of Rochambeau Nestor, Luc Deselmours and Ceres Daccueil to: Son Excellence Jean-Claude Duvalier, Président à Vie, Port au Prince, Haiti.

Ethiopia: 'Red Terror' Victim's Experience of Torture

Continued from page 1, column 2.

This student, who denies any involvement in political activities, was arrested by *kebelle* (urban association) guards in the capital, Addis Ababa, in January. He was detained for a few days and tortured under interrogation. The *kebelle* guards eventually accepted his pleas of innocence but demanded that he prove his support for the Revolution by torturing girls held in the *kebelle* prison. This he refused to do. He was then thrown into a van with several other youths who

were to be killed and their bodies left by the roadside as a warning to others. Like them, he had a label attached to his back giving the reasons for his "execution". None of them had been tried.

One of the *kebelle* officials guarding these "condemned" youths recognized him and succeeded in persuading the other guards that he had never been involved in political activities and there was no good reason to kill him. He was released and returned home. Here he was examined and secretly treated by a medically qualified friend of the family.

According to that person's description of his physical state, he had severe lacerations from flogging across the back, and bruising on the neck, shoulders, chest and feet from further beating. His hands were weak and his wrists showed black marks caused by the rope from which he had been suspended during beatings. He had burns on the head and experienced great difficulty in swallowing, which supported his statement that he had been tortured by electric shocks to the head and throat. His body was dehydrated and he had to be drip-fed. He felt great pain in the ribs, indicating that they may have been fractured, but it was not possible to X-ray him to confirm this. He suffered from severe depression and other symptoms of disorientation, for which he later received hospital treatment, though the depression continued because his position was still insecure. His case was still to be reviewed by the local *kebelle*, whose armed guards frequently torture and kill those they accuse of being "counter-revolutionaries".

AI has no further information about his fate, but "red terror" continues throughout Ethiopia, particularly against youths and students and, recently, against employees in government and commercial institutions □

POLISH AUTHORITIES STEP-UP HARASSMENT OF DISSIDENTS

AI has received reports that, since the start of 1978, the Polish authorities have subjected a number of dissenters to detention and ill-treatment by the police. The reports concern members and close associates of the Social Self Defence Committee (KOR, formerly the Workers Defence Committee) and the Society of Scientific Courses (TKN).

KOR was formed in 1976 to provide legal, medical, and financial aid to workers imprisoned after the riots and demonstrations against food price rises on 24 June 1976. After the release of the workers in 1977, KOR broadened the scope of its activities and began to publicize cases of unfair trials, harassment, alleged beatings, job discrimination, and censorship.

The TKN was founded in January 1978 by a group of Polish intellectuals to offer study facilities supplementary to those available in the country's established educational system.

According to reports received by *AI*,

members and sympathizers of these groups have become targets of official pressure despite their efforts to keep their activities within the constitution of the Polish People's Republic.

Some members and close associates of KOR and TKN have been persecuted and prosecuted. It appears that the Polish authorities are attempting to isolate the most active members of KOR from Polish society who are not aware of the subversive aims of a few dissidents hostile to socialist society in Poland.

The treatment allegedly meted out to some associates of these groups is illustrated in the cases of Wladislaw SULECKI and Adam MICHNIK (May *CAT Bulletin*). Sulecki, a miner and member of the editorial board of *Robotnik*, an unofficial paper, was reportedly beaten up by the police in May 1977 after taking part in a meeting with members of the KOR in Radom. In September 1977, he was attacked and beaten up by "unknown individuals". His house was searched several times by the police, without authorization, between September 1977 and January 1978. During the same period manure was found on his doorstep on several occasions. The family submitted formal complaints to the local authorities but were warned not to submit any further complaints □

NEW EVIDENCE OF TORTURE IN CHILE

AI has received new information on the case of Haydée PALMA (May *CAT Bulletin*). According to her recent testimony, Haydée was continuously tortured from 16 to 22 January in the Villa Grimaldi torture center in Santiago, Chile. She was so badly tortured that doctors from the National Center for Information (CNI—*Central Nacional de Informaciones*) who examined her advised that torture should be stopped because she might die.

The torture continued: "For 21 days I bled; my whole body was bruised; my face was deformed. . ." she says. On 13 and 14 February she was given electric shocks which caused partial amnesia. "Upon waking, I couldn't even remember what I was called."

On 16 February, she was taken by car to the Peruvian border. There she was given false identity papers and placed on a bus. She is now recovering abroad.

JORDAN URGED TO COMMUTE DEATH SENTENCES

AI has urged King HUSSEIN of Jordan to commute, on humanitarian grounds, four death sentences reportedly passed on 2 April. The condemned men had been found guilty of selling land in former Jordanian territory now occupied by Israel. The death penalty for this offence was introduced in 1973.