



## AI Condemns Killing in Argentina

The death of a German woman in "unofficial" custody in Argentina was condemned by *AI* in a cable to President Jorge VIDELA of Argentina on 15 June. Elizabeth KASEMANN, a 29-year-old citizen of the Federal Republic of Germany was shot by the military in Monte Grande, a town 17 miles from the Argentine capital Buenos Aires, on 23 May, three months after her detention by security forces.

*AI* has firm information that Miss Kasemann had been held since 9 March in an unofficial detention center where she was subjected to torture. Despite high level interventions by the Federal German Foreign Office, there was no indication of Miss Kasemann's whereabouts until 1 June, when an armed forces communique announced that, a week earlier, "16 leftwing guerrillas had been killed during an army raid in Monte Grande". The only name given was that of "Isabel Kasemann, a foreign national".

In its cable to President Videla, *AI* asked the Argentine government to explain how Elizabeth Kasemann came to be shot while in the "unofficial" custody of Argentine security forces. *AI* also called on the government to release the names of the other 15 people reportedly killed at the same time. During that week almost 50 persons reportedly died in similar anti-subversive operations. *AI* appealed to the authorities to "halt the current practice of unacknowledged detentions, torture and killings of hundreds of individuals in Argentina".

Among cases recently reported to *AI* are a number of foreign visitors to Argentina who appear to have no immunity against this form of attack. Klaus ZIESCHANK is one of 11 West German nationals who have disappeared since the 1976 Argentine coup. A German student visiting his parents in Argentina, Mr Zieschank was abducted in Buenos Aires on 26 March 1976. In November that year, the Chilean authorities informed the Federal German embassy in Santiago that Klaus Zieschank may have been among a number of people killed in July or August in a car accident near the border between Argentina and Chile.

*AI* has also recently learnt of the disappearance of Swiss citizen Alexei JACCARD-SIEGLER, on 16 May, one day after his arrival in Buenos Aires to visit friends.

The exact number of persons known to have been abducted by the Argentine security forces since the coup is not easily ascertained. Church sources suggest that the figure may

be as high as 17,000 while even senior government officials have admitted unofficially that, in the past 14 months, the authorities have received more than 2,000 inquiries from friends or relatives of missing persons. The discrepancy between these two figures is due to the fact that relatives either fear reprisals if they report disappearances, or else believe that reporting is useless. From a total of 600 people whose disappearance since the coup has been firmly established by *AI*, no more than 23 have been definitely released.

While *AI* deplores the continuing leftwing violence in Argentina, it does not accept that the situation justifies the persistent violation of human rights and constitutional freedoms by law enforcing bodies. *AI* does not believe that a sovereign state can establish security in an atmosphere of terror or reinstate law and order by arbitrary and illegal acts□

### "STANDARD MINIMUM RULES" EXTENDED

The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners have just been strengthened by the 62nd session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). On 13 May the council decided to extend the range of application of the rules to give basically the same protection to persons arrested or imprisoned without charge as that given to other prisoners by the rules.

This has been achieved by adding a new Rule 95, on the recommendation of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and the Commission for Social Development. *AI* had made a proposal to this effect at the time of the Fifth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1975.

In a related development, ECOSOC has also submitted the Draft Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials to the UN General Assembly. The draft had been drawn up by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its 1976 session, in which *AI* was represented as an observer. The assembly will consider adoption of the code at its 32nd session this autumn□

### AI URGES HELSINKI FINAL ACT SIGNATORIES TO IMPLEMENT RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE PROVISIONS

*AI* appealed in May to every signatory state of the Helsinki Final Act to work for full implementation of the document's pledges on the rights of conscience.

Writing on 30 May to the heads of states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Thomas HAMMARBERG, chairman of *AI*'s International Executive Committee, said that

"principle 7 of the Final Act on the relations between participating states could be seen as recognition that imprisonment for exercise of the rights of conscience is incompatible with the norms of government of the states of Europe".

In principle 7 participating states undertake "to recognize and respect the freedom of the individual to profess and practice, alone or in community with others, religion or belief acting in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience", and to promote "the effective exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and other rights and freedoms. . . ."

*AI* told the heads of state that acceptance of this principle could serve as a first step towards the eventual development of mechanisms and detailed standards for respecting human rights which would apply to the whole of Europe. *AI* hopes that a Europe-wide version of the Strasbourg Human Rights Convention, Commission and Court could ultimately be developed.

*AI*'s letter pointed out that violations of principle 7 have continued in many states of Europe, and that domestic legislation punishing some forms of exercise of the rights of conscience by imprisonment has in most cases not been repealed or amended since the Final Act was signed in 1975.

*AI* called on all signatory states to bring their domestic practice and legislation into line with their undertakings in the Final Act. At the same time, *AI* expressed the hope that the violations of those undertakings which have occurred would stimulate rather than impede continuing discussion and development of the Final Act's human rights provisions□

## AI INTRODUCES POC YEAR IN MIDDLE EAST

Mumtaz SOYSAL, vice-chairman of *AI*'s International Executive Committee and Professor of Constitutional Law at Ankara University, Turkey, and June RAY from *AI*'s research department, visited Egypt from 3-15 May to introduce the organization and its Prisoners of Conscience Year campaign to the Middle East. A second objective of the mission was to discuss with Egyptian government officials the problem of those detained since the January 1977 demonstrations, as well as detention and trial procedures generally in Egypt.

The delegates discussed with Minister of Justice Ahmad Samih TALAAT and Prosecutor General Ibrahim AL QALYUBI the cases of those detained of concern to *AI* (March Newsletter). The delegates were assured that all those not involved in acts of sabotage had full legal rights, including the right to appeal in open court for release from custody every 30 days after arrest. The court's decision is confirmed or vetoed by the President within 15 days, the delegates were told.

*AI*'s delegates later attended one such court hearing (where three students appealed unsuccessfully for release) and visited two lawyers in Abu Zaabal prison where 95 people, arrested during the January demonstrations, were held. Of these 95, 49 had allegedly been involved in acts of sabotage, while 46 were "political" detainees. The delegates were unable to visit a student in the Citadel prison.

*AI* believes that about 200 people are still detained in Egypt for membership of illegal political organizations or for allegedly instigating the riots.

On 12 May, the delegates held a press conference in Cairo to launch Prisoners of Conscience Year in the Middle East. Arranged with the cooperation of the Egyptian Ministry of Information, the conference was supported by the Union of Arab Lawyers and held at their headquarters. It was attended by 20 Middle Eastern journalists and the delegates were interviewed by Radio Cairo, and by the Egyptian newspapers *Al Ahram* and *Al Gumhuriya*.

The delegates also introduced *AI* and discussed future cooperation with such organizations as the Egyptian Bar Association, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions and the Union of Arab Journalists.

Other meetings were held to explore the possibilities of forming an *AI* national section or adoption group in Egypt □

## NEW DEATH SENTENCES REPORTED IN CHINA

Eight young men were reportedly sentenced to death in Shenyang, Liaoning province, in the People's Republic of China in May. Travellers to the city who saw an official

notice announcing the sentences have reported that the execution of one of the eight, convicted of unspecified crimes, will be suspended for two years. A ninth offender was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Among those sentenced to death was a 24-year-old man reportedly accused of founding a political movement called the "China revolutionary party", of listening to foreign radio broadcasts and of attempting to reach the Soviet border. The others faced various charges, including theft, murder and rape. It was also reported that one of the nine men was accused of keeping a "revisionist" diary and of writing "counter-revolutionary" poems and slogans.

*AI* cabled Chairman HUA Guo-feng on 25 May expressing deep concern at these reports and urging again that death sentences be commuted.

About 100 death sentences have been reported in various provincial cities during 1977. They concerned political as well as criminal cases, and some were followed by immediate execution (May Newsletter) □

## COMMONWEALTH CONDEMNS AMIN REGIME

The Commonwealth heads of government meeting in London in June condemned the Uganda military regime for its denial of basic human rights.

In the conference's final communiqué on 15 June the Commonwealth leaders stated, "Cognizant of the accumulated evidence of sustained disregard for the sanctity of life and of massive violation of basic human rights in Uganda, it was the overwhelming view of Commonwealth leaders that these excesses were so gross as to warrant the world's concern and to evoke condemnation by Heads of Government in strong and unequivocal terms".

Prime Minister Michael MANLEY of Jamaica called the Uganda regime "a shame to all mankind".

• **Jurists Report on Uganda:** On 18 May the International Commission of Jurists published the reports on human rights violations in Uganda which it submitted to the United Nations from 1974 to 1976. Copies of the publication, *Uganda and Human Rights*, can be obtained from the ICJ, PO Box 120, 1224 Geneva. Price US \$6.00 □

## 1977 ANNUAL REPORT PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER

*AI*'s Annual Report 1977 will be published on 10 December—Human Rights Day.

The Annual Report has previously been published to coincide with *AI*'s annual International Council meetings. But this year *AI*'s International Executive Committee (IEC) has agreed to undertake an experiment. An internal "Annual Report" will be prepared by the International Secretariat and the IEC for discussion by *AI* delegates at this

year's International Council. This document will relate to the work of the IEC and the IS and will discuss the general problems and activities in much greater detail than is possible in the public, printed Annual Report.

The new presentation will also provide an opportunity of including a more detailed account of the work of the national sections.

The public document will concentrate on a survey of *AI* concerns, including the country-by-country report of the IS Research Department which is normally included in Annual Reports □

## AI PROTESTS AT SUMMARY EXECUTIONS IN THAILAND

On 16 June, *AI* cabled Prime Minister THANIN Kraivichien of Thailand to express its profound regret at the summary execution without trial of three men on 14 June.

The three men were executed by firing squad for their alleged involvement in the death of 28 people by Cambodian troops at three Thai border villages on 28 January.

*AI* urged Mr Thanin to discontinue the practice of sentencing people to death without trial, which it described as a gross violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a complete denial of due process, which as a former judge, Mr Thanin should uphold. *AI* also stressed that it was opposed to the application of the death penalty in all cases □

## AI ATTENDS SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFERENCE

Malcolm SMART, head of the African research section at *AI*'s International Secretariat, attended an International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia in Mozambique from 16-21 May. Participating in the United Nations-sponsored conference were former *AI*-adopted prisoner Robert MUGABE, now one of the joint leaders of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), and Sam NUJOMA, President of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

The conference also heard speeches on southern Africa from Mozambique President Samora MACHEL, Jamaican Prime Minister Michael MANLEY, British deputy Foreign Minister Ted ROWLANDS and United States Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew YOUNG □

## DEATH SENTENCE IN JORDAN MAY BE COMMUTED

On 16 May *AI* urged King HUSSEIN of Jordan to commute a reported death sentence passed on Mohammed Mahoud Hassan AL MOMANY for spying. A reply from the king's secretary on 26 May stated that the sentence had not as yet been confirmed and there was a possibility that it might be commuted □ ;



# 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.

## Victor NKANDI—*Namibia*

Victor NKANDI is a leading member of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), which opposes continued South African rule in Namibia.

He was first arrested in August 1975 after the assassination of Chief Filemon Elifas, Chief Minister of the Ovamboland "bantustan". Mr Nkandi was held incommunicado and without charge until March 1976, when he was called as a prosecution witness at the trial of six other SWAPO supporters charged under the Terrorism Act. He and another detainee, Axel Johannes (June 1976 *Prisoners of the Month*), refused to testify, alleging that they had been tortured during interrogation by South African security police. As a result, both men were sentenced to one year's imprisonment for contempt of court.

Mr Nkandi was due to be released from Windhoek Prison on 28 February this year. However, on that day he and Axel Johannes were re-detained by security police and transferred to their main interrogation center as Oshakati, in northern Namibia. Former detainees who saw the two men at Oshakati report that they have both been seriously ill-treated and are in poor physical condition.

Victor Nkandi has not been charged with any offence although he has been in prison continuously since August 1975. He is in his mid-twenties, and married with one child, now two years old.

*Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for the release of Victor Nkandi, to: Hon. J. T. Kruger, Minister of Justice, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa.*

## Mohammad Ibrahim MUNSHI—*Pakistan*

Mohammad Ibrahim MUNSHI, a poet from Pakistan's Sind province, was arrested in October 1975 for reciting poems critical of the government at a private house. He is at present awaiting trial before a special tribunal for committing a "pre-judicial act".

Mr Munshi's poetry has attracted great interest, particularly among students and peasants in the Sind, Pakistan's southernmost province. When Pakistan's first general election was held in 1970, Mr Munshi and many other Sindhis supported the winning Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Mr Munshi's disillusion after the PPP formed a government led to his writing a number of often satirical poems critical of the party and its leader.

He was first arrested in February 1972 and charged under martial law regulations for reading satirical poems. In April 1972

he was convicted by military court and sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment.

He was again arrested in January 1974 for publicly reciting his poems in Karachi on the anniversary of the birth of G.M. Sayed, a veteran Sindhi nationalist leader. He was detained under the Defence of Pakistan Rules, but was never brought before a magistrate. He was granted bail on 1 October, but this was cancelled after ten days when he was again arrested. He was then released two weeks later.

His latest arrest followed a private party in the Tatta District of Sind, which he attended early in October 1975. He was asked to read some of his poems and, though reluctant, was persuaded to recite the very poem for which he had been imprisoned before. The poem was recorded without his knowledge, and on 13 October he was arrested near his home in Hyderabad district. He was detained for three days in a police station, without charge or access to relatives or a lawyer, before he was taken to Tatta town and charged under the Defence of Pakistan Rules with "committing a prejudicial act".

His case is now pending before the Special Tribunal for Sind and Baluchistan and he is believed to be detained in Karachi Central Jail.

*Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for the release of Mohammad Ibrahim Munshi, to: His Excellency Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Office of the Prime Minister, Islamabad, Pakistan.*

## Heinrich Davydovich REIMER—*Soviet Union*

Heinrich Davydovich REIMER, a Soviet citizen of German descent, is currently serving a sentence of 3 years' imprisonment for advocating the right of Soviet Germans to emigrate from the Soviet Union and for organizing their efforts to emigrate.

Born in 1932, Mr Reimer is the widowed father of three children. Like many other German-origin Soviet citizens, he has been denied official permission to emigrate from the USSR. Since 1972 he has been active in issuing appeals to foreign governments (particularly that of the Federal Republic of Germany) and international organizations.

In June 1976 he was arrested at his home in Issyk in the central Asian Kazakhstan Soviet Socialist Republic. He was subsequently charged with "dissemination of fabrications known to be false which defame the Soviet state and social system", a charge frequently made against dissenters in the USSR.

Mr Reimer was tried in September 1976

on charges of preparing, sending and circulating a number of appeals to Soviet and foreign leaders which the Soviet authorities alleged contained "slandorous falsehoods" about the circumstances of Soviet citizens of German descent, and of preparing lists of such citizens who wished to emigrate. But the court did not prove that any statements made by Mr Reimer were false.

Mr Reimer was judged guilty and is serving his 3-year sentence in a Kazakhstan corrective labour colony.

*Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for the release of Heinrich Davydovich Reimer, to Mr A D Kunayev, First Secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party: SSSR, Kazakhskaya SSR, g. Alma-Ata, Tsentralny Komitet KP Kazakhskoy SSR, Pervomu Sekretaryu A D Kunayevu.*

## FORMER MALI HEAD OF STATE DIES

Modibo KEITA, the former Mali head of state who had been deposed by Colonel Moussa TRAORE in 1968, died on 16 May. Mr Keita had apparently been in poor health for some time and cause of death is said to be lung disease.

Mr Keita, his wife Miriam and several of his former supporters had been detained without charge or trial since 1968. They were adopted as *AI* prisoners of conscience in 1973 and repeated appeals were made for their release. Despite a promise of clemency first made by President Traore in 1974 and repeated in February this year, Mr Keita was not released. He was subsequently transferred from prison to house arrest in Bamako, where he died.

All *AI* groups working on Mali have written to the Minister of the Interior in Mali enclosing letters of condolence for Mme Keita, who is still detained □

## CHILE ATTEMPTS TO DENY DISAPPEARANCES

The apparent decline in repression in Chile during the first four months of 1977 ended in May with a new wave of arrests and the disappearance of many of those arrested.

In the following weeks, most of the victims reappeared. Some were released and others were charged. *AI* has received testimony of the tortures suffered by two of the released victims.

Two other reappeared persons, Carlos DEL SOLAR and Jorge SALAZAR, made public statements that they had never disappeared and that their names had been used as a "show" to discredit the government.

National and international institutions have asked for clarification on why their families announced their supposed "disappearance" originally.

Continuing arbitrary arrest, torture and murder of Chilean citizens by the ruling junta were denounced in May by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In

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## Chile Attempts to Deny Disappearances

*Continued from page 3, column 3.*

its third report on Chile, the commission charged the government with violating its own decrees and regulations providing for the protection of human rights.

Observers believe that the two "staged" cases may have been planned to coincide with the June meeting of the Organization of American States, where the OAS Commission on Human Rights' report will be presented, to support the government's denial that more than 1,500 prisoners have disappeared □

## BUDDHIST LEADERS 'ARRESTED IN VIETNAM'

Reports of the arrests of Buddhists in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam were received in April. Most reports gave no details of those arrested but stressed that tensions between members of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam and the authorities had increased recently.

One source, however, reported the arrest of five leaders of the Unified Buddhist Church on 5/6 April at the An Quang Pagoda in Ho Chi Minh city. The leaders mentioned are Thich Quang Do, Thich Huyen Quang, Thich Thuyen An, Thich Thong Hue and Thich Tong Buu. The An Quang Pagoda had been famous during the war as a center of opposition to the Saigon government and its members have maintained an independent position vis-à-vis the new government of Vietnam.

Some time before the reported arrests, one of the five leaders was said to have launched an appeal to members of the church "to be ready for sacrifice to preserve dignity and doctrine".

*AI* wrote to President Ton Duc Thang on 11 May, expressing deep concern at these reports and urging that those detained be released pending an inquiry □

## EXECUTIONS AND DEATH SENTENCES REPORTED IN SYRIA

*AI* wrote to President Hafez ASSAD of Syria on 5 May asking for verification of the reported execution by firing squad of four men on 24 April. They had been arrested in Lebanon following the killing of two members of the Syrian armed forces outside Beirut.

On 20 May, *AI* asked Syrian Minister of Justice Adib NAHAWI to verify a report that a Palestinian convicted of murder had been hung in Damascus on 24 March.

*AI* again wrote to President Assad on 8 June asking for information about six further death sentences reportedly passed on counts of sabotage on 2 June □

## SEAN MacBRIDE AWARDED LENIN PEACE PRIZE

Sean MacBRIDE was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize in May. Chairman of *AI*'s International Executive Committee for the first 14 years of *AI*'s existence, Mr MacBride

received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974.

Such recognition of Sean MacBride's contribution to world peace and human rights is unique □

## APPEAL COURT UPHOLDS DEATH SENTENCES ON MALAWI OFFICIALS

Malawi's National Traditional Court of Appeal upheld the judgement and sentences of death imposed on former cabinet minister Albert MUWALO and Focus GWEDE, former chief of Malawi's security police, on 21 April. Both men had lodged appeals after being sentenced to death on treason charges by the Southern Region Traditional Court on 14 February. They are alleged to have plotted the assassination of President Hastings Kamuzu BANDA and the overthrow of the Malawi government.

*AI* had urged President Banda on 15 February to commute the death sentences (March Newsletter) □

## Amnesty International requires

**Researcher for the Middle East department.** To investigate human rights situations and individual cases in the Middle East and North Africa. Work involves preparing prisoner biographies, background reports, briefing missions and formulating policy.

Principle requirements: specialist knowledge of the area, its history and politics; background in related academic studies; objective political judgement. Fluent English and good working knowledge of Arabic and French essential.

Salary £4113 per annum. Closing date 22 July, 1977. Position will be based in London.

Application forms are available from: Amnesty International, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England. Telephone: 01 836 7788.

## INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE TO DISCUSS NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Practical arrangements for *AI*'s International Council, to be held at Bad Honnef, Federal Republic of Germany, 16-18 September, will be discussed by the International Executive Committee (IEC) at its July meeting in London.

The IEC will formulate resolutions and plan discussion papers for the council meeting □

## NAMIBIAN PRISONER EXECUTED DESPITE AI PLEA FOR COMMUTATION

*AI* cabled South African Justice Minister James KRUGER on 25 May urging him to commute the death sentence imposed in September 1976 on a Namibian, Filemon NANGOLO. Despite this appeal and

representations made by other organizations and by a number of Western governments, Mr Nangolo was executed at Windhoek Prison on 30 May.

Mr Nangolo was paralyzed from the waist down as a result of a shooting incident when he was arrested in April 1976.

He was sentenced to death on 14 September 1976 after a two-week trial in the Windhoek Supreme Court. He was convicted of participating in four murders and it was alleged that he had undergone guerrilla training in Angola. Charges under the Terrorism Act were dropped by the prosecution □

## AI CONCERNED ABOUT CONGOLESE PRISONERS

Reports that prisoners recently jailed following the assassination of Congolese President Marien NGOUABI are denied visits from their families prompted *AI* to cable the new head of state, President Joachim YHOMBI-OPANGO on 4 May. *AI* expressed particular concern about Professor Pascal LISSOUBA who was recently moved to Ouessou Prison in the extreme north of Congo.

Professor Lissouba was sentenced to life imprisonment in April for his alleged participation in the assassination of President Ngouabi. However, according to reports reaching *AI*, Professor Lissouba first learnt of his sentence through a news report on the radio and was given no opportunity to repudiate the charges against him □

## RELEASED PARAGUAYAN PRISONERS SEEK ASYLUM IN PERUVIAN EMBASSY

Three former Paraguayan detainees were reportedly granted political asylum in the Peruvian Embassy in Asunción, Paraguay, in April. Antonio MAIDANA, Alfredo ALCORTA and Julio ROJAS, who are all members of the illegal Paraguayan Communist Party, were released in January after more than 18 years' imprisonment (February Newsletter). It is believed that they sought refuge in the embassy because of the insecurity of their situation—they have not been given any identity papers since their release and consequently have been unable to travel.

Paraguayan Minister of Interior Dr Sabino MONTANARO stated that their asylum was not justified as they were not suffering any persecution. They would not be granted safe conduct passes but could leave the country as private individuals. However, the minister's statement conflicts with the government's refusal to issue passports to the three men □

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amnesty international

# campaign for the abolition of torture

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MONTHLY BULLETIN

## “Sequelae of Torture a Disease” say AI Doctors

AI conferences in Amsterdam, London and Stockholm on 3 June publicly introduced the first AI report on medical research into torture, called *Evidence of Torture: Studies by the Amnesty International Danish Medical Group* (summarized in June CAT Bulletin). The media, medical journalists, government health officials, representatives from religious groups and medical doctors attended the conferences.

Participating in each conference were members of the Danish research team, who called on their medical colleagues to regard the sequelae (symptoms and effects) of torture as a man-inflicted disease that should be studied and treated by doctors. Further research into the whole field of torture was called for, especially into those aspects of torture that would lead to better detection of torture, even months or years after it has occurred, and to more thorough medical treatment for torture victims.

The Danish doctors explained the structure of their own group, which comprises several smaller units. The 14 members of the central, travelling group coordinate the work of all the units. This group is trained

### Philippines Torture Investigations

At least one of the men who tortured Trinidad HERRERA in the Philippines in April is to be put on trial.

Mrs Herrera was arrested on 26 April and subjected to severe torture, including electric shock applied to her thumbs and breasts (June CAT Bulletin).

Following her release by the martial law administration on 13 May, Mrs Herrera identified three men as having tortured her. The country's martial law administration has since reportedly announced its intention to put at least one of them on trial.

AI wrote to President Ferdinand E. MARCOS of The Philippines on 26 May recommending that any investigation into the torture allegations should be conducted by an open and independent commission of inquiry, rather than by a military tribunal or court-martial.

The Philippine authorities have also ordered an investigation on 25 May into the case of Ruben BERNARDO, a 17-year-old student, who complained that he was “pistol-whipped” by a policeman during questioning in connection with an alleged theft □

to travel anywhere in the world where torture is allegedly being used. The mandate of such doctors sent by AI's International Executive Committee is to examine victims and, where possible, to confirm torture allegations as well as collect material for further research.

Of the research units, one is focusing on the effects of electrical torture and another on the effects of *falanga* (beating on the soles of the feet). Others are studying endocrinological, neurophysiological and other effects of torture. A new forensic unit is now being formed to examine cases of detainees who have died allegedly as a result of torture.

The letter-writing group is the largest unit, comprising about 100 members from Denmark. This group's main task is to exert pressure on authorities and medical colleagues to provide humane treatment for prisoners in countries where torture is used.

The psychiatric unit works independently, but in cooperation with the other units. It is composed of five psychiatrists who investigate certain abuses of psychiatry, including the internment of human rights activists in mental hospitals and the use of drugs to torture such prisoners □

### VICTIM DESCRIBES LIFE IN A URUGUAYAN TORTURE CENTER

A striking personal testimony about life of political prisoners inside a Uruguayan torture center, which has become known as *El Infierno* has been received by AI. According to this and other consistent testimonies, *El Infierno* is a two-storey building inside a military barracks, 13th Armoured Infantry Battalion (*Batallón de Infantería Blindada No. 13*). It is one of the many establishments—military barracks, police stations and private houses—used by the Uruguayan security forces as interrogation and torture centers.

According to the testimony, hundreds of prisoners have passed—and continue to pass—through *El Infierno*. Most of them have been victims of unofficial arrest, others may have been acknowledged to be in detention, but their families and lawyers are denied information about their place of detention.

The prisoners are kept blindfolded and seated in rows of chairs most of the time. Continued on next page, column 2.

### NAMIBIAN CHURCH LEADERS ISSUE STATEMENT ON TORTURE

Four Namibian church leaders described in a public statement issued on 26 May the systematic practice of torture in Namibia and suggested ways to combat it. Bishop L. AUALA of the Evangelical Lutheran Ovambokavango Church, Dr J.L. de VRIES of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, Bishop R. KOPPMANN of the Catholic Diocese of Windhoek, and the Reverend E. MORROW of the Anglican Diocese of Damaraland, say that in spite of assurances and promises previously given to church leaders by the South African authorities who administer Namibia, the practice has increased rather than decreased.

“The only conclusion we can come to in these circumstances is that those who have authority in the South African forces have given their approval to the use of these brutal methods. The only alternative explanation would be that the South African forces are out of control, or at least vast numbers of officers are incapable of exercising authority over their subordinates. This applies equally to the “homeland” governments and their tribal police forces.

“It seems there are many people in our country who have given their approval to the use of torture. They say that such methods are necessary if we are to save our society from being overrun by lawless people. To this we answer that when a society consents to the use of torture, no matter how tacitly, it has condoned the most horrible form of brutality. It has adopted values and practices at least as evil as those it claims to be combatting. Once condoned, torture starts a chain reaction of brutality and inhumanity, poisoning the whole of society.”

The statement calls upon the South African government to amend the laws “in such a way that it is impossible for torture to take place”, since the existing South African security laws “promote the practice of torture”. They advise the Namibian people to inform the churches, either directly or through their relatives, friends or lawyers, about all details of any ill-treatment or torture inflicted upon them, and promise to do their utmost to assist victims and to work towards the eradication of torture in their country □

# appeals

## Adriana GATTI DE REY—Argentina

Adriana GATTI DE REY, an 18-year-old woman in an advanced state of pregnancy, was abducted in Buenos Aires on 9 April.

Adriana is the daughter of Gerardo GATTI, a leading Uruguayan trade unionist who was among 30 Uruguayans living in Argentina kidnapped during June and July 1976. It was later known that Señor Gatti was kept in a house in Buenos Aires for several weeks. He had been tortured and was in a poor state of health. There has been no news of him since August 1976.

Señor GATTI's wife and youngest children left Argentina, but Adriana believed she was in no immediate danger and remained in Buenos Aires to complete her studies. However, it is becoming increasingly common in Argentina for the families of suspected left-wing sympathizers to be the victims of illegal detention, torture or even assassination.

*Please write courteously-worded letters, urging that the whereabouts of Adriana Gatti de Rey be established and she be released, to: Exmo. Sr. Presidente, General Jorge Rafael Videla, Casa de Gobierno, Buenos Aires, Argentina; and to: General de División Guillermo Suarez Mason, Primer Cuerpo del Ejército, Av. Santa Fe y Luis M. Campos, Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

## Marko DIZDAR—Yugoslavia

Marko DIZDAR, a 26-year-old former student at Zadar University in Yugoslavia, was tried and convicted in 1975 of terrorist activities as an alleged member of a Croatian nationalist group. *AI* has some evidence that the charges were largely fabricated at a time when political and cultural turbulence in Croatia gave anxiety to the Yugoslav government. However, in March 1976 an appeal court confirmed the 11-year prison sentence passed on Mr Dizdar and those on his 15 co-defendants, who included students, professors and intellectuals from the Zadar area.

*AI* has received information that several defendants in the Zadar trial have been kept in solitary confinement for more than a year. Mr Dizdar was named as one of these. According to this information, the prisoners in solitary confinement are allowed only 30 minutes' exercise each day, and exercise is taken in handcuffs.

In addition, Marko Dizdar has reportedly undergone brain surgery at Zagreb prison hospital during the past year. The medical reasons for the surgery are unclear. Prison authorities have claimed that they were correcting a childhood disorder, but Mr Dizdar's brother has said he had no such disorder. *AI* is investigating his brother's claim, made in a letter to *Le Monde* of 2 June 1976, that Mr Dizdar's family had been forced to confirm the prison authorities' statement, but that the surgery was actually

the "logical consequence of physical ill-treatment suffered in the prison".

Mr Dizdar is believed to have been an argumentative prisoner and often in trouble with the authorities at Lepoglava Prison before his transfer to Zagreb prison hospital for the brain operation.

*AI's* concern stems from the serious questions surrounding the conviction of Mr Dizdar and the effect on him of prolonged isolation. *AI* opposes prolonged solitary confinement, particularly in the case of a prisoner known to suffer from ill health.

*Please write courteously-worded letters, expressing concern about the health and conditions of detention of Marko Dizdar and requesting clarification about the reason for his surgery, to: President Josip Broz Tito, Office of the President of the Republic, Bulevar Oktobarske Revolucije 70, Belgrade, Yugoslavia; and to: Mr Z. Uzelac, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Croatia, Republicki Sekretarijat za Pravosudje i Opstu Upravu SR Hrvatske, 41000 Zagreb, Jezuitski trg 4, Yugoslavia.*

## NEWS FROM PAST APPEAL

The Turkish Ambassador at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg has asked *AI's* International Secretariat to inform *AI* members and readers of the *Newsletter* that, as a result of an inquiry by the Istanbul public prosecutor into allegations of torture by student leader Paşa GUVEN in January (February *CAT Bulletin*), three policemen are on trial for assault. The prosecutor has demanded prison sentences ranging from 9 months to 4 years. Mr Güven has, in the meantime, been released on bail (April *CAT Bulletin*).

Jorge MONTES, an ex-parliamentarian and member of the Communist Party in Chile, was released on 18 June in exchange for 11 East German political prisoners. Señor Montes was severely tortured after his arrest in July 1974 (December 1974 *CAT Appeals*).

## Victim Describes Life in a Uruguayan Torture Center

*Continued from page 1, column 2.*

They are called by numbers and taken to the torture rooms in turns.

"At dawn, they began to call out certain numbers. The first day, I recall, it was numbers 39, 43 and 117. Fifteen to thirty minutes later, I realized where they had gone. Number 39 was a woman, and I heard her screaming that morning. The 'torture machine' was there, close by.

"... They tortured us all day. They kept taking people off in groups of three or four. They would drag them back and throw them on the floor or, occasionally, if they were in a very bad state, on to the mattresses. Many were no longer groaning, they were unconscious. . . . A woman wept the whole day. They took her away at nightfall. I could hear her crying in the distance. Her cries grew louder and louder. She was terrified

and screamed in agony. She was a wife and mother.

"... The night of the dogs was one of the worst nights. We had already heard dogs barking and had imagined they were like those fine, faithful animals which live with us and love our children. But these dogs were different, as I was to discover. They suspended three people, a woman and two men, in a corner. They hung the woman by her hair and the men from under their arms. Their feet were four or five centimeters above the ground. The dogs stood underneath them, barking. I could visualize the three of them trembling with fear. At dawn they asked them if they had anything to say to the commanding officer. No one replied. . . . Soon after, someone else cut the ropes and they fell to the ground. I can imagine the pain they were in. After being suspended like this for hours on end, all your blood runs to your arms and legs and dropping suddenly is agonizing. After falling, they were motionless. YIC, the man from Cerro, died. This had been his final torture. . . ."

The substance and some specific incidents mentioned in the testimony are consistent with other *AI* information. *AI* has received, for example, reliable information about the death under torture of Nuble YIC, a trade unionist from Cerro, in March 1976.

The author of this testimony was eventually released from *El Infierno*.

"... Someone took hold of my arm and pulled me up. I was led to a soft, elegant armchair—no doubt stolen in some raid. They seated me on it and handed me a piece of paper, which I read under my bandage:

"I HEREBY DECLARE THAT WHILE I HAVE BEEN HERE I HAVE NOT BEEN TORTURED AND WAS PROPERLY FED.

"Sign', they said, and I signed."

*El Infierno: Life Inside a Uruguayan Torture Center*, 9 stencilled pages, is available from *AI's* International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England □

## Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in May of the release of 109 prisoners and took up 124 new cases.

## News of Past Campaigns

Joseph Henry MENSAH, serving an 8-year prison sentence with hard labour for sedition in Ghana, has been moved from Nsawam Prison near Accra to a prison at Krechi, in the Volta region. The move took place early in 1977 (January *Prisoners of the Month Campaign*).