



Worldwide plea to United Nations Abolish the death penalty!

Six heads of government are among the thousands of prominent figures throughout the world who have joined *AI* in appealing to the United Nations (UN) for international action to abolish the death penalty.

The appeal, presented at UN headquarters in New York, was signed by more than 150,000 people in more than 100 countries. Religious and labour leaders, scientists, doctors, artists, writers and local and community leaders joined together in declaring the death penalty incompatible with fundamental human rights to life and to protection against cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.

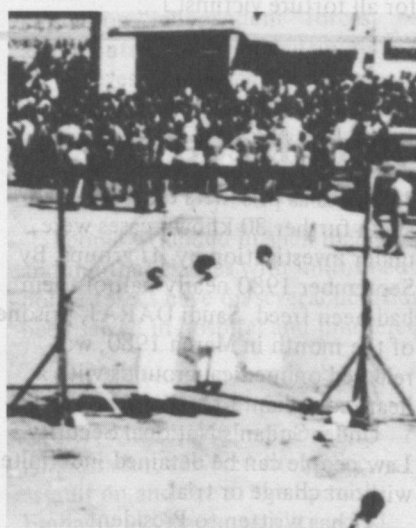
More than 600 members of parliament, over 1,000 members of the medical profession and more than 70 judges put their name to the appeal, which is part of *AI*'s program of action for worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

The six heads of government who signed were: Thorbjörn FALLDIN (Sweden), Anker JØRGENSEN (Denmark), Mauno KOIVISTO (Finland), Bruno KREISKY (Austria), Helmut SCHMIDT (Federal Republic of Germany) (FRG) and Pierre TRUDEAU (Canada).

Among former heads of government who signed were: Olof PALME (Sweden), Gough WHITLAM (Australia), Leo TINDEMANS (Belgium), Morarji DESAI (India) and Willy BRANDT (FRG), with former Presidents Carlos Andrés PEREZ (Venezuela), Walter SCHEEL (FRG) and Kristján ELDJARN (Iceland).

Philip POTTER, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Prince Sadruddin AGA KHAN, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Vijaya Lakshmi PANDIT, former President of the UN General Assembly, signed.

Other signatories included: Vicente ALEIXANDRE, Saul BELLOW, Günter GRASS and Carlos FUENTES (writers);



Execution by hanging

Marcel MARCEAU, Liv ULLMANN, Melina MERCOURI and Joan BAEZ (stage and screen performers); Oswaldo GUAYASAMIN CALERO (painter); Claudio ABBADO and Hiroyuki IWAKI (conductors); Adolph BUTENANDT and Ilya PRIGOGINE (scientists); Moss EVANS and Heinz-Oskar VETTER (labour leaders); Ramsey CLARK (former US Attorney General); Hortensia Bussi de ALLENDE (widow of the late President of Chile); Lord GARDINER (former United Kingdom Lord Chancellor).

AI has repeatedly appealed to the UN for the death penalty to be abolished. It told the UN Economic and Social Council in April 1980 that:

- the death penalty had never been proved to deter crime more effectively than other punishments;
- it was inflicted disproportionately on the poor;
- it had often been used for political, racial, religious and ethnic oppression.

Since that appeal in April, more than 700 people have been executed □

Spain Political prisoners 'tortured'

Political detainees in the custody of Spanish police have been subjected to physical and psychological ill-treatment amounting to torture, according to an *AI* mission which visited Spain in October 1979.

The mission interviewed 14 former political detainees held in police custody under laws enacted in 1978 and 1979. All said they had been ill-treated while held incommunicado for periods of from two to 10 days.

The mission found that the medical evidence was consistent with the former detainees' allegations.

As a result of the mission's findings, *AI* has submitted a series of detailed recommendations to the Spanish Government designed to protect political detainees from torture.

They stress the need to bring legal and administrative procedures into line with the country's 1978 constitutional human rights guarantees. This would mean abolishing powers granted in 1978 to detain people for more than 72 hours before releasing them or bringing them before a judge.

AI has also recommended enforcing the right of detainees to have access to legal counsel during the period of interrogation and the enactment of a *habeas corpus* procedure, both provided for in the constitution but effectively absent from present legal and administrative procedures.

The government is urged to:

- increase the exercise of judicial control over the conduct of interrogations;
- ensure that public prosecutors carry out their duty when citizens make allegations of ill-treatment and torture against the police;
- introduce a system of recorded medical examinations for detainees after arrest and immediately before transfer from police custody.

Since the mission visited Spain, *AI* has received further allegations

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Turkey First executions since 1972

The first executions in Turkey since 1972 took place on 8 October 1980 when two people were hanged in Ankara's Central Prison.

This followed a decree by the Military National Security Council that death sentences on four people convicted of terrorism in 1977 and 1978 should be carried out.

Meanwhile, *AI* has received reports that a 32-year-old lawyer for a Turkish trade union, Ahmet FEYZIOGLU, died on 2 October after being tortured in Bursa Central Police Station.

He was said to have "fallen" out of a window, but a government doctor is

reported to have told the public prosecutor that the man had obviously been tortured to death.

Two other detainees are reported to have "fallen" to their death at the same police station since the military takeover on 12 September 1980.

On 9 October *AI* cabled the new Turkish head of state, General Kenan EVREN, calling for an inquiry into the deaths and the prosecution of anyone responsible for torture.

Earlier it had written to General Evren calling for a thorough investigation of all torture allegations, the prosecution of torturers and compensation for all torture victims □

Sudan Many political prisoners freed

Most of the several hundred people detained in Sudan since April 1979 have now been released without charge or trial (see November 1979 *Newsletter*).

A few were tried by special security courts for "membership of an illegal organization" but remained in detention after their sentences expired.

About 100 are still thought to be held, all allegedly members or sympathizers of the banned opposition Communist, Ba'athist or Democratic Unionist parties.

AI had adopted more than 160

detainees as prisoners of conscience and a further 30 known cases were under investigation by *AI* groups. By September 1980 nearly half of them had been freed. Saudi DARAJ, prisoner of the month in March 1980, was released on medical grounds with a heart complaint.

Under Sudan's National Security Law people can be detained indefinitely without charge or trial.

AI has written to President NUMEIRI welcoming the releases and urging him to free all remaining prisoners of conscience □

URUGUAY: DRAFT CONSTITUTION QUESTIONED

More information has reached *AI* about Dr José Pedro CARDOSO, the 77-year-old former senator who was taken from his home in Montevideo by members of the Uruguyan security forces on 22 August 1980 (see October *Newsletter*).

Dr Cardoso, a distinguished psychiatrist, who suffers from a heart complaint, is now reported to be under house arrest, guarded by the police. His condition is said to have deteriorated since his detention, and medical sources say the continued pressure on him puts his life at risk.

His detention is believed to be connected with his views on the proposed constitution—a plebiscite is scheduled for 30 November 1980.

A draft version of the constitution (*Bases Constitucionales*), drawn up in secrecy by the armed forces, was made public in May and it has been made clear that the draft contains the main

principles for any final version of the constitution.

AI has studied it to consider the implications for human rights concerns falling within its mandate. Since 1973, when the armed forces came to power, *AI*'s concerns in Uruguay have included: large-scale imprisonment of peaceful political opponents; prolonged incommunicado detention and unacknowledged arrests; detention without trial; ill-treatment and torture of detainees.

AI considers that torture is systematic in Uruguay—it has documented the cases of 32 known deaths under torture—and it knows of hundreds of prisoners detained incommunicado for long periods and tortured.

In *AI*'s view the *Bases Constitucionales* represent a continuation of the armed forces' attempts to seek constitutional legitimacy for practices introduced by them which violate

Cameroon 'Leaflet' prisoners are freed from two camps

Most of about 50 detainees held without charge or trial in Cameroon since July 1976 for allegedly distributing leaflets critical of the government are reported to have been released from the internment camps of Yoko and Tchollire.

This follows an announcement on 26 May 1980 by President Ahmadou AHIDJO of a remission of prison sentences.

Three months before, in February 1980, President Ahidjo had said that only four "leaders" of the 1976 group were still being held. At the time, *AI* indicated that this understated the true position; it is known that several members of the group were released after the May announcement.

AI now believes that only four members are being held. Two are at Tchollire (EBELLE-TOBO Martin and MOUEN Gaspard, both adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience,) and two at Yoko, as yet unidentified □

DEATH PENALTY

AI has learned of 84 people being sentenced to death in 12 countries in October 1980, and of 60 executions in three countries.

international human rights agreements to which Uruguay has subscribed and which are also illegal under Uruguay's 1967 Constitution.

For instance, military jurisdiction over civilians, expressly forbidden by the 1967 Constitution (Article 253), is to be constitutionalized at the same time as the armed forces are made part of the executive power. There are, therefore, no guarantees that the abuses which take place under the present system of military justice would not continue.

Among other features of the proposed constitution, *AI* also questions the wide powers given to the armed forces and the President to suspend or restrict individual rights by introducing states of emergency, and the lack of corresponding safeguards against the use of these powers to arrest and ill-treat or torture political opponents of the government □

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.

Vaclav BENDA, Czechoslovakia

A 34-year-old mathematician and Roman Catholic philosopher; he is a signatory of the Czechoslovak human rights movement Charter 77 and a member of its offshoot, the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted (VONS). He is married with five small children.

Vaclav BENDA was one of a group of VONS members arrested in May 1979. He and five others were tried on 22 October 1979, charged with producing materials about people they considered to be unjustly persecuted and with sending this information abroad, where it was used for attacks against Czechoslovakia. All were convicted of subversion. Five received prison terms ranging from three to five years; a two-year sentence on the sixth was suspended for five years. Vaclav Benda was sentenced to four years' imprisonment and is being held in Hermanice prison, near Ostrava.

Please write letters appealing for his immediate and unconditional release to: Dr Gustáv HUSAK, President of the CSSR, 11 908 Praha-Hrad; and to: Dr Jan NEMEC, Minister of Justice of the CSR, Vysehradská 16, Praha 2-Nové Mesto.

José Guillermo CASTRO RAMOS, El Salvador

A member of San Salvador's Baptist Church and a Baptist student leader, aged 24, he heads El Salvador's Christian Student Movement (Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano).

José Guillermo CASTRO RAMOS, an engineering student at the University of El Salvador, was arrested on 29 February 1980 by the Customs Police as he stepped off the ferry-boat on his return from Panama, where he had

represented El Salvador at a meeting of the World Christian Student Federation.

Local police confirmed the arrest to his family and reported his transfer on 1 March to National Police custody in La Unión.

On 3 March he was reported to have been transferred to the capital, San Salvador—but the National Police now deny that his arrest took place, refuse to be accountable for his fate or to say where he is.

José Castro Ramos was one of hundreds arrested after most of the civilians in the *junta* and the cabinet resigned on human rights grounds on 3 January 1980. Since then the situation in El Salvador has steadily deteriorated.

- Church sources estimate that up to 6,000 Salvadorians have been killed by the security forces since January 1980, many after detention and torture; victims have been beheaded with machetes, hanged or shot dead.
- The bodies of 417 people, most of them with their hands bound, were found in the first three weeks of September.

The vast majority of the victims come from the urban and rural poor, or belong to trade unions, religious organizations and political groups seen as security threats by the government.

Daily government statements report on new victims of extra-legal "executions", denying official involvement and blaming the killings on "independent" assassination squads.

AI's information gives no grounds for believing that such squads operate outside direct army control. Documents on cases of detention followed by execution manifest in almost every case the direct involvement of the security forces.

By attributing these killings to "anti-communist death squads", the Government of El Salvador seeks to evade accountability for the secret detention and execution of its citizens.

In spite of the number of summary executions of people whose detention

the authorities have refused to acknowledge, there is still hope that José Castro Ramos might be alive in some secret cell in El Salvador. Please write courteously worded letters appealing for his release to: Dr José Antonio MORALES ERLICH, and Ing. José Napoleón DUARTE, Miembros de la Junta de Gobierno, Casa Presidencial, San Salvador, El Salvador.

PONGO Malanda (ex-Patrice), Zaire

A senior official of Zaire's national riverine transport company, ONATRA; former commissioner in the police criminal investigations department. In March 1980 he and between 20 and 40 others were arrested in Bas-Zaire region; no formal charges are known to have been brought against him.

PONGO Malanda (since the banning of "Christian" names in 1972 he is referred to as "ex-Patrice") was arrested on 26 March 1980 and taken to a security police prison at Matadi (Bas-Zaire's regional capital), where conditions are said to be harsh.

He and several others were accused of being connected with an illegal political party and of political activity outside the framework of the country's only legal party, *Mouvement populaire de la Révolution* (People's Movement for the Revolution).

Pongo Malanda has been held incommunicado for more than seven months—under Zairean law he should have been charged and brought before an examining magistrate after five days. He is not known to have used or advocated violence.

Please send courteously worded letters, if possible in French, appealing for his immediate release to: Son Excellence Citoyen Mobutu Sese Seko, Président Fondateur du MPR, Président de la République, Kinshasa 2, Zaire.

The theme for this year's Prisoner of Conscience Week (12 to 19 October) was "The Different Faces of Imprisonment". The article below is based on material prepared for the campaign. The people whose cases are mentioned and the countries referred to are illustrations—other countries and many other prisoners could have been added.

Different faces of imprisonment

An estimated 15,000 people "disappear" in one country and, in another, 25,000 people are seized, "disappear", or are killed. . .

In a third country, the wife of an imprisoned nationalist leader lives out another 24 hours of a "banning" order, the latest of a series that has ruled every day of her life for the past 16 years. . .

In a fourth, a trade unionist is detained by the police for the 24th time in two years. . .

The vast majority of these people, political prisoners—the cases of thousands of them documented in detail by *AI*—have been subjected to some kind of imprisonment that falls outside the usual sense of the word—that is, confinement in some official place of detention for a specified period.

They are victims of different "faces" of imprisonment; in these cases: "disappearance"; "banning", house arrest, internal exile; repressive short-term detention.

These are three of the methods used by governments to stifle dissent without resorting to "classic" imprisonment.

'Disappearance'

"Disappearance" has become a major tool of governments in several parts of the world—the practice is best documented in a number of Latin American countries, but *AI* has information about "disappearances" in other parts as well, for instance in East Timor, in the Philippines and in Ethiopia.

This repressive tool is used not only against declared political opponents but also against ordinary men and women considered to be a threat of some kind.

In a typical case, the victim is seized, often at home, by armed men and dragged off to an unknown destination. When family or friends make inquiries, the police deny that there has been an arrest. If an attempt is made to have the victim produced before a court, the authorities will assure the judge that the person concerned is not in their custody. They will refuse to acknowledge that the victim has been seized officially—even though the abduction may have been carried out by uniformed military personnel.



Albertina SISULU, wife of the jailed African nationalist leader Walter SISULU. She has been "banned" by the South African authorities since August 1964. Since then, every day of her life has been restricted in various ways by a succession of "banning" orders; the latest, imposed in 1979, is due to expire in July 1981.

(In cases where abductions are the work of unofficial agents acting in collusion with the authorities the police will refuse to investigate, or else they may fail to inform the family of the results of any inquiries).

AI has gathered massive evidence on the fate of "disappeared" people, indicating that the victims are usually tortured and often killed. For instance, it estimates that about 15,000 people have "disappeared" in Argentina since 1975 (it has documented more than 4,000 cases). The figures for Guatemala are even more shocking: 25,000 people seized, killed or "disappeared" since

1966—more than 1,000 of them in the first six months of 1980.

Under "banning" and house arrest orders, prisoners of conscience are confined to their own house or town for specified periods. In some countries a form of internal exile is operated, with people being sent to live in a certain part of their country.

Such restrictions are accompanied by other restraints, such as having to report regularly to the authorities and surveillance, searches and interrogations by the police.

In South Africa more than 150 people are now restricted by "banning" orders under legislation empowering the Minister of Justice to impose a variety of restrictions on people said to be engaged in "activities which endanger or are calculated to endanger the security of the State or the maintenance of public order". No specific reasons are given by the Minister; the orders are usually imposed for terms of from two to five years and are often reimposed on expiry.

"Banned" people may not, among other restrictions, be quoted in public or private; they may not prepare material for publication or attend any political or social "gathering"—defined as any meeting of more than two people for a common purpose; their movements are restricted, usually to the magisterial district in which they reside.

House arrest

Many banned people have also been subjected to partial house arrest—usually from 6.00 pm to 6.00 am during the week, and from noon on Saturday to 6.00 am the following Monday.

In recent years it has also been common for "banned" people to be banished to remote areas: Winnie MANDELA's present five-year "banning" order was amended shortly after

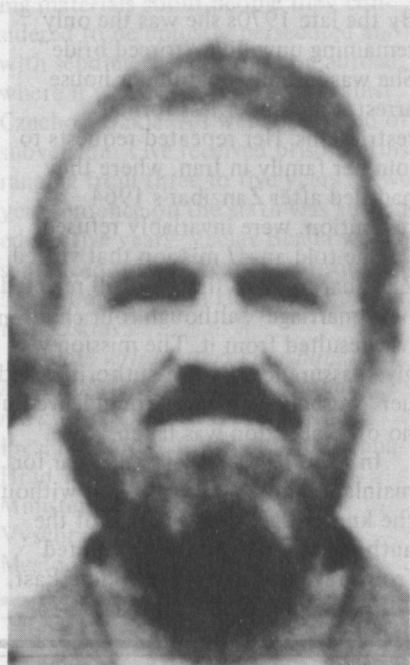
its imposition in 1976 to provide for her banishment to a small town more than 350 kilometres from her home in Soweto.

In Chile, a decree promulgated in February 1980 gave the Minister of the Interior powers to order people to be sent to live in remote areas of the country for terms of internal exile (*relegación*) of up to three months for disturbing or attempting to disturb public order.

In South Korea the police and the Korean Central Intelligence Agency use house arrest to restrict people who, the government believes, may take part in political activities aimed at expressing their political opinions.

Members of church groups are often house arrested for short periods and the measure is also applied against politicians and the relatives of political prisoners: LEE Hi-ho, wife of the opposition leader KIM Dae-jung—sentenced to death in September (see October 1980 *Newsletter*)—has been under house arrest since 27 May 1980.

Some governments apply executive powers or special legislation to detain opponents for short periods and thus



Kazimierz SWITON, a founding member of the Committee of Free Trade Unions in Katowice, Poland. By 24 February 1980 he had been detained in police custody 24 times in two years.

avoid the need to justify their actions before the courts.

The authorities may use such short-term detention to keep dissenters out of circulation at certain "sensitive" times, but it can also provide the opportunity to extract information under torture, or as part of a general

VICTIMS OF 'DISAPPEARANCE'



Graciela GEUNA and Jorge CAZORLA, photographed on their wedding day in Argentina. Within a year the bride had "disappeared" and the bridegroom was dead, shot in the back during a kidnap attack. Graciela Geuna, now 25 and living abroad, was a university student in Córdoba when, on 10 June 1976, she and her husband were abducted by 20 armed men in plainclothes—she later identified them as military personnel. She said that after her husband had been killed she was taken to a military "concentration camp", where, stripped naked and tied hand and foot to bedsprings, she was given electric shocks, kicked and clubbed during 10 days' interrogation. She said she was kept blindfolded for 10 months. After 22 months she was released without charge or trial.

policy of harassment. The victims may be arrested, freed for a short spell then rearrested, a process which can be repeated over a number of years, a continual shuttling in and out of prison.

In Colombia short-term detention has often been widely used during periods of social unrest. Normal judicial controls against arbitrary arrest are dispensed with and prisoners are often held in military centres of detention. There have been numerous allegations of torture by such short-term prisoners.

Under Polish law, a person may be held in custody without formal charges for up to 48 hours. In recent years such short-term detention has been the most common method of intimidation in official attempts to silence human rights activists.

In Pakistan, detaining alleged political prisoners for periods of several weeks or months has been a recurrent practice; since 5 July 1977, it has been carried out under martial law provisions, for "activities prejudicial to public order"—detainees can be held for an initial period of three months, followed by further three-month periods□

CHRONICLE OF CURRENT EVENTS

The latest edition of *A Chronicle of Current Events—Chronicle 54*—a journal for the defence of human rights in the USSR, is now available. The journal is regularly produced in typescript *samizdat* inside the Soviet Union and is circulated on the chain letter principle.

Chronicle 54 describes, among other things, the arrests of Tatyana VELIKANOVA, a veteran human rights activist, and Father Gleb YAKUNIN, a long-standing defender of religious freedom, and the responses to these arrests. There are details of many trials, searches and confiscations.

This edition includes an index to more than 700 documentary photographs and illustrations that have appeared in the English-language editions of *Chronicles 1 to 54*. *Chronicle 54* is published by Amnesty International Publications and distributed by Routledge Journals, Broadway House, Newton Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon 1EN, United Kingdom; price £3.

France

Bill's threat to defence rights

New procedures contained in a Draft Bill adopted by France's National Assembly in June 1980 could conflict with international standards established in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights.

The measure is known as the *Projet de loi renforçant la sécurité et protégeant la liberté des personnes* (Draft Bill reinforcing the security and protecting the liberty of individuals).

In a letter to more than 300 senators and government officials in France, *AI* pointed out that part of its work was to enable political prisoners to benefit from procedures conforming to accepted international norms.

It noted its past objections to the use of a special summary procedure to obtain swift judicial rulings which

could put at risk a fair trial in cases where the facts were not satisfactorily clear.

The Bill presents an extension of the scope of this procedure and appears to contain a serious threat to defence rights. *AI* questions the large part the public prosecutor would play in the proceedings, at the expense of the investigating judge's involvement; at the swiftness of the proceedings and the consequent risk of an unprepared defence; and at the determining role of police reports in speeding up the proceedings.

AI's letter noted that under the Bill's provisions for the *Police Judiciaire* to detain people for identification no restriction was placed on how long they could be held, nor was there provision for an independent judge to assess any possible need for prolonged detention □

China

People's Congress told of 'appalling' injustices

More than a million criminal cases tried in China between 1966 and 1976 have been re-examined and "appalling" cases of injustice had been put right as a result, according to the President of China's Supreme Court, JIANG Hua.

He told the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) in early September 1980 that a total of 266,000 people had been rehabilitated.

JIANG Hua also told the NPC that "the people's courts must carry out trials independently: any outside interference must be resolutely opposed"—a statement interpreted by observers to mean that Communist Party cadres should stop interfering in the work of the courts.

During its session, the NPC was asked to approve a motion to remove from the Constitution provisions guaranteeing the four "big freedoms": the right of citizens to "speak out freely, air their views fully, hold great debates and write big character posters".

On 29 August *AI* sent a cable urging the Congress to retain these constitutional guarantees and to consider legislative reforms bringing the protection of human rights in China into full conformity with the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

• A 78-year-old Roman Catholic priest, Father Stanislaus SHEN, is reported to be held in a labour camp in eastern China after being arrested in the Shanghai area on 6 May 1980 on charges of "hampering production and modernization".

According to Church sources he was arrested for organizing a pilgrimage to a religious shrine.

Father Shen is said to have been taken to the Pei Mao Lin labour camp, Anhui Province. He was released from the camp two years ago and is said to have spent 20 years there □

TRIAL IN EGYPT

Thirty people charged with organizing the banned Egyptian Communist Party went on trial in Cairo on 1 October 1980. They face a maximum punishment of life imprisonment with hard labour.

The defendants include lawyers, students, peasants, journalists and a former trade union leader now in his seventies.

Some of them were adopted as prisoners of conscience by *AI* after their arrest and imprisonment on similar charges in the past. Others were acquitted on almost identical charges in a trial that ended in April 1980.

The next hearing has been postponed to 3 January 1981 at the request of the defence □

Tanzania

Zanzibar

'forced bride'

free in exile

after 10 years

A member of Zanzibar's small Persian Shi'i community, Nasreen Mohamed HUSSEIN, who was forcibly married to a Zanzibar security officer for 10 years, finally succeeded in leaving the country in June 1980.

In 1970, when she was 16, she was one of several Shi'i girls in the country forced to marry members of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council and other senior officers under the "mixed marriages" decree.

Among those who protested were the girls' relatives and Zanzibar's Attorney General. They were imprisoned and flogged. The girls themselves were cruelly ill-treated. An international outcry followed and the practice of forced marriages was ended.

Nasreen Hussein was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by *AI* in 1971. By the late 1970s she was the only remaining unwilling "forced bride". She was initially held under house arrest, then under less formal restrictions. Her repeated requests to join her family in Iran, where they had fled after Zanzibar's 1964 revolution, were invariably refused.

She told an *AI* mission that visited Zanzibar in 1978 that she still rejected her "marriage", although four children had resulted from it. The mission was given assurances by the authorities and her "husband" that she could leave but no official action was taken.

In June 1980 she left Zanzibar for mainland Tanzania, legally but without the knowledge or permission of the authorities. She was not prevented from travelling on to the Middle East, with financial assistance from *AI* □

BAHRAIN

AI has written to the ruler of Bahrain, Shaikh Isa Bin-Salman AL-KHALIFAH, about reports of political detainees being ill-treated; two people are said to have died under torture in 1980, Jamal Ali AL-ARADI, in May, and Karim AL-HUBAISHI, in July.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in September of the release of 59 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 122 new cases.



amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture

Five die in Guatemala hospital killings

A 60-year-old woman was one of five patients reported to have been killed while undergoing treatment in hospitals in Guatemala in September 1980; a sixth victim was shot dead in the ambulance taking him to hospital.

Lucilia RODAS de Villagrán, principal of the Occidente girls school (Instituto Nacional de Señoritas de Occidente) was shot dead after six men with machine-guns had burst into the observation ward of a hospital in Quezaltenango in the early hours of 23 September. She had been admitted the day before with a bullet wound.

In her youth Lucilia Rodas, a former university professor, had been an active member of Guatemala's *Partido Acción Revolucionaria* (Revolutionary Action Party).

She was the fifty-third Guatemalan teacher killed in unprovoked attacks in 1980.

Two people were reported killed in hospital in Zacapa—one of them had earlier been admitted with bullet

wounds—and two more in hospital in Coban; *AI* does not know any of the names.

The sixth victim, Constantino GALVEZ Gutierrez, was killed after the ambulance bringing him to Guatemala City had been forced to a halt by gunmen.

The Guatemalan Government has blamed thousands of detentions and killings on "independent" forces acting outside official control, but *AI* believes that unacknowledged detentions leading to "disappearance" and murder in Guatemala are part of a deliberate government policy implemented by the security forces.

People wounded in such incidents and in other clashes with uniformed police forces have on several occasions been seized in hospital and murdered.

One well-known case is that of Gregorio YUJA Xona, a peasant farmer, who, with the Spanish Ambassador, survived the police assault on and fire at the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala City on 31 January 1980. He was held under heavy police guard in a private

hospital later that day but was taken away during the night and later found murdered, with torture marks on his body.

AI has only recently received reports of other Guatemalans in police custody killed in hospital last year.

- Juan José REYES Espana, a prisoner receiving medical treatment, was shot on 15 May 1979 in Chiquimula Hospital as police guards stood by.
- Rolando Eddy TROCHE Cisneros, under guard in hospital in Quezaltenango after being wounded by police in October 1979, was taken away, tortured and shot dead.

Please write letters appealing for a full explanation of the circumstances of the killings of Lucilia Rodas, Constantino Galvez and the four other people killed while being treated in hospital to: General Romeo LUCAS García, Presidente de la República, Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, Guatemala. Doctors are asked to appeal in their professional capacity and urge that the neutrality of hospitals in Guatemala be respected and the safety of patients guaranteed.

South Korea New 'evidence' in espionage cases

Tokyo's Bar Association has collected information which, it says, shows that five men sentenced to death in South Korea for espionage were actually in Japan at the time the South Korean authorities allege they were travelling to North Korea for training.

South Korea's Supreme Court has confirmed the death sentence on two of them—KANG Jong-hon and CHOI Chul-kyo. The two have exhausted all the legal possibilities except a special appeal to the President for commutation of their sentence and there are fears they could soon be executed.

The other three are still to appear before the Appeal and Supreme Courts. They are PAIK Ok-kwan, KANG Woo-kyu and CHIN Du-hyon.

The five Koreans, normally resident in Japan, were arrested between 1974 and 1977 in South Korea. They were tried separately and their convictions were based on allegations that they had all individually visited North Korea for espionage training and had then travelled to the South. All are reported to have been tortured and forced to sign confessions.

In spite of appeals by *AI*, the Tokyo Bar Association and other groups of Japanese lawyers, the military authorities have refused an application for a retrial to consider evidence not avail-

able at the original trial.

The five are being held in Seoul Sudaemoon prison and are said to be manacled. Since their arrest they have not been visited by their families, who live in Japan and have been warned they may be arrested for espionage if they travel to South Korea.

The death sentence against another Korean from Japan accused of espionage, LEE Chul, was commuted by presidential amnesty in August 1979.

Please send courteously worded letters or telegrams appealing for the death sentences of all five to be commuted and for a retrial to re-examine the evidence against them to: President CHUN Doo-hwan, The Blue House, Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea □

Death penalty appeal

Medical studies on 14 Argentinian victims

The aftermath of torture

Extensive medical studies carried out on 14 former political prisoners tortured in Argentina have shown that, more than four years later, they are still suffering from nightmares, emotional withdrawal and other psychiatric disturbances.

The studies were done by a team of AI doctors who told a news conference in Copenhagen on 1 October 1980 that they had diagnosed long-term effects of torture on the 14 people. Marks on their bodies and other symptoms were consistent with torture they said had been inflicted on

them by interrogators.

A 30-year-old teacher, arrested in Neuquen, Argentina, in 1976, who later testified that he had been beaten, given repeated electric shocks in the throat and mouth and nearly asphyxiated, was found to be progressively losing his hearing and to suffer stomach pains and various mental problems.

A 31-year-old mother of two, arrested in Buenos Aires in 1976, was found to have heart and respiratory problems. She said she had been blindfolded and strapped to a metal bed, with electrodes fastened to her temples and other sensitive parts of the body.

The electrodes on her temples

locked her mouth in a half-open grimace. Because of this temporary paralysis, she was unable to scream or draw breath; she felt she was suffocating and imagined she was dying.

The medical study of the 14 Argentinians is the most detailed examination of torture victims ever conducted, and used research techniques pioneered by doctors working for AI.

Dr Ole RASMUSSEN, AI's medical adviser, told the news conference that torture was usually seen as a "brief, brutal attack" on a prisoner. But, he said, "The horror has a permanent effect. The long-term psychological effects are similar to those found in concentration camp survivors" □

Peru 'kidnap'— woman's body found in Spain

The body of a missing 48-year-old Argentinian woman, Noemi Esther GIANETTI DE MOLFINO was found in a Madrid flat on 21 July 1980—five weeks after her reported kidnapping in Lima, Peru, by an Argentine army squad on 13 June (see August 1980 Newsletter).



Noemi Gianetti de Molfino

She is thought to have died two days before her body was found. In an autopsy some days later tests were carried out to check for the presence of cyanide, arsenic or carbon monoxide. She was found to have died of cardiac

and respiratory failure caused by "exogenic" poisoning (*intoxicación exógena*), that is, derived from outside the body.

According to Spanish police she arrived in Madrid on 18 July from Brazil, under a false passport. In immigration papers her age was given as 76 years.

The police say she was met at Madrid airport by two Argentinians, one of whom was called Julio César RAMIREZ, the name in which the flat had been rented. An Argentinian of the same name was reported kidnapped in Lima some hours before Noemi Gianetti de Molfino's disappearance. He has been missing since then.

Anonymous calls

After the autopsy the dead woman was buried under the name in the false passport. Anonymous phone calls to Spanish newspapers about her true identity eventually led to the body being exhumed at the request of a judge. Her son and daughter came from France to identify her. They believe she travelled from Brazil under pressure.

After the reported abductions in Peru, the authorities there said three people "arrested" in Lima had been expelled to Bolivia.

No fresh information has reached AI on two other Argentinians said to have been involved, Federico FRIAS Albergo and María Inés RAVERTA □

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The Nobel Peace Prize for 1980 has been awarded to Adolfo PEREZ ESQUIVEL, 48, Buenos Aires coordinator for the Service for Peace and Justice (*Servicio Paz y Justicia*), a church-based human rights group active throughout Latin America. He is a former prisoner of conscience adopted by AI.

Spanish prisoners

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consistent with those examined by the mission. The legal situation is unchanged and many of the detainees mentioned in the report are seeking redress from the Spanish courts—so far without success.

AI believes that one of the main reasons for the rising number of allegations of ill-treatment and torture since 1978 is that under Law 56/1978 and Royal Decree-Law 3/1979 the police are able to hold people incomunicado for up to 10 days on suspicion of committing an act that could be classed as terrorist, belonging to an armed group or assisting or associating with or publicly defending any member of an armed group.

• The mission report is to be published in full later this year □

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