



AI Regrets Lack of Concern for Legal Rights in Uruguay

On the fourth anniversary of military rule in Uruguay, *AI* cabled the Uruguayan government on 26 June to express profound regret that the government is not using its authority to safeguard the most fundamental legal rights of its citizens.

AI said it continues to receive reports that the military authorities do not officially acknowledge arrests for several months, if ever, as in the case of J MONTES DE OCA. He was detained in November 1975, and reportedly seen a year later in the barracks of the 1st Artillery Battalion at about the time that the authorities informed his wife that "he had travelled to Argentina".

AI also pointed to reports of conditions of detention in the same military unit, where prisoners are kept practically immobile and on a starvation diet. Journalists Ismael WEINBERGER and Rodolfo PORLEY are both reported to have been tortured there and to have suffered a weight loss of more than 35 kilograms.

Furthermore, prisoners who are already undergoing trial and are therefore under the authority of a judge are nevertheless transferred to secret places of detention for

further maltreatment and torture. *AI* quoted the cases of Jose Luis PICARDO, Leopoldo KLIMENT and Washington DE VARGAS, who were recently taken from Penal de Libertad prison. The latter's sentence expired more than two years ago but he is still detained.

AI made specific reference to the *Batallón de Infantería Blindada 13*, a torture center known as "Hell" among Uruguayan political prisoners. The Protestant ex-minister and writer Hiber CONTERIS was reportedly tortured there following his arrest in December 1976 on his return from a Christian Peace Conference in Czechoslovakia.

AI is particularly alarmed at the failure of the Uruguayan rulers to take concrete steps to safeguard fundamental legal rights, illustrated recently by a statement from a government spokesman that "the security of the state must come before human rights".

AI 'SHOCKED' AT SENTENCES ON SOVIET 'HELSINKI MONITORS'

On 4 July *AI* expressed profound concern at the harsh prison sentences imposed on two members of the Ukrainian public group (established in November 1976) monitoring Soviet observance of the Human Rights provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki in 1975 by 35 states.

Mykola RUDENKO, a 56-year-old writer, the group's secretary and a member of *AI*'s Moscow group since its inception in 1974, was sentenced to 7 years in a corrective labour colony. Alexy TIKHY (48), a teacher, was sentenced to 10 years as a "second offender". (He was imprisoned from 1957 to 1964 for "counter-revolutionary activity" after being convicted of advocating nationalist sentiments.) In addition, the court imposed a 5-year term of internal exile on each of the two men. These are the maximum penalties allowed by Soviet law for persons convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".

Mr Rudenko's and Mr Tikhy's activities in support of human rights have for several years made them the target of official

harassment, culminating in their arrest on 5 February 1977. Mr Tikhy has been unable to work professionally since his release from imprisonment in 1964. Mr Rudenko's work has been excluded from publication and he was expelled from the Writers' Union in June 1976.

The trial took place on 27-30 June in the small Ukrainian town of Druzhkovka, 100 kilometers north of Donetsk. Relatives of the accused were apparently not admitted to the courtroom.

AI said it was deeply shocked at the severity of the sentences imposed on these two men for exercising their constitutional and citizens' rights, especially in view of the Soviet Union's commitment to the human rights provisions of the Final Act and at a time when the agenda of the Review conference is being prepared.

Seven other members of Soviet "Helsinki monitoring" groups, awaiting trial in connection with their human rights activities, have all been adopted as *AI* prisoners of conscience (February and May *Newsletters*).

FORMER AI PRISONER EXECUTED IN RHODESIA

Former *AI*-adopted prisoner Robert Mangaliso BHEBE was hanged in Salisbury Prison on 13 July after his appeal against the death sentence was rejected by the Rhodesian Appeal Court at the end of June. *AI* cabled Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian SMITH on 1 July urging him to intervene personally to prevent the execution of Mr Bhebe, who had been convicted on charges of recruiting nationalist guerrillas.

A prominent supporter of the Zimbabwe African Peoples' Union (ZAPU), Robert Bhebe was detained without charge for several years at Gonakudzingwa detention camp before being released in 1970. Following his release, he was restricted to the town of Gwelo. He served a further period of 90 days' detention in 1971 and then left Rhodesia on an extended visit to Botswana. On his return to Rhodesia early in 1973, he was immediately arrested and severely tortured by Rhodesian security police. He was not charged but was held in secret detention until 1974. During this period he was held in solitary confinement at Buffalo Range Prison for almost one and a half years. He was released in December 1974 after an agreement had been concluded in Lusaka, Zambia, between Mr Smith and the African National Council (ANC), then led by Bishop Abel MUZOREWA.

An amendment to Rhodesia's Law and Order (Maintenance) Act in November 1974 introduced the death penalty on a mandatory basis for persons convicted of recruiting, encouraging or inciting others to become nationalist guerrillas. Since April 1975, all executions in Rhodesia have been carried out in secret. More than 60 political offenders are believed to have been executed during 1976 alone.

11 LIBYAN CASES TAKEN UP BY AI

The cases of 11 Libyans who were tried in closed session by a People's Court in March on charges of "terrorist sabotage" have been taken up by *AI*. All had been arrested in February 1973, but eight were released on bail three months later and re-arrested on 11 April 1976. One of the accused had received a death sentence which was later commuted to life imprisonment (May *Newsletter*). The sentences passed on the others are not known.

The 11 were arrested following demonstrations in Benghazi during the funeral of 49 Libyans who had been killed when a Libyan airliner, straying off course on a Libya-Egypt flight, was shot down by

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11 Libyan cases taken up by AI

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Israeli fighter planes over Sinai on 21 February 1973. The demonstrations were largely directed against Egypt, Israel and the United States, and the Egyptian and US embassies and other buildings were attacked. The only arrests were apparently of these 11, who were specifically charged with damaging a statue of the late President Nasser of Egypt in Benghazi. Unofficial sources, however, claim that their arrest was probably due to their criticism of the Libyan authorities and of the proposed union between Libya and Egypt.

News of these cases reached AI only after their trial in March. All 11 are reported to be held in Kuweifiya prison in Benghazi.

AI MISSION TO POLAND

In June, AI sent a mission to the Polish People's Republic to seek information on legal questions raised by the cases of workers imprisoned and allegedly maltreated after the June 1976 food strikes and riots in Radom and Ursus (March and May *Newsletters*). The mission was also designed to discuss the cases of imprisoned members of the Workers' Defence Committee (WDC), set up to provide legal, financial and medical help to these workers.

AI's mission delegate, Parisian lawyer Marc Archambault de MONTFORT, met officials of the Prosecutor-General's Office, the Ministry of Justice and the workers' defence lawyers as well as members of the WDC who are not in prison.

Mr de Montfort expressed concern at the detention of ten members and helpers of the WDC, arrested between 14–25 May this year. One of them, the literary critic Dr Jan Jozef LIPSKI, one of the most active members of the WDC, was detained in spite of his serious heart disease requiring instant medical care. Shortly before his arrest, he also publicly appealed to the state authorities to institute a public inquiry into the case of Stanislaw PYJAS, a human rights activist from Krakow who died in Krakow in mysterious circumstances on 7 May 1977 after threats to his life had allegedly been made by members of the secret police. Mr Lipski was released shortly after AI's mission took place.

The WDC members and their helpers are held in preventive custody and are likely to be charged with non-violent offences such as communicating with hostile organizations outside Poland and disseminating hostile literature. They may be detained for as long as six months before formal charges are brought against them.

The Polish authorities were reluctant to review the legal questions involved in the ten cases, as requested by AI, but have said they will allow AI to observe the trials when they eventually take place.

The AI mission also inquired about allegations that five workers still imprisoned received unfair trials. One of these workers, Czeslaw CHOMICKI, was detained

two weeks after the Radom strikes on charges of causing damage to the Communist Party headquarters. Police evidence at his trial was contradictory — one police officer testified that Mr Chomicki tried to put out the fire at the headquarters, while another officer, whose testimony was accepted by the court, said Mr Chomicki had broken cupboards and panes of glass. The latter police officer had allegedly beaten Mr Chomicki during his interrogation.

Mr Chomicki's sentence of 9 years was not reduced on appeal.

Both the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Justice maintained that those workers still in prison had received fair trials and would not discuss the issue in further detail with AI's delegate.

The authorities agreed that numerous individual complaints alleging beatings and maltreatment had been sent to parliament, but said that no inquiry had been ordered into the allegations. The Prosecutor General's Office told AI's delegate that in exceptional circumstances which endangered the security of the state — such as the riots and strikes in June 1976 — special measures might be employed by the Polish police, but said that the police at Ursus and Radom were only equipped with teargas and truncheons, not firearms.

• **On 22 July the 10 members and helpers of the WDC as well as the five workers were released.**

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ADVISES IEC ON PLANNING

The International Executive Committee (IEC) at its July meeting in London discussed a report from the special *ad hoc* committee established in May to consider the growth and development of AI and to advise on future planning. The committee had met from 16–19 June in Cambridge.

Its report covered a wide range of issues and problems confronting AI as a result of the organization's accelerated growth during recent years. It contained far-reaching proposals and recommendations on such major topics as:

- strengthening the organization and structures of AI national sections;
- systematic "training" of AI members and staff;
- decentralizing certain tasks connected with the servicing of AI groups from the International Secretariat (IS) in London to the national sections;
- developing suitable structures and support outside Western Europe and North America for AI's work;
- maintaining at all times the highest standards of accuracy and reliability of AI's information as an essential basis for its work;
- the importance of stimulating programs to educate the public and raise awareness of human rights as widely as possible;

—emphasizing AI's orientation on prisoners in its work for human rights.

The *ad hoc* committee also offered financial projections for a three to five year period, based on its proposals and relating to its recommendation to contain the growth of the IS.

The IEC is forwarding the report, together with its own comments, to the national sections for discussion and decisions at AI's forthcoming International Council meeting in September.

DETAINEES INJURED IN BANGLADESH PRISON

AI cabled President Ziaur RAHMAN of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 1 July, to express its concern about an incident in Dacca Jail on 22 June, in which several political detainees were reportedly injured, and to request the names of injured detainees.

AI welcomed the government's decision to appoint a commission of inquiry into the incident and urged that the findings of the commission be made public. The cable repeated AI's concern for the safety of political prisoners, which had earlier been expressed in a report prepared on the findings of an AI mission which visited Bangladesh in April this year (June *Newsletter*). The report, prepared by mission delegates Sean MacBRIDE, SC, and Yvonne TERLINGEN from AI's International Secretariat, was presented to President Rahman and other officials of the Bangladesh government on 23 June.

'HUNDREDS ARRESTED' FOLLOWING ANGOLA COUP ATTEMPT

Hundreds of arrests are reported to have taken place in Luanda, the capital of Angola, following an unsuccessful attempt on 27 May to overthrow the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government of President Agostinho NETO. Those detained include a number of Portuguese nationals and Angolan supporters of Nito ALVES, Angola's Interior Minister until late in 1976. Shortly before the abortive coup, Mr Alves was dismissed from the central committee of the MPLA.

AI appealed to President Neto, himself one of AI's first adopted prisoners, on 29 June, urging that those arrested should be charged or released with the minimum of delay. AI also appealed to President Neto to intervene personally to ensure that all prisoners receive humane treatment while awaiting trial or release.

AI URGES COMMUTATION OF DEATH SENTENCES IN EGYPT

On 1 July AI cabled President Anwar SADAT of Egypt and Minister of Justice Ahmed Samih TALAAT, urging that the death sentence passed on Hafez OWEID, accused of espionage for Israel, be commuted on humanitarian grounds.

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.

Alercio VERZOLA—Brazil

Alercio VERZOLA, a 27-year-old businessman from Florianopolis in the south of Brazil, was detained by members of the security forces on 4 November 1975. During the initial period of arrest, he was interrogated, tortured and forced to sign a previously-written statement confessing to attempted re-organization of the proscribed *Partido Comunista Brasileira* (PCB — Brazilian Communist Party), a pro-Moscow party which does not advocate violent revolution.

Torture is known to have included electric shocks and the *pau-de-arara* (parrot's perch) in which the victim is suspended by an iron bar passed between the knees and elbows.

After interrogation, Senhor Verzola was transferred to the Santa Catarina state penitentiary, where he has now been held in preventive detention without trial for more than 2½ years.

Attempts by the only legal opposition party, *Movimento Democrático Brasileiro* (MDB — Brazilian Democratic Movement), to initiate reforms after its victories in the 1974 municipal elections, had created suspicion among the military "hardliners" that it was working in collusion with the PCB.

Senhor Verzola was among more than 35 people arrested in Santa Catarina state towards the end of 1975 on suspicion of attempting to re-organize the PCB. During an intensive campaign by security forces against the PCB, more than 1,500 people were arrested in Brazil. Until then the PCB had been relatively free from harassment by the authorities.

Many of those arrested were detained for short periods only. Others have been tried or released. Some are still held in preventive detention, without access to a court of law, contrary to the time limits for judicial proceedings laid down in the Military Code for Penal Procedure. Senhor Verzola is one such prisoner.

In an attempt to improve his legal position, Senhor Verzola and two other political prisoners — Marcos Cardoso Filho and Roberto Coligni — began a hunger strike on 18 April 1977. Ten days later, when their health had deteriorated seriously, the prisoners were moved to the military hospital adjoining the prison. State legislators and members of the MDB visited them and confirmed that they were receiving proper medical treatment. The visitors also heard the prisoners' allegations that they had been tortured and that legal procedures had not been followed.

The prisoners agreed to end their hunger strike when the authorities assured them their demands would be examined.

The result of an official investigation following the hunger strike is not yet known, but Senhor Verzola's situation remains unchanged.

Please send courteously-worded letters, appealing for the release of Alercio Verzola, to: President Ernesto Geisel, Palacio Presidencial, Brasilia (DF), Brazil.

Mohammed Abshir Musse—Somalia

Mohammed Abshir Musse has been detained without charge or trial in Somalia since 2 June 1973.

He had resigned as brigadier general commanding the Somali police force early in 1969 in protest at electoral malpractices which he alleged were instigated by the civilian government of Prime Minister Ibrahim Egal. Two days after a bloodless army coup had overthrown the government on 21 October 1969, Mohammed Abshir Musse was arrested. He was held under house arrest for 4 years, but was not charged with any offence.

A brief period of freedom from April to June 1973 was followed by re-arrest and imprisonment under the Preventive Detention Law of 1970. The reason for his continued detention appears to be his known support for democratic rather than military government. He is not known to have been involved in political activities against the military regime.

In March 1977 Mohammed Abshir Musse was reportedly held at Lanta Bur Prison, about 50 kilometers west of the capital Mogadishu. He has been allowed almost no family visits or correspondence during his detention. Political detainees at Lanta Bur are not brutally treated and torture is rarely reported in Somalia. But reliable reports state that detainees are kept virtually incommunicado in solitary confinement, and forbidden to talk to one another. They are allowed to pray and read the Koran, but no further study or recreation is permitted. Medical facilities are inadequate, and Mohammed Abshir Musse's health has begun to suffer.

AI has recently heard that he has been transferred from Lanta Bur prison but his present place of detention is not known.

Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for the release of Mohammed Abshir Musse to: His Excellency Challe Mohammed Siyad Barre, President of the Somali Democratic Republic and Secretary General of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, Mogadishu, Somalia.

Mrs WASIRAH—Indonesia

Mrs WASIRAH was only 18 years old at the time of her arrest in Indonesia late in 1965. Shortly after leaving school she married a member of the leftwing youth organization *Pemuda Rakyat* and moved to Jakarta.

The attempted coup of October 1965 took place shortly after Mrs Wasirah moved to Jakarta.

Aimed against the army leadership, the coup was planned by several middle-ranking army officers, who used a para-military training ground at Lubang Buaya on the outskirts of Jakarta as a base. The camp was used at that time by various leftwing and nationalist organizations, and a number of women and girls were training there as part of President Sukarno's confrontation policy against Malaysia.

During the attempted coup, the bodies of six leading generals were found at Lubang Buaya. Newspapers reported that the bodies had been mutilated and the army alleged that the women in the camp were responsible for the atrocities. However, all available evidence suggests that there was no truth in the army allegations.

The new army leadership under General Suharto accused the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) and other leftwing organizations of responsibility for the attempted coup. A purge of the PKI and its associated organizations resulted in hundreds of thousands of arrests and many deaths.

After the arrest of Mrs Wasirah and her husband in October 1965, she was accused of being present at Lubang Buaya at the time of the coup. She denied these accusations then and continues to do so, even though her husband was coerced into saying that she had been there. During interrogation, Mrs Wasirah was repeatedly tortured with burning cigarettes.

Mrs Wasirah has now been detained in Bukit Duri prison for almost 12 years. In that time the Indonesian authorities have never put their allegations against Mrs Wasirah, and others similarly accused, to the test of public trial. After the release of some 20 women from Bukit Duri in 1975, Mrs Wasirah is one of about 50 women remaining in the prison.

Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for the release of Mrs Wasirah, to: President Suharto, Istana Negara, Jalan Veteran, Jakarta, Indonesia; and to: Admiral Sudomo, Kepala Staf KOPKAMTIB, KOPKAMTIB, Jalan Merdeka Barat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

NEWS OF PAST CAMPAIGNS

Joseph Henry MENSAH, serving a sentence of 8 years' hard labour for sedition in connection with a pamphlet he wrote during 1975, has been moved from a prison in Krechi, in the Volta Region of Ghana (to which he had been transferred from Nsawam Prison early in 1977) to Ussher Fort Prison in Accra, the capital of Ghana. There are indications that a date may soon be set for the hearing of his appeal (January and July *Prisoners of the Month Campaign*).

NEW EXECUTIONS REPORTED IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

A report received by *AI* in June alleges that four persons were summarily executed in the village of Prey Pen, Kampot province, Kampuchea (Cambodia) in January. Three of them were reported to be CHAK Chea, a former sailor from Ream, TAN Phok, a merchant, and MOUL Sambok, a former inspector from Kampot. The three were reportedly executed on charges of having connections with "enemies" opposed to the government.

The fourth person, a former soldier from Kampot named THAN, was reportedly arrested and executed on the order of the village chief for reproving his six-year-old daughter when she was singing a revolutionary song.

AI expressed deep concern at this report in June and urged the government of Democratic Kampuchea to set up an inquiry into the fate of the four persons.

OPPOSITION CANDIDATES ARRESTED IN SIERRA LEONE

AI cabled Sierra Leone Head of State Siaka STEVENS on 29 June to express concern at the continuing detention of several leading members of the main opposition Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), including Charles Francis MARGAI.

Mr Margai and other SLPP parliamentary candidates were arrested early in May following widespread civil disturbances during campaigning for Sierra Leone's 6 May parliamentary elections. More than 100 people are believed to have been killed during the disturbances.

In its cable to President Stevens, *AI* urged that Mr Margai and the other detainees be charged and brought to trial or released without delay.

NATIONAL SECTION ADDRESSES

A number of *AI* national sections have changed their addresses:

British Section: 8-14 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England.
Telephone: (01) 836 5621.

French Section: 18 rue de Varenne, 75007 Paris, France. Telephone: (33 1) 222 91 32.

German Section: Venusbergweg 48, 5300 Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany.
Telephone: (49 22 21) 21 70 08.

Swedish Section: Smalandsgatan 2
114 34 Stockholm, Sweden.
Telephone: (46 8) 23 38 55.

LECTURER SENTENCED IN IRAQ FOR 'INSULTING THE STATE'

Talib Al BAGHDADI, a lecturer in political economy at Baghdad University, Iraq, who disappeared at the end of 1976 (*May Newsletter*) was sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment on 29 January under article 226 of the penal code. This provides for up to

7 years' imprisonment for anyone who publicly insults the state. Talib Al Baghdadi had criticized a statement that "he who doesn't work doesn't eat", made by Vice Chairman Saddam Hussein, of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council. A number of students and lecturers who attended the seminar at which the criticism was made were reportedly expelled from the university.

Until his trial, Talib Al Baghdadi was held incommunicado, his family were never informed of his whereabouts and he was said to have been tortured. He is now held in Abu Ghreib prison in Baghdad where his family is allowed to visit him. Talib Al Baghdadi has been adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience.

• On 25 July Talib Al Baghdadi was released.

FURTHER ARRESTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

AI has taken up two new cases of persons detained in Czechoslovakia in connection with the Charter 77 human rights movement. Ales BREZINA, aged 29, a former student of theology and a signatory of Charter 77, was arrested on 25 April for refusing to do military service on grounds of conscience. Frantisek PITOR, aged 54, an electrician and former political prisoner, was arrested on 9 June for distributing copies of Charter 77. He faces trial for incitement under article 100 of the Penal Code.

Two Charter 77 signatories arrested in January (*February Newsletter*) were later conditionally released pending their trial. Writer and theatre director Frantisek PAVLICEK was released on 14 March on health grounds, while playwright Vaclav HAVEL obtained his conditional release on 20 May after pledging to refrain from activities that might be misused abroad.

AI CONCERNED AT REPORTED ARRESTS IN CHINA

Three young men from Canton were reported in May to have been arrested in the People's Republic of China on charges of "counter-revolution". LI Zhengtian, CHEN Yiyang and HUANG Xizhe were the authors of a poster displayed under the pseudonym "Li Yizhe" in Canton in 1974.

Shortly after the poster had been displayed in public, its authors were criticized by the authorities and two of them were sent to work in the countryside. The third, Li Zhengtian, was reportedly sent in early 1975 to work in a mine north of Kwangtung province.

AI expressed concern at their reported arrest in a letter to Chairman HUA Guofeng on 27 May and urged that an inquiry be made into their fate. If it is established that the three men are detained or restricted, *AI* requested that they be released and allowed to return to their original units in Canton.

AI CONDEMNS PUBLIC HANGINGS IN SYRIA

AI wrote to President Hafez ASSAD of Syria on 16 June condemning the public hanging of two Syrians, Rami Dib TURKAWI and Muhammad Munir HOURANI, in Damascus on 13 June. They had been convicted on sabotage charges.

AI had urged on 8 June that these and four other death sentences passed on 2 June be commuted (*July Newsletter*). One sentence was subsequently commuted to 12 years' imprisonment with hard labour because the prisoner was a minor. The other three sentences were passed *in absentia*.

Vacancies at International Secretariat

The International Secretariat has vacancies for the following staff:

English Language Editor for its Publications Unit to edit, prepare manuscripts for press, liaise with originators, editorial and production assistants and foreign language coordinators. Some proof-reading is also involved.

AI's list includes publications on human rights, prisoners of conscience, torture and related medical research.

The successful applicant should have had at least five years' relevant experience in a publisher's editorial department. English mother tongue a prerequisite; French and Spanish desirable. Salary £4,318 per annum.

French Language Coordinator for the International Secretariat in London, to coordinate the revision, translation, and production of all French language material, to include *AI* publications and documents.

Applicants should have had three years' experience as a translator/ revisor with practical knowledge of editing and publishing techniques. French mother tongue essential, fluent English and reasonable Spanish.

Salary £4,318 per annum.

For application form and further details contact:

**Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England.
Telephone: 01-836 7788 Ext. 41**

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in June of the release of 168 prisoners under adoption or investigation, and took up 180 new cases.

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Amputation of Hands Decreed in Pakistan

Some convicted thieves and bandits in Pakistan will lose a hand by amputation if a new martial law decree is put into practice by the military regime of General Mohammad Zia UL-HAQ that came to power in July. Based on ancient Islamic law, the decree allows a maximum penalty of amputation of the left hand from right-handed thieves and of the right hand from left-handed thieves. Only Libya and Saudi Arabia among the Islamic nations have similar laws.

"The amputation shall be done by a qualified surgeon under local anaesthesia, in public, or in jail, as directed by the court", says the decree. A similar collaboration by doctors is also required in Libya, where to *AI's* knowledge no amputations have occurred since the law was introduced several years ago.

The Pakistani decree creates other cruel and unusual punishments for various civil and political offences: a maximum punishment of 5 years' imprisonment, or whipping, for student agitators; 10 years, or whipping,

for insulting or molesting women; 5 years for the publication of political materials; and the death penalty for sabotage or for resisting the police or armed forces in the course of their duties.

AI has written to General Zia expressing concern about the cruel and unusual aspects of the decree and has asked national and international medical organizations to seek clarification from Pakistani medical associations concerning the role of the doctor in such practices.

FORMER PRISONER DESCRIBES TORTURE IN TANZANIA

Following his release in March from Dar-es-Salaam's Ukonga Prison, where he had been detained without charge for more than a year, Amirali RAMJI, a Ugandan Asian, provided *AI* with detailed information concerning detentions and torture in Tanzania. Mr Ramji alleged that several "torture houses" existed in Dar-es-Salaam under security police control. Persons arrested for political or criminal offences are reportedly taken to these torture houses for interrogation by security police.

Mr Ramji described his own case. He was arrested in December 1975 together with another person and accused of stealing a large sum of money then in his possession. He was subjected to severe physical assault and intimidation during interrogation at a house in Dar-es-Salaam. As a result, he required hospital treatment before he was taken back to Dar-es-Salaam Central Police Station. All charges against him were withdrawn when he was brought to court on 23 February 1976. However, he was not released at the end of the court hearing. Instead he was served with a detention order of indefinite duration and was moved to Ukonga Prison. He remained there for more than one year until his release in March 1977. At the time of his release, there were more than 80 other detainees still imprisoned at Ukonga Prison, some of whom had also been severely tortured at the time of their arrest.

Torture is not sanctioned in Tanzania.

In January 1977 President Nyerere accepted the resignations of two government ministers and two regional commissioners who assumed responsibility for torture and killings carried out by police in the northern Mwanza and Shinyanga regions over the previous two years (March *Newsletter*).

LONDON 'SUNDAY TIMES' PUBLISHES INVESTIGATION OF TORTURE IN ISRAEL

On 19 June the London *Sunday Times* published an extensive report of its five-month investigation of torture allegations in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. The investigating team concluded, in part, "Torture of Arab prisoners is so widespread and systematic that it cannot be dismissed as 'rogue cops' exceeding orders. It appears to be sanctioned as deliberate policy."

The London newspaper concluded that Israeli interrogators beat Arab prisoners for prolonged periods; hooded, blindfolded and hung them by their wrists; sexually assaulted prisoners; administered electric shocks; and, in one detention center, confined prisoners in a very small "cup-board" with concrete spikes set in the floor.

Testimony was taken from 44 Arabs who alleged ill-treatment or torture, some of whom allowed their names to be used. Their testimonies cover the ten years of Israel's occupation of the territories up to December 1976.

According to the *Sunday Times*, the

reasons for the torture are to gather information, to "pacify" the local population by means of brutal methods, and to obtain confessions that can be used during a defendant's trial.

Responding to the charges on 2 July, the Israeli Embassy in London accused the *Sunday Times* of publishing "horror fiction" filled with half-truths and unverified allegations. The newspaper is also criticized for not submitting the text of the report to the government before publication and for not seeking interviews with Israeli judges and lawyers who might have offered contradictory evidence to that printed on 19 June.

"All Israeli prisons are open to inspection and such inspections are carried out frequently by judges, representatives of the Attorney General and defence counsel . . .", says the embassy statement.

Unfortunately, this official reply does not mention that the alleged torture of Arab prisoners occurs in Israeli police stations and other interrogation centers, not in prisons. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as the embassy's response notes, has access to prisoners after they reach prison. However, the embassy does not acknowledge that ICRC delegates do not visit Arab detainees during the period of interrogation before they are moved to prison.

On 12 July *AI* wrote to Prime Minister Begin, requesting that an independent international commission of inquiry be allowed to investigate allegations of torture by Israeli security forces. *AI* drew attention to previous unfulfilled requests for independent inquiries concerning civilians, including the October 1974 *AI* mission that visited Israel and Syria to investigate allegations that prisoners of war in both countries had been tortured. While receiving cooperation in both countries regarding returned prisoners of war, the mission delegates were refused all interviews with named civilian prisoners in both Israel and Syria. Some of these Arab former prisoners in the Israeli-held territories are included in the *Sunday Times* investigation.

OAS PASSES RESOLUTION AGAINST TORTURE

The General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), which met in Grenada in June, passed a strong resolution denouncing torture and illegal detention by

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appeals

Abdessamad and Abdelwhed BELKEBIR—Morocco

The BELKEBIR brothers are among an estimated 300 individuals detained in Morocco in June during a wave of arrests directed against teachers and student groups alleged to have leftwing sympathies. In July they were reportedly held incommunicado in secret detention centers controlled by the security police.

Both had been imprisoned before. Abdelwhed Belkebir, a law student, was first arrested in January 1973, when he was the vice-president of UNEM (*Union Nationale des Etudiants Marocains*). He was kept incommunicado for a long time and subjected to prolonged and severe torture. At a group trial in August 1976 he was acquitted and subsequently released.

His brother Abdessamad Belkebir, ex-leader of UNEM and of the National Union of Secondary School Students (SNL — *Syndicat National des Lycéens*), was first arrested in April 1973. He was also tried and acquitted at the August 1976 trial.

It is feared that the Belkebir brothers and numerous other individuals arrested in the recent escalation of repression against students' and teachers' groups may have been tortured and that they may be held indefinitely without trial.

Please write courteously-worded letters, asking the Moroccan authorities to ensure fair treatment and legal rights for all students, teachers and other individuals arrested in recent months, to: Sa Majesté le Roi Hassan II, Rabat, Maroc; and to: Monsieur Abbes Kaissi, Ministre de la Justice, Rabat, Maroc.

CHILEAN FORMER TORTURE SHIP REFUSED OFFICIAL VISITS

On 19 June the Israeli Cabinet cancelled an official visit by the Chilean ship the "Esmeralda" because the ship had been used as a detention and torture center after the September 1973 military coup in Chile. The official visit to Israel was scheduled to begin on 21 June.

The Israeli Government allowed the ship to re-fuel at Haifa, but cancelled the week-long courtesy visit.

The "Esmeralda", which is normally a naval cadet training vessel, has encountered similarly hostile receptions recently in Australia, Japan, Sweden, Holland and the United States, where concerned organizations produced evidence that the ship had been the site of gross violations of human rights against hundreds of political prisoners in Chile.

Immediately before the scheduled visit to Israel, the "Esmeralda" docked at Antalya in Turkey, where sailors found a hostile crowd of demonstrators. Shortly afterwards the Turkish Foreign Ministry announced that the Antalya visit had been

unplanned and that permission to dock at Istanbul had been denied. Other Mediterranean countries are known by AI to have taken similar positions during the current Mediterranean cruise by the Chilean former torture ship.

Two Chilean ex-prisoners now living in Israel, Luis VEGA and Lucia KIRBERG, gave public testimony to their imprisonment on the "Esmeralda". Luis Vega, former legal advisor to the late President Salvador ALLENDE, said that he was taken to the "Esmeralda" together with other supporters of the Allende government arrested at the time of the military coup. There they were subjected to severe torture, including electric shocks, being forced to stay naked on the deck and being hit with high-pressure sprays of sea water. This testimony is consistent with others collected by AI, the United Nations Human Rights Commission and other international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

MOVES AGAINST TORTURE AROUND THE WORLD

Peru: Police Forces Exhorted to Respect Human Rights

The Peruvian Minister of the Interior, General Luis CISNEROS, stated on 20 May that the police forces had been exhorted to respect human rights. He made the assertion in an interview with the magazine *Caretas* when asked about alleged torture and maltreatment of the former guerrilla leader Gonzalo FERNANDEZ GASCO. In the previous weeks both political and common law prisoners, as well as some trade union and student organizations, had publicized cases of maltreatment and torture in the prisons of Callao and Lurigancho in Lima.

General Cisneros said that printed sheets detailing the basic principles of human rights had been distributed among members of the police forces, and that his ministry "will spare no efforts to clarify torture allegations totally and to apply sanctions if appropriate".

Egypt: Army men Convicted on Torture Charges

A former Minister of War, Mr Shams BADRAN, his assistant, Lieutenant Safwat AL RUBI, and 11 other army officers were convicted on charges of torture by a criminal court in Egypt on 15 June. Mr Badran was Egypt's war minister during the government of the late President Gamal Abdel NASSER. The charges asserted that torture was used against members of the rightwing Moslem Brotherhood to extract confessions of plotting to overthrow President Nasser in 1965, as well as against army officers also accused of plotting against President Nasser in 1966.

Mr Badran was tried *in absentia* after he had fled the country in 1976. He and his assistant were each sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment with hard labour. The other 11 accused received sentences of 3 to 4

years' imprisonment. Two colonels, a retired major-general and 10 other army men were acquitted.

The criminal court rejected claims by the torture victims against the family of President Nasser for damages of 700,000 Egyptian pounds (US \$ 1,190,000 approximately). The court, however, ordered the present war minister, General Mohammed GAMASSI, and the accused, to provide compensation of up to 5,000 Egyptian pounds for individual victims.

Mexico: Lawyers Propose that Torture be Made a Crime

During the annual assembly of the Mexican Lawyers' Federation held in April, the President of the Bar of Michoacán, Dr Gilberto VARGAS LOPEZ, proposed that the Penal Code be modified specifically to make torture a punishable crime. Dr Vargas Lopez said it was necessary to put an end to arbitrary acts resulting from the abuse of authority by police forces, particularly the Federal Judicial Police. He expressed concern about the frequency of arbitrary detentions which were often followed by incommunicado detention.

OAS Passes Resolution Against Torture

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governments. The resolution, co-sponsored by the United States, Venezuela, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, states that there are no circumstances which justify torture, summary conviction or prolonged detention without trial contrary to law. It also calls for the increase of resources of the OAS' Inter-American Human Rights Commission so that it can become more effective, and it asks member states to cooperate fully with the commission, including giving protection from retaliation to witnesses.

The resolution was passed after a long debate in which some member states (including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Paraguay) argued that the question of human rights should be recognized as related to the problem of terrorism which, they claim, is the real cause of human rights violations in Latin America. The sponsors of the resolution succeeded in separating the two issues of human rights and counter-insurgency. A separate resolution was passed to seek new ways for hemispheric cooperation to combat terrorism.

The human rights questions took precedence over all other issues at the assembly. In its annual report presented to the assembly, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights said that the use of sophisticated methods of torture was widespread in several American states and that there had been many cases of "missing persons". The commission stated that "the status of 'missing' seems to be a comfortable expedient to avoid application of the legal provisions established in defence of personal freedom, physical integrity, dignity and human life itself" and called for the raising of protective standards.