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## 'Disappearances' – Call for worldwide campaign

Governments and state security forces which cover up the abduction and "disappearance" of their political opponents should be made publicly accountable for the fate of the victims, according to a resolution adopted by *AI's* International Council meeting in Montreal from 20 to 23 August.

In a news release of 24 August, the council called for a global publicity campaign to "counter this contemporary technique of official repression".

It said the systematic nature of the "disappearances" constituted a pattern of illegal arrests and secret detentions that violated the most fundamental principles of international law. Nothing could absolve governments from their obligations to account for citizens who had been silenced in this way.

The council deplored government attempts either to shield state agencies of investigation in "disappearance" cases or to declare the "presumptive death" of the missing people—against the wishes of relatives. In many cases responsibility for the disappearance is known to rest with authorities who have carried out arbitrary arrests, held prisoners in clandestine centres and refused to supply information to the courts, international bodies or the victims' families.

Even as the council was meeting, *AI* received reports of a recent "disappearance" in Bolivia. Reliable sources inside the country got word to the organization that 30-year-old miners' leader, Julio COSSIO Meruvia, who was seized by security police two weeks ago, had been held continuously in incommunicado detention and severely beaten. He is reported to have died in custody and been buried in Cochabamba; his body is said to have shown signs of torture. The authorities have so far refused to acknowledge that he was ever taken into custody. *AI's* records of "disappeared"

people include not only political leaders, but whole families, mothers and children, priests, trade unionists, shop owners and others. The dead bodies of many have later been found mutilated and disfigured by the burns and wounds of torture. The practice has been reported in various countries in Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

The council asked its International Executive Committee to take up the question of state security laws which are enforced in all regions of the world. The majority of the world's known political prisoners are held under these laws called by various names such as public order act, emergency decrees and anti-subversion legislation.

Prisoners detained under such laws have often been deprived of their right to a fair trial, held incommunicado and denied the state process that would protect them from torture and death in custody.

The council resolution acknowledged that governments were within their rights to introduce laws to protect public order but held that *AI* should publicize the use of such laws in facilitating the specific human rights violations the organization opposes.

Another question before the council concerned *AI's* role in regard to military, cultural and economic relations between nations, particularly those involving governments responsible for human rights abuses. It confirmed that *AI* would continue to intervene in cases where military, police or security assistance involved the international transfer of equipment and expertise known to be used by recipient governments to detain prisoners of conscience and to carry out torture and executions.

In other decisions, the council effectively reaffirmed support for the organization's precisely defined mandate.

It discussed proposals to improve

*Continued on back page*

## Syria 'Massacre' in Hama reported

Syrian security forces are reported to have killed several hundred people in the town of Hama in Syria on the night of 23 April 1981.

The killings are understood to have been a form of collective punishment on the residents because a group of Muslim Brotherhood fighters, *Mujahideen*, who had been involved in a violent clash with the security forces a few days earlier were seen driving towards the town.

According to reports received by *AI*, units of the Syrian Special Forces sealed off parts of Hama and carried out house-to-house searches. People were said to have been dragged from their homes, lined up in the street and shot.

### Inquiry sought

Some reports put the number killed at 350, with over 600 injured. *AI* has the names of more than 100 people said to have been killed.

On 24 July 1981, *AI* wrote to President ASSAD of Syria expressing concern about the reports and asking him to set up a commission of inquiry to examine the facts and make public its findings.

In its letter, *AI* said that international human rights standards require that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life—as stated in Article 6 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, which Syria ratified in 1969. The same covenant specifies that there may be no derogation from this requirement even "in time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation".

### DEATH PENALTY

*AI* has learned of 240 people being sentenced to death in 12 countries and of 246 executions in seven countries during July 1981.

## *El Salvador* Civilians missing after 'transfer'

Salvadorian security forces are reported to have forcibly transferred a group of civilians from a ranch about 30 kilometres outside San Salvador to two prisons, one nearby and the other in the department of La Libertad.

At least 25 civilians from the La Bermuda *hacienda*, ranch, are said to have been taken to unknown destinations. Other people detained during the transfer are reported to have been found dead.

Most of those transferred were women and children who had fled to La Bermuda from combat areas in El Salvador.

On 11 August 1981, *AI* wrote to the President of the Salvadorian ruling

*junta*, José Napoleón DUARTE, asking why the transfer had been carried out and for clarification of the reports that a number of people from La Bermuda were missing and others dead.

The letter included a list of 25 names of people said to have been taken to unknown destinations during the enforced transfer.

*AI* said it had received information that the displaced people now in the two prisons, Suchitoto and Santa Tecla, were being held against their will. It asked for them to be given adequate medical care.

*AI* asked also that appropriate international and national organizations be allowed to visit La Bermuda.

## *Ivory Coast* Journalists forcibly conscripted

Eighteen journalists working in Ivory Coast's state-owned broadcasting company have spent more than eight months as enforced-military conscripts hundreds of miles from their homes because of their prominent role in a trade union.

They were conscripted in December 1980, when their union was pressing the government on a series of professional demands.

In a news release in May 1981, *AI* reported the enforced conscriptions and called on the Ivorian Government to allow the 18 journalists to return to their homes, on the grounds that their conscription was politically motivated.

In the same report, *AI* also appealed for the release of eight trade unionists in private companies who were arrested in December 1980 and held in the capital's central police station. At the time of their arrest, they were involved in organizing trade union activities in

their companies, but all have reportedly been accused of state security offences.

On 22 June 1981, Ivory Coast's Information Minister, Amadou THIAM, made a statement to the press in which he said that the journalists conscripted in December 1980 were merely performing their obligatory military service.

On 24 June, in response, *AI* publicly confirmed its earlier report and pointed out that conscription is not universal in the Ivory Coast, that it has in the past been selectively applied and that in this case it appeared to be used as a form of extrajudicial detention. The organization then appealed again to the Ivorian authorities to release the eight detained employees and to allow the 18 conscripted journalists to return to their families.

In mid-August, all the detainees were reportedly still being held.

## *Equatorial Guinea* Soldier executed after 'coup' trial

A military court in Malabo, capital of Equatorial Guinea, sentenced a soldier to death in June 1981 and imposed sentences of 30 years' imprisonment on seven other soldiers and four civilians, after they had been tried on charges of complicity in an attempted coup, corruption and endangering the country's program of national reconstruction.

The soldier, Damian OWONO MITUY, who had been accused of subverting other soldiers, was given no opportunity to appeal and was executed almost immediately.

Twenty-nine other defendants received sentences of six months' imprisonment and another 30, including several former government ministers, were acquitted.

The five-day trial followed a government announcement in April 1981 that it had foiled an attempted coup. About 150 people were arrested; 70 were charged and the others released. The defendants included army officers and officials who had been prominent in the governments of former President MASIE NGUEMA, who was deposed in August 1979, and of the present ruler, Colonel OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO. Opposition sources outside the country have alleged that there was no attempted coup against the government in April 1981 and that those convicted by the military court were innocent.

On 13 August 1981 the government announced that more than 30 prisoners would be freed to mark the second anniversary of its accession to power. They included the 29 defendants sentenced to six months' imprisonment in June.

- In recent months *AI* has expressed concern to the government about incommunicado detention and the use of the death penalty.

**USSR trials:** At least 10 Armenian dissenters peacefully seeking political independence for Armenia are reported to have been arrested or tried in Erevan in March and April 1981. All were charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and most were also charged with "participation in anti-Soviet organizations".

Five men were tried from 29 March to 9 April in Erevan for organizing a nationalist group called the "Union

of Young Armenians". The two alleged to be the leaders, Marzpet ARUTYUNYAN and Ishkan MKRTCHYAN, were sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in strict regime corrective labour colonies and five years' internal exile. Their three colleagues, Vartan ARUTYUNYAN, Samvel YEGIAZARYAN and Oganeg AGABABYAN, were given sentences of five, four and three years' imprisonment respectively.

At an earlier trial Professor Alexander MANUCHARYAN, an art historian and researcher at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Armenian SSR Academy of Sciences, was sentenced to a total of 12 years' imprisonment and internal exile. Two other Armenians, Arshot NAVASARDYAN and Azat ARSHAKYAN, who were arrested in Erevan in February are believed to be still in custody awaiting trial.

# Campaign for Prisoners of the Month



Each of the people whose story is told below is a prisoner of conscience. Each has been arrested because of his or her religious or political beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin or language. None has used or advocated violence. Their continuing detention is a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. International appeals can help to secure the release of these prisoners or to improve their detention conditions. In the interest of the prisoners, letters to the authorities should be worded carefully and courteously. You should stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. In no circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner.

**George ANASTASIADES, Greece**  
*A Jehovah's Witness, he is serving a three-and-a-half-year prison term for conscientious objection to military service. Aged 30, he is a teacher and is married with one child.*

George ANASTASIADES was arrested on 10 April 1980 for refusing to perform military service because of his religious convictions. He was tried on 27 June 1980 by the Athens Military Court and sentenced to four and a half years' imprisonment and five years' loss of civil rights. On appeal the prison term was reduced to three and a half years.

He is being held in the civilian agricultural prison near Kassandra, Chalkidiki; prisoners there are given the choice of doing farm work, with each day spent working counting as two days of the sentence to be served, thus reducing the term.

After his release he faces the prospect of being barred from teaching in any state or church institution because of his loss of civil rights, unless he is granted a special pardon.

People deprived of civil rights may not vote, be elected or own a business. In practice, it also means that they are barred from employment in the civil service, in enterprises owned or controlled by the state and in the mainly state- or church-run schools.

In Greece all men between 18 and 40 are liable for conscription into the armed forces for from 22 to 26 months. The only alternative offered to people refusing to perform military service on religious grounds is unarmed military service for twice the duration of regular military service. Jehovah's Witnesses are the only conscripts in Greece known to have declared their conscientious objection; they refuse any military service, armed or not, and are, therefore, sentenced for disobedience by military courts to imprisonment and loss of civil rights, under Article 70 of the Military Penal Code. AI estimates that there are now

between 80 and 100 Greek conscientious objectors in prison, either awaiting trial or serving sentences.

*Please write courteous letters appealing for the immediate release of George Anastasiades and for a pardon regarding his loss of civil rights to: His Excellency Constantine KARAMANLIS, President of the Hellenic Republic, Athens, Greece.*

**Ali Said ZAHARAN, Egypt**  
*A furniture-maker from Damietta, he is serving a five-year prison term imposed on him in July 1978 for belonging to a communist organization; he was also fined E£100.*

Ali Said ZAHARAN was among a group of people arrested in September 1977 and charged with being members of a communist organization. Under a presidential decree, he and 14 others were brought to trial before a military tribunal in March 1978.

For many years members of communist organizations in Egypt have been arrested and detained repeatedly for their beliefs and associations. When brought to trial many have been acquitted by State Security Courts presided over by civilian judges which have rejected the prosecution contention that membership of a communist organization implied intent to use or advocate violence in seeking a change in government. Under the state security provisions of the state of emergency—abolished in May 1980 after being in force for many years—the President of Egypt was empowered to refer such cases for trial by a military tribunal.

In the case brought against Ali Zahran, no intent to use or advocate violence is reported to have been produced; his conviction is reported to have been based on possession of Marxist literature and his association with other people.

His health is said to have deteriorated since his imprisonment—

he is serving his sentence in al-Qanatir prison, north of Cairo—and he is reported to have undergone a difficult kidney operation. Since then, it is alleged, he has been prevented from receiving necessary medical after-care.

*Please write courteous letters appealing for his release and urging that he receive all necessary medical care to: President Muhammad Anwar SADAT, Presidential Palace, Qasr El Abidin, Cairo, Egypt.*

**LIU Qing, People's Republic of China**

*A machine technician and former editor of the unofficial journal April Fifth Forum, aged about 34, he was sentenced to three years' "re-education-through-labour" in July 1980 for his participation in the Peking "democracy movement".*

LIU Qing (the pen-name of Liu Jianwei) was an editor and co-founder of *April Fifth Forum*, the most prominent of the unofficial magazines which began to be published in December 1978. He was arrested on 11 November 1979 for distributing the transcript of the trial of another democracy movement activist, WEI Jingsheng, who had been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment on political charges in October 1979. Liu Qing was sent to the province of Shaanxi for his three years' "re-education". This is an administrative punishment which does not require a trial or judgment by a court but can be imposed by a police order.

In October 1980, a "National Committee to save Liu Qing" was formed by 16 unofficial magazines from different provinces in China. Many of those who joined this appeal were later arrested.

*Please write courteous letters appealing for Liu Qing's release to: His Excellency Marshal YE Jianying, Chairman of the National People's Congress, Beijing, People's Republic of China.*

Questions of medical ethics raised by the participation of doctors in executions are the subject of a Declaration adopted by AI's International Executive Committee on 12 March 1981. AI hopes that similar declarations will be adopted by medical organizations throughout the world.

## Doctors and the death penalty

In the United States of America, where 827 prisoners were under sentence of death as of mid-1981, four states have adopted a new method of execution—by “lethal injection”.

It is supposed to be more “humane” than other methods, and one of its main attractions to prison officials is that it is relatively inexpensive.

The four states are Oklahoma, Texas, Idaho and New Mexico; between them they account for nearly 180 of the prisoners under sentence of death.

What will happen to the first person to be executed this way is this: a tube will be inserted into one of the prisoner's veins and then, at a signal, a poison will be injected into the tube and made to continue flowing into the vein until the prisoner is pronounced dead.

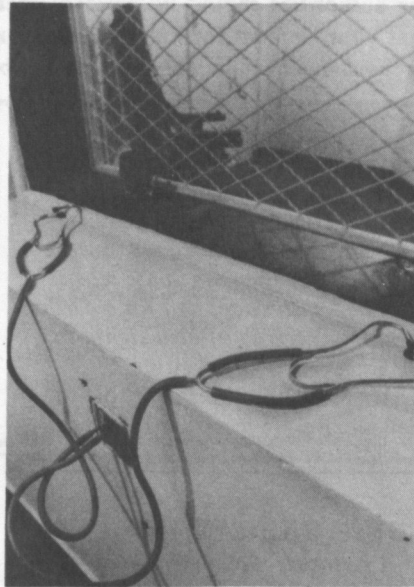
Oklahoma's regulations describe the procedure to be followed in these terms:

“The execution shall be by means of a continuous, intravenous administration of a lethal quantity of sodium thiopental combined with either tubocurarine or succinylcholine chloride or potassium chloride which is an ultrashort-acting barbiturate combination with a chemical paralytic agent.”

The language is reminiscent of a hospital operating theatre—but the purpose of the process is to kill, not to save life and execution by “lethal injection” poses serious ethical questions for doctors. Although none of the four states require that a doctor personally inject the poison into the prisoner's veins, none of the laws and procedures adopted preclude doctors from starting the injections.

In Oklahoma the regulations provide that a “trained medical employee shall insert the catheter and other monitoring equipment”. In addition, a doctor must inspect the catheter and monitoring equipment and “determine that the fluid will flow into the vein”.

The doctor must remain present throughout the execution, which shall continue “until death is pronounced



Stethoscope leading into gas chamber to enable a doctor outside to monitor the prisoner's heart during the execution.

by a licensed physician”.

The Oklahoma regulations also provide that before the execution, “The Department [of Corrections] Medical Director shall order a sufficient quantity of the [lethal] substance from a pharmacy in McAlester [where the state penitentiary is located].” According to normal practice, a doctor would have to sign a prescription form so that the poison could be ordered from the pharmacy.

AI's Declaration on the Participation of Doctors in the Death Penalty (see box) holds that the participation of doctors in executions is a violation of medical ethics. It refers to medical ethical standards calling for the utmost respect for human life and forbidding the participation of doctors in torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading procedures.

The AI Declaration spells out some of the ways in which doctors can be called on to participate in executions: determining that a prisoner is fit for execution; giving technical advice; prescribing, preparing, administering and supervising doses of poison where this method of execution is used; and making medical examinations during an execution, so that the execution can continue if the prisoner is not yet dead.

These types of participation can occur with other methods of execution besides “lethal injection”. For example, according to one of the established procedures for execution by gas, a doctor in an adjoining room listens to a stethoscope strapped to the prisoner's heart and connected to the stethoscope earpieces by two copper pipes. After the doctor has determined that the prisoner is dead, the poisonous gas is ejected from the execution chamber.

A similar procedure is followed in hangings in some countries. In an article published in a United States psychiatric journal, the experiences of a young attending doctor in a prison in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Dr Abdul H. HUSSAIN, are described. In one example, after a trapdoor was opened and the prisoner dropped into a pit below, “for a few minutes the body dangled frantically at the end of the thick rope and then gradually quieted. Dr Hussain walked down the narrow stairway into the side of the pit and listened to the man's heart which now was rapid rate but regular; gradually the heart slowed, became very irregular and after about 13 minutes, ceased beating. Then the body was taken off the rope.”

According to the article, “Dr Hussain's role as medical officer, psychiatrist and medical examiner in these proceedings still troubles him greatly today. . . . He feels a sense of guilt, and of outrage at having been used as a youthful, immature physician when he was emotionally and financially incapable of withstanding what was demanded. He now vehemently avers he would go to prison himself if faced with the same situation today rather than so serve. . . .”

The AI Declaration calls upon doctors not to participate in executions, and asks medical organizations to protect doctors who refuse to participate. It also calls upon medical organizations to adopt resolutions concerning the participation of doctors in executions. Several such organizations have already done so.

In Peru, the Second National Medical Congress in late 1980 adopted a resolution opposing the death penalty and affirming that “Doctors may refuse, and cannot be obliged to

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Declaration on the Participation of Doctors in the Death Penalty

Amnesty International,

RECALLING

that the spirit of the Hippocratic Oath enjoins doctors to practise for the good of their patients and never to do harm,

CONSIDERING

that the Declaration of Tokyo of the World Medical Association provides that "the utmost respect for human life is to be maintained even under threat, and no use made of any medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity",

FURTHER CONSIDERING THAT

the same Declaration forbids the participation of doctors in torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading procedures,

NOTING

that the United Nations Secretariat has stated that the death penalty violates the right to life and that it constitutes cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment,

MINDFUL

- that doctors can be called on to participate in executions by, *inter alia*,
- determining mental and physical fitness for execution,
  - giving technical advice,
  - prescribing, preparing, administering and supervising doses of poison in jurisdictions where this method is used,
  - making medical examinations during executions, so that an execution can continue if the prisoner is not yet dead,

DECLARES

that the participation of doctors in executions is a violation of medical ethics;

CALLS UPON

medical doctors not to participate in executions;

FURTHER CALLS UPON

medical organizations to protect doctors who refuse to participate in executions, and to adopt resolutions to these ends.

This declaration was adopted by AI's International Executive Committee on 12 March 1981.

AI is totally and unconditionally opposed to the death penalty, which it considers to be a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

# Argentina Human rights activists harassed

More cases of harassment and attempted intimidation of human rights groups and their members in Argentina have been received by AI in recent months.

At the end of June 1981 three lawyers who have acted for the defence in human rights cases took court action, alleging that they had received threats against their personal liberty; each has presented a writ of *hábeas corpus preventivo*, "preventive" *habeas corpus*.

The three lawyers are: Marcelo PARRILLI and Luis Fernando ZAMORA, members of the Buenos Aires human rights group, *Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales* (CELS), Centre for Legal and Social Studies, and Juan José PRADO, a member of the executive board of the capital's *Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos*, Permanent Assembly for Human Rights.

The three said that they had received anonymous telephone calls at home and at work threatening them that they would be "arrested or eliminated" if they continued their human rights activities.

In one incident on 17 June, Luis Fernando Zamora says, he was openly threatened in a shop by an armed man.

On 7 July, two of the "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo"—the group of mothers and relatives of "disappeared" people—were searched by air force police when they arrived at Buenos Aires airport after a visit to the United States of America.

On 29 May the Latin American human rights umbrella group *Servicio Paz y Justicia* (SPJ), Peace and Justice Service, issued a news release detailing a series of intimidatory incidents, including threats against one of the group's leaders, the Nobel Peace Prize Winner Adolfo PEREZ Esquivel; he was also said to have been kept under surveillance by armed men.

• **Eduardo FOTI, held without charge or trial since 1975 (see June 1981 Newsletter), is reported by Argentinian newspapers to have been released into *libertad vigilada*, restricted liberty. This means that he is no longer held in prison but has to report regularly to the authorities.**

attend, examine, verify or certify the death of a person who has suffered the death penalty, whatever the reason for that punishment."

Both the Portuguese and the Irish Medical Associations too have passed resolutions calling on doctors not to participate in the death penalty.

In the USA, the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association in June 1980 adopted a resolution stating that "a physician, as a member of a profession dedicated to preserving life when there is hope of doing so, should not be a participant in a legally authorized execution."

Medical associations in two of the US states whose laws provide for executions by "lethal injection" have

passed resolutions concerning the participation of doctors. The Texas Medical Association has resolved that no member should participate as executioner in an execution by "lethal injection", and the Idaho Medical Association has resolved that any participation by a doctor in a "chemical execution", aside from pronouncement of death, is unethical.

In Oklahoma, the Medical Director of the state Department of Corrections, Dr Armond START, has said that he will not participate in any aspect of "lethal injections" except to pronounce death, and that he will not require any member of his medical staff to provide assistance in the execution or preparations for it.

## Czechoslovakia

### Long term for Rudolf Battek

In a closed trial on 27 and 28 July 1981, the Prague City Court sentenced the sociologist and human rights activist Rudolf BATTEK, 57, to seven and a half years' imprisonment and three years' protective surveillance for subversion "in collusion with a foreign power and on a large scale" and for "causing bodily harm".

The sentence is to be served in the second (stricter) category. The second part of his sentence means that he will have to report regularly to the police for three years after leaving prison.

The main elements in the charge are his activities in the Committee for the Unjustly Persecuted (VONS) and letters he had sent in 1978 to leading

members of the Socialist International.

The second charge relates to an alleged scuffle with a police officer on the day of his arrest, 14 June 1980.

Rudolf Battek has appealed against the sentence. A spokesperson for the unofficial human rights movement, Charter 77, he has a history of harassment and imprisonment for his political activities dating back to 1969. He suffers badly from asthma.

On 3 August 1981 *AI* called on the Czechoslovak President to pardon him and order his release. In a separate letter to the Procurator General *AI* protested against the exclusion of its representative from observing the trial.

## Iran

### Execution toll mounts

More than 500 people were reported in the Iranian media to have been executed in Iran between 21 June 1981—when former President BANI-SADR was impeached by the Iranian parliament—and mid-August (see August Newsletter).

Exiles say that the number is considerably higher.

The latest executions mean that well over 2,000 people are reported to have been executed since the revolution of February 1979—a minimum figure, since not all executions have been reported.

Most of those reported to have been executed in recent weeks were members of left-wing groups, but

others have included members of the Baha'i faith, supporters of the former Shah and drug and sexual offenders.

One of those executed was Mohammad Reza SA'ADATI, a member of the Islamic *Mujaheddin-e-Khalq* organization, who was arrested in April 1979 and sentenced in November 1980 to 10 years' imprisonment, after he had been convicted of spying for the Soviet Union. *AI* has received allegations that he was tortured during his imprisonment.

On 28 July 1981 *AI* appealed to the new President, Mohammad Ali RAJA'I, for a halt to executions in Iran.

### Ugandan priest held

Father Vincent OKOT, a Roman Catholic priest and former elected member of the National Consultative Council—Uganda's interim parliament—was arrested in the north of the country in May 1981 and is believed to be held incommunicado in Luzira prison, Kampala.

Father Okot was arrested shortly after returning to Uganda from a church-sponsored visit to the USA.

He has not been charged with any offence and the government has given no explanation of his arrest and detention.

Father Okot, aged about 40, is a member of the Acholi ethnic group

and fled Uganda in 1974 after one of the many waves of arrests and killings directed against the group. He returned in 1979, resuming his pastoral work in the diocese of Gulu. He is a member of the Democratic Party (DP), which became the parliamentary opposition after the December 1980 elections, won by Dr Milton OBOTE's Uganda People's Congress.

Many DP members and officials, including four members of parliament, are among the estimated 2,000 people arrested since the outbreak of guerrilla activities in Uganda in February 1981. Despite government claims that those detained are suspected guerrillas or their supporters, *AI* believes that many of them are prisoners of conscience.

## Central African Republic

### Arrests after bomb explosion

President David DACKO of the Central African Republic banned two opposition parties and suspended the activities of a third after a bomb attack on a cinema killed three people and injured 32 others in the capital, Bangui, on 14 July 1981.

The banned parties were the *Mouvement centrafricain de libération nationale* (MCLN), Central African Movement for National Liberation, and the *Front patriotique oubanguien-Parti du travail* (FPO-PT), Oubangui Patriotic Front-Labour Party; the suspended party was the *Mouvement pour la libération du peuple centrafricain* (MLPC).

A state of siege was declared on 21 July and leading figures from the MCLN and FPO-PT were arrested. The President said that a special court would be set up to try those held responsible for the bomb attack.

The MCLN has said it was responsible for the bombing. In a statement sent to the government, the party's leader, Dr Idi LALA, said the attack was "only the first blow"; he called on the country to unite with his party until "the last French soldier has left our soil". French soldiers have been based in the Central African Republic since they helped depose former Emperor BOKASSA in September 1979.

The FPO-PT, MLPC and other opposition parties publicly condemned the bombing, but also alleged that the government was exploiting the incident to suppress the activities of opposition parties which had played no role in the attack.

In mid-August the authorities lifted the restrictions on the FPO-PT and the MLPC and set free six members of the FPO-PT who had been detained. They included Cyriaque BOMBA, who had previously been arrested and detained for nine months in 1980 because of his membership of the FPO-PT. At least seven other members of the party are still detained.

The state of siege was lifted after two days but the ban on the MCLN remained in force. A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Dr Lala and a number of suspected members of the party are in detention.

## Releases

### Republic of Korea

Four people adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience were among 1,061 prisoners freed under an amnesty announced by President CHUN Doo-hwan on 14 August 1981.

HAHN Hwa-kap, HAN Yun-shik and KIM Ok-doo were secretaries to the opposition leader KIM Dae-jung. They had been arrested in May 1980 and charged under the Martial Law Regulations. Father KIM Song-Young, a Roman Catholic priest, had been sentenced to six years' imprisonment in connection with the violent disturbances in Kwangju in May 1980.

*AI* telexed President Chun the day the amnesty was announced welcoming the news and appealing to him to review all cases of political prisoners, with a view to releasing all those detained for the non-violent expression of their political opinions.

### Malaysia

Malaysia's new Home Affairs Minister, Datuk MUSA Hitam, has announced the release of 21 political prisoners held without charge or trial under the Internal Security Act (ISA).

The announcement was made on 29 July 1981.

Four of the 21 were adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience: Abdullah AHMAD, a former cabinet minister; Kassim AHMAD, Chairman of the Malayan People's Socialist Party, and two members of the opposition Democratic Action Party: CHAN Kok Kit and CHANG Heng Kai.

The names of the other 17 people released are not yet known to *AI*. It has cabled the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister welcoming the releases and asking for all prisoners of conscience sentenced under the ISA to be freed.

### Madagascar

Several university staff members and students arrested in February 1981 after student demonstrations in the capital, Antananarivo, were granted

conditional release, *liberté provisoire*, by President Didier RATSIRAKA on Madagascar's Independence Day, 26 June.

They included Professor RANDRIAMAMPANDRY, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and other teachers and students adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience.

*AI* has asked the authorities whether the traditional releases apply to all those arrested in connection with the demonstrations and what the conditions are.

It has also asked if the charge earlier laid against Professor Randriamampandry and others of "endangering state security" has been withdrawn.

### Mali

President Moussa TRAORE of Mali has announced an amnesty for more than 40 teachers who had been detained and banished after conflicts between the government and an autonomous teachers' trade union.

The amnesty, announced on 10 July 1981, has led to the release of 13 teachers held in the capital, Bamako, without charge or trial for more than five months, and one teacher detained since September 1980.

Also believed to have benefited from the amnesty are 12 teachers arrested in July 1980 who, after serving prison sentences of three or four months, were banished to remote villages and forced to do administrative work, and 20 teachers arrested in November 1980 and banished to the remote northern town of Gao.

### Bolivia

Genaro FLORES, the Bolivian trade union leader who was shot in the spine during his arrest in La Paz on 19 June 1981 (see August *Newsletter*), was granted safe conduct by the Bolivian authorities and allowed to travel to the United States of America on 16 July.

A few days later he flew to Paris, where he was examined in the Foch Hospital. He has begun a course of treatment at another French hospital and doctors say that, although his health has been permanently impaired by his injuries, they hope he will eventually be able to move around again to some extent with the aid of crutches.

## South Africa Death penalty for alleged ANC members

Three alleged members of the banned African National Congress (ANC) were sentenced to death in the Supreme Court in Pretoria on 19 August 1981 after they had been convicted on charges of treason and offences under the Terrorism Act.

The charges related to acts of sabotage carried out on behalf of the ANC—in particular, causing bomb explosions at important oil from coal installations in June 1980. They were also alleged to have been responsible for an armed attack on a Johannesburg police station in April 1981.

The condemned men are: David MOISE, 25; Johannes SHABANGU, 26; and Anthony Bobby TSOTSOBE, 25.

During the trial, which began in June 1981, serious allegations of torture were made by the defendants and by certain witnesses. However, the court ruled that statements which the defendants alleged had been obtained under duress were admissible as evidence.

A defence argument that Anthony Tsotsobe should not be convicted of treason because he had been deprived of his South African citizenship when the Transkei "homeland" was made "independent" in October 1976 was dismissed by the trial judge.

By 21 August 1981, it was not clear whether the three prisoners had been granted leave to appeal. However, an appeal seems likely and they do not appear to be in imminent danger of execution.

Three other alleged members of the ANC sentenced to death in November 1980 are now awaiting the outcome of their appeal. Another prisoner, James MANGE, who was convicted of ANC activities and sentenced to death for treason in November 1979, had his sentence commuted on appeal to 20 years' imprisonment in September 1980.

- According to South African Government statistics, 133 people were hanged in the country in 1979 and there were 130 executions in 1980. In July 1981 it was revealed that 69 executions had taken place since the beginning of the year.

## Taiwan: Plea for 34 prisoners to be freed

*AI* has called on the authorities in the Republic of China (Taiwan) to free 34 people imprisoned after a human rights demonstration and to review the cases of other political prisoners held for more than 30 years.

The call was made in a memorandum to the Taiwanese Government published on 5 August 1981; it included 14 recommendations.

The 34 prisoners were convicted in a series of trials in 1980 on charges ranging from sedition to inciting violence after a Human Rights Day demonstration the year before in the provincial city of Kaohsiung ended in violent clashes with the police.

No evidence other than the defendants' confessions, which they withdrew, was submitted to support charges that they had advocated violence or the illegal overthrow of the government.

Most of the accused were associated with a legally published opposition magazine, *Formosa*. They included writers, lawyers and members of parliament.

Eight of them described by the government as "ring-leaders" of the Kaohsiung incident, were tried by military court. There were complaints that their confessions had been

obtained after sleep deprivation, coercion, inducement, threats and beatings.

*AI*'s memorandum included the findings of two missions to Taiwan in February and March 1980, to observe one of the sedition trials and to discuss other human rights questions with the government.

The memorandum also expressed concern about the fate of long-term prisoners held in Green Island prison, off Taiwan's southeast coast. Prison officials told an *AI* delegation which was allowed to visit the prison in February 1980 that the 115 inmates included 20 who had been there since the early 1950s. Most of them had been given summary trials with severely restricted rights of defence.

*AI* told the Taiwanese Government it had received reports that one of three prisoners interviewed in the presence of prison officers had afterwards been shackled in his cell for telling the *AI* delegates about a petition sent by 25 of the inmates to President CHIANG Ching-kuo.

In a six-page reply, which is published with the memorandum, the government denied that any of the prisoners interviewed had been punished.

The government described *AI*'s recommendations as "gross interference" in the internal affairs of the state. It said the violence at Kaohsiung had been planned in advance by eight of the prisoners, all of whom had been presumed innocent by the courts until proved guilty and that allegations of ill-treatment had been investigated by the courts and found to be groundless.

In the memorandum, *AI* called on the government to:

- abolish provisions under which people can be imprisoned for the non-violent exercise of their rights to

freedom of expression and association;

- establish a precise legal definition of the offence of sedition;
- end incommunicado detention and other conditions that increase the risk of ill-treatment of suspects in custody;
- introduce procedures to investigate complaints of ill-treatment and compensate victims.

### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL seeks a Deputy Secretary General for its International Secretariat in London

Amnesty International's International Secretariat has a staff of 150 (20 nationalities) engaged in research, action planning, membership liaison, public information and administration.

The Deputy Secretary General is part of a management team headed by the Secretary General, who is the chief executive; they organize the work of the International Secretariat under the direction of an elected International Executive Committee.

The Deputy Secretary General is required to travel regularly, representing Amnesty International to governments, international organizations and the general public, and maintaining close relations with the international membership.

Candidates should have extensive experience working at a senior level involving supervisory responsibilities and policy formulation and implementation, preferably in voluntary/non-profit-making organizations. Experience in working with international organizations an asset. Fluent English and a working knowledge of French and/or Spanish essential.

**Closing date:** 15 October 1981

**Appointment:** 1 February 1982

**Salary:** Approx. £12,250 (non-negotiable and index linked)

**Contract:** five years (renewable)

Relocation expenses paid.

**Applications to:** Personnel Officer at address given below.

## Call for action on 'disappearances'

*Continued from page 1*

international procedures for consultation and decision making made necessary by the growth of the movement from some 20,000 people 10 years ago to more than 250,000 in 134 countries today. It adopted a two-year organizational plan with an eight-month budget for 1982 of £1,964,820 in proportional increase of 15 per cent over the previous financial year.

The council was attended by more than 250 participants from 45 countries and representatives from other international organizations.

It re-elected to its International Executive Committee (IEC) José ZALAQUETT, Jan EGELAND, Michael KLEIN and Dirk BÖRNER, as Treasurer. The IEC subsequently re-elected José Zalaquett as its Chairperson.

### Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in July 1981 of the release of 83 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 78 cases.

### PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

For Prisoners of Conscience Week 1981, 11-18 October, *AI* is publishing a special 48-page report.

Advance orders to national sections or the International Secretariat. Price: £2.00

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