



AI Annual Report 1982

Call for worldwide action against political killings

Thousands of people in countries all over the world were killed by order of their government or with its complicity, according to information compiled by *AI* and published in its latest annual report.

AI opens the report with a call for the world community to face up urgently to the use of such political killings by governments and says these governments must not be allowed to evade responsibility when they choose to obliterate suspected opponents.

AI says it is determined to campaign worldwide against such killing, which was often linked to another abuse it has spotlighted—the “disappearance” of people abducted or arrested by authorities.

The report contains country-by-country summaries of many other abuses—including torture, the death penalty and imprisonment of people for their ideas or origins—and of the struggle to end them.

Beirut massacre

On 22 September 1982 *AI* appealed to the United Nations Secretary General, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, for a UN investigation to be set up into the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in the refugee camps of Chatila and Sabra in West Beirut between 16 and 18 September.

It also called on the Israeli Government to act rapidly to clarify the circumstances of the killings and to cooperate in any international investigation. The Lebanese Government was also asked to assist such an inquiry.

It contains documented facts on executions in Iran—more than 2,600 during the year—and the unfair trials that preceded them, “disappearances” and torture in Chile, the continuing drive against all forms of dissent in the Soviet Union, executions in South Africa and other developments. Indian peasants in Bolivia, wall-poster writers in China, objectors to military service in Western Europe, and thousands of ordinary people all over the world are reflected in its 367 pages. The common denominator is the violation of their fundamental rights as human beings.

Attack on rights

The report’s preface points out that *AI* last year launched a publicity campaign to expose the “disappearance” of political opponents at the hands of government forces. Both “disappearances” and unlawful killing by governments, it says, “represent an outright attack on values and rights which the world community has struggled to establish”.

In El Salvador, mutilated bodies are found after soldiers or police arrest people who are suspected of opposition or who merely live in suspect areas. “In Guatemala, thousands of people described by government representatives as ‘subversives’ and ‘criminals’ have been shot on the spot or seized and killed later,” the report says. In Syria, security forces were reported in 1981 to have sealed off communities, dragged people from their homes and shot them.

Reports of killings by troops or police have continued to come from other countries, including India, the Philippines, Uganda, Bolivia and Colombia.



Sixty-two-year-old Ruth Rutsch and her husband, Friedrich, who were arrested in February 1982, have been sentenced to three years and three months’ imprisonment for “treasonable passing on of information” (Article 99 of the German Democratic Republic’s penal code) and “taking up illegal contacts” (Article 219). Both articles proscribe sending information out of the country which is not secret but is, in the words of Article 99, to the “disadvantage of the interests” of the GDR. *AI* considers that these articles contradict the right to “seek, receive and impart information regardless of frontiers” (Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which has been ratified by the GDR); it has adopted Ruth and Friedrich Rutsch as prisoners of conscience. The information “passed on” in their case appears to have been about their son Karl-Heinz Rutsch, who has been in prison since 1973 after attempting to leave the GDR without permission. Ruth Rutsch was sentenced on 24 May and her husband on 29 September.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in September of the release of 65 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 252 cases.

Also in this issue

- Releases, page 2
- Jamaica hangings, page 7
- Chile torture charge, page 8
- Supplement: ‘Disappearances’ in Guinea

Releases . . . Releases . . . Releases . . .

Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Government has announced that it pardoned and released 716 prisoners on 11 September, the eighth anniversary of the Ethiopian revolution. It has not yet been confirmed how many of those released were political prisoners.

The released prisoners are reported to include many long-term political detainees held since 1974 in the cellars of the former Menelik Palace. Among those known to have been freed are: Ketemu **Yifru**, former Minister of Commerce; Mamo **Tadesse**, former Minister of Finance; and Germatchew **Tekle Hawariat**.

Also reported to have been freed are former ministers and senior officials who had served in the Haile Selassie administration and had been detained at the time of the revolution in 1974.

None of the members of the former royal family, who have been held without charge or trial since September 1974, are reported to have been released.

The Ethiopian Government has released a number of political prisoners over the past eight years. In 1981, 549 prisoners were freed on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the revolution.

AI has sent a message to the country's Head of State welcoming the releases □

Haiti

Sylvio **Claude**, prisoner of the month in May 1981, and 21 others are reported to have been pardoned and released following a decree by President Jean-Claude Duvalier issued on 22 September and proclaiming an amnesty for political prisoners.

Sylvio **Claude** was serving a six-year sentence for "offences against the security of the state". Under the President's decree he and other prisoners were given a "complete and total" pardon which should have ensured their unconditional freedom—but some are said to be currently under *résidence surveillée*, a strict form of surveillance, and to have to report regularly to the authorities.

AI has written to the Haitian authorities welcoming the releases but expressing concern at the reported restrictions and asking for the Presidential pardon to be implemented fully and for the remaining prisoners of conscience to be released □

South Korea

A total of 18 people adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience are now known to have been among the 35 political prisoners released in South Korea under the amnesty of 15 August (see September *Newsletter*).

They include **Lee Woo-jae**, prisoner of the month in August 1981, who was arrested in 1979 and was serving a five-year sentence after his conviction in the Korea Christian Academy case—the defendants were said to have indoctrinated others with socialist ideas and to have attempted to organize them with the aim of creating a socialist state.

Thirteen of the others freed were students who had served most of their two- or three-year prison sentences for participating in anti-government demonstrations or distributing anti-government leaflets □

Malaysia

Forty-seven detainees held without trial under Malaysia's Internal Security Act—some of them imprisoned since the late 1960s—were freed on 30 August in an amnesty announced on the eve of the 25th anniversary of Malaysia's independence.

At least nine of those released had been adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience, including: **Tan Hock Hin**, a former politician held since July 1967; **Eng Kwee Ba**, detained since July 1968; and **Lim Ge Chow**, arrested in 1971.

AI has written to the Malaysian authorities welcoming the releases □

USSR

A Soviet German adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience is reported to have been freed prematurely after his court conviction had been revoked by the Supreme Court of the RSFSR.

Genrikh Miller, who has been active in the movement for Soviet citizens of German origin to be allowed to emigrate, was sentenced in October 1981 to one year's imprisonment for "parasitism".

Under Soviet law people may be charged with "parasitism" if they have not been doing "socially useful labour" for four consecutive months in any year. **Genrikh Miller**, who was dismiss-

ed from his job, had been unemployed for three weeks when arrested.

The Supreme Court ruled in April 1982 that the verdict against him was unfounded and he was freed a month later, three months early.

AI knows of only one other case in which somebody adopted by it as a prisoner of conscience has been released as a result of a revoked conviction □

Labour camp for Vietnamese girl



Le Thi Som Mai, aged 19, who is reported to be detained in a labour camp in Viet Nam after trying to escape illegally from the country. She was arrested in February 1982 with a group of young people. Others in the group have been released but she continues to be held. She and her six brothers and sisters are reported to have been the targets of official harassment on a number of occasions because of their parents' status under the pre-1975 South Vietnamese Government. Her father, **Tran Da Tu**, was a well-known poet, broadcaster and journalist and her mother, **Nha Ca**, a distinguished novelist. Both were arrested in April 1976 during a government campaign against "decadent" literature. **Nha Ca** was freed in December 1976 but **Tran Da Tu** is still detained without charge or trial (his case is being investigated by *AI*). **Le thi Som Mai** is said to have been sent to camp **Dong Phu I**, **Dong Xoai** district, in **Song Be** province on 1 April 1982. Duties there are said to consist of clearing virgin land for cultivation. Several young people are reported to have died there of malaria and dysentery.

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.

KABAKISA Matuka, Zaire

A pharmacy student in his mid-twenties he was arrested in February 1982, severely beaten and forcibly conscripted into the army with 95 other students.

Kabakisa Matuka had been the elected leader of Kinshasa University's branch of the ruling party's youth wing, the *Jeunesse du Mouvement populaire de la Révolution*, for more than a year when, in January 1982, students at the university and at several other institutes of higher education in Kinshasa staged a two-day strike for higher grants.

The government responded by closing the university and other institutes and ordering students to return home. Kabakisa and some 95 students from the university and two of the institutes were arrested and accused of organizing the strike. The government branded them as "subversives" and announced on 4 February 1982 that all were immediately being conscripted into the armed forces for two years. (Up to then students were usually exempt from military service.)

Kabakisa and 14 other students were held in a detention centre in Kinshasa for more than a month. During this time he was repeatedly interrogated, accused of having links with opponents of the government and severely beaten and given electric shocks. He was then sent to join the other conscripted students, who had been sent to a special commando training camp at Kota-Koli, in Zaire's northern Equateur region.

The students are kept apart from other soldiers at the camp and are apparently not allowed to talk to civilians or be visited by relatives. Many of them have become seriously ill.

Please send courteous letters, preferably in French, appealing for Kabakisa and the other forcibly conscripted students to be released from the army; send your appeals to: Son Excellence le Général Mobutu Sese Seko/Président-Fondateur du MPR/Président de la République/

Présidence de la République/
Kinshasa/Republic of Zaire.

Galvarino IRIGOYEN Alfaro, Chile

A metalworker, he is reported to have been tortured after his arrest in mid-1980 and is now serving a four-year sentence of banishment (internal exile) in a remote village 250 km from his home.

Galvarino Irigoyen, married with two children, was arrested at his place of work in Antofagasta on 30 May 1980. He was one of 33 people detained without warrant by the *Central Nacional de Informaciones* (CNI), Chilean secret police, at about the same time.

They are reported to have been taken to secret detention centres and tortured. They are said to have been kept hanging upside down for hours, kept naked outside in the cold while being hosed with freezing water and repeatedly given electric shocks; some are said to have been forced to swallow excrement.

Eleven were eventually released. The other 22 were charged under Decree Law 77 with belonging to the Communist Party and under the Law of Internal State Security with subversion. However, *AI* believes that none participated in any activity which involved the use or advocacy of violence.

During their seven-month trial they were held in Antofagasta Prison; final sentences were passed in January 1981. Two of the defendants were released for lack of evidence; the others were sentenced to terms of banishment.

Galvarino Irigoyen was banished to the village of San Félix in the Copiapó region, where he has been joined by his family. He has had difficulty in finding work and his situation is aggravated by his wife's poor health.

Please send courteous letters appealing for his immediate release to: General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte/Presidente de la República/Palacio la Moneda/Santiago/Chile.

Anatoly MARCHENKO, USSR

A manual labourer and writer aged 44, he is serving a sentence of 15 years' imprisonment and internal exile imposed in 1981 for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".

When Anatoly Marchenko was tried by Vladimir Region Court on 2 to 4 September 1981, it was the sixth time since 1958 that he had stood trial. He told the court he was "pleased" in a way—because this time he was being tried for something he really did do: circulating materials, including a book, articles, some letters and notes.

The court sentenced him to 10 years' imprisonment in a strict labour colony and five years' internal exile.

After serving two terms in prisons and camps (1958 to 1960 and 1960 to 1966) Anatoly Marchenko produced *My Testimony*, thought to be the first written account of Soviet prisons and labour conditions in the post-Stalin era.

By the time the book was published abroad he had already been imprisoned again—sentenced to serve a year in a labour colony for "violation of passport rules" after writing an open letter in July 1968 against Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia. While in the camp he received another two-year sentence for "expressing anti-Soviet views".

He was released in 1971 but re-arrested in 1975—for breaking "surveillance rules" imposed on him—and sentenced to exile in Chuna. While there he wrote *From Tarusa to Chuna*, the story of his arrest, trial, transportation and 53-day hunger-strike. This book was among the writings he was charged with in September last year.

Anatoly Marchenko, who is married with a nine-year-old son, Pavel, is now in Perm camp No. 35. He has suffered from meningitis, is partially deaf and has undergone intestinal surgery twice.

Please send courteous letters appealing for his release to: B.V. Kravtsov/Procurator of the RSFSR/Prokuratura RSFSR/Kuznetsky Most 13/103031 Moskva/USSR.

Annual Report 1982

The new *Amnesty International Report 1982*, published on 27 October, describes political imprisonment, torture and executions in 121 countries during the calendar year 1981 (see front page article). It is intended as a tool in the growing campaign to stop these abuses of fundamental human rights and a report on the movement's work. The country entries are arranged according to region.

Africa

Detention of suspected government opponents without trial continued to be widespread and prisoners of conscience were held in many countries. Other significant abuses were torture and unfair political trials.

In **Uganda**, many people were victims of political killings by the army. In **Ethiopia**, the government still failed to account for people who "disappeared" in 1979.

International standards were violated in several cases in which governments collaborated to deny refugees political asylum and returned them forcibly to countries in which they faced imprisonment or worse. Guineans were repatriated in this way from **Ivory Coast** and **Liberia**. **Botswana** and **Lesotho** returned political fugitives to South Africa.

Harsh and dangerous prison conditions and ill-treatment of prisoners were reported from a number of countries, often in the cases of prisoners held without trial.

Torture was reported from **Ethiopia**, **South Africa**, **Uganda**, **Zaire** and other countries. Among other countries where bad conditions or treatment for political prisoners were reported were **Gabon**, **Guinea**, **Ivory Coast**, **Lesotho**, **Madagascar** and **Somalia**.

Death penalties imposed by courts were carried out in at least 13 African countries in 1981. They were again especially frequent in **South Africa**, where 96 people were hanged.

• There were, however, encouraging developments in Africa, including unanimous approval at the Nairobi summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in July 1981 of an African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, to come into force after a majority of OAU states become party to it. It includes provision for an African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Americas

The pattern of human rights violations in the Americas has been marked in recent years by thousands of political killings and abductions by government

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

During 1981 *AI* groups worked on behalf of 4,952 individual prisoners of conscience or cases under investigation as prisoners of conscience. These included 1,703 new cases taken up during the year. A total of 1,109 prisoners were released.

forces, particularly in **El Salvador** and **Guatemala**.

Against a background of internal political and military conflict, thousands were unaccounted for or known to have been tortured and killed in the two Central American countries in 1981.

An *AI* mission interviewed Salvadorian refugees in several countries of the region in August 1981, confirming that **El Salvador's** military and police forces were responsible for extensive violations of the human rights of unarmed civilians.

An *AI* report on **Guatemala** published in February 1981 concluded that government agencies were directly responsible for thousands of killings and abductions. At least 3,200 people were killed during 1981.

Some 50 "disappearances" were reported during the year in nearby **Honduras**. *AI's* concerns there also included reported cooperation by the Honduran and Salvadorian military against fleeing Salvadorian civilians.

Elsewhere in the Americas there was a drop in the number of reported "disappearances" at the hands of government forces in 1981. The governments of **Argentina** and **Chile**, however, had not yet accounted for large numbers of people who "disappeared" in previous years. Other countries from which abductions and killings by government forces continued to be reported included **Bolivia**, **Colombia**, **Haiti** and **Mexico**.

In **Cuba**, political prisoners who had completed sentences of up to 20 years found themselves arbitrarily resentenced for having shown "rebellious" attitudes in prison.

In **Uruguay**, too, some political prisoners were retried or were held

after finishing their sentences. Torture, unfair trials, and treatment apparently designed to break prisoners' psychological health were also reported in **Uruguay**.

In August 1981 *AI* sent a memorandum to the **Nicaraguan** Government on trial procedures and the cases of prisoners convicted of crimes committed under the former government ousted in 1979.

Action on the **USA** included publication of a report on misconduct by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in connection with criminal trials. By the end of 1981 no response had been received from the government to *AI's* call for an inquiry. There were also appeals from the movement for an end to the death penalty: at year-end 924 people were under sentence of death in the USA.

Asia

Political prisoners were being held without charge or trial, often solely for the expression of their beliefs, in most Asian countries in 1981. Other violations of fundamental human rights in the region included killings by government security forces and unfair trials.

Most Asian countries have provision for holding prisoners without charge, sometimes for indefinite periods. In **Viet Nam** and **Laos**, thousands were held for "re-education"; many prisoners in **China** were also in this category. Detention or imprisonment without trial took other forms in **Pakistan**, **Nepal**, **India**, **Sri Lanka**, **Thailand**, **Malaysia**, **Singapore**, **Brunei**, the **Philippines** and other countries.

There was a welcome drop in the number of people held without trial under internal security laws in **Malaysia** and **Singapore**.

In addition to frequent reports of "disappearances" and killings of suspected government opponents in the **Philippines**, there were reports of killings by government forces and deaths of prisoners in custody from a number of other countries, including **Thailand**, **Pakistan**, **India**, **Indonesia** and **Sri Lanka**.

Several hundred people were believed to have been put to death in court-ordered executions in **Pakistan**. In **China**, according to press reports, at least 87 people were executed in a two-week period in August 1981. *AI* appealed during the year against imposition of the death penalty in **China, Japan, India, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Pakistan, Bangladesh** and other countries.

At least 15 political prisoners were executed in **Afghanistan**. There were allegations of torture and other abuses by both sides in the fighting, but in Afghanistan as well as in **Kampuchea** and **East Timor**, the fighting and lack of access hampered collection of facts on human rights violations.

An *AI* report on **Pakistan** focused on the deterioration of respect for human rights as independent power was stripped from civilian courts. Political imprisonment, torture and arbitrary arrest were widespread.

From **India** reports continued to come of police killings, brutality to prisoners and torture.

Europe

European governments upholding different political systems broke their commitments to international human rights standards in reaction to real or supposed threats to the established order in their countries in 1981.

In **Turkey**, large-scale arrests and imprisonment were accompanied by widespread torture, scores of reported deaths in custody and increased use of the death penalty. Official figures published in the Turkish press in November 1981 showed 29,929 prisoners held for political offences.

In **Poland**, thousands of supporters of the independent trade union federation Solidarity were interned without charge after the imposition of martial law in December. The internments were followed by the arrest and trial of people who tried to organize strikes or other demonstrations of protest.

The number of political trials in **Yugoslavia** rose sharply with the sentencing of over 300 ethnic Albanians arrested after demonstrations and of people in other parts of the country also accused of nationalist activity on behalf of ethnic or national groups. Charges such as "hostile propaganda" were used to imprison people accused of criticizing the country's leaders or political system.

In the **Soviet Union**, a drive against dissent which had begun in late 1979 continued unabated. *AI* took up more than 200 new cases, about half of them

involving members of Christian sects which were not registered with the authorities. Most were sentenced to labour camps or internal exile.

People were also imprisoned under laws restricting freedom of speech in **Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Poland** and **Romania**.

In a number of countries—including the **Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Greece** and several East European countries—conscientious objectors to military service were imprisoned, and adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience.

Reports were again received from **Spain** of ill-treatment and torture of people held incommunicado under anti-terrorist laws.

Special procedures or laws applied with the declared aim of combating terrorism raised concern that the rights of accused people could be threatened in **Ireland, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain** and the **United Kingdom**.

In **France**, abolition of the death penalty and the State Security Court removed two of *AI*'s longstanding concerns. **Turkey** was the only country in the Western European community to have used the death penalty in recent years but executions were again carried out in the **Soviet Union** and some countries of Eastern Europe.

Middle East

Violations of human rights in the region included large numbers of executions in some countries, political killings by governments, the "disappearance" of prisoners seized or arrested by government forces, unfair trials, detention without trial, and torture. Prisoners of conscience were held throughout the region.

In **Iran**, executions rose to more than 2,600 during 1981. Many people appear to have been executed without trial.

Several hundred people were reported to have been condemned and executed in **Iraq**, sometimes for political reasons. Executions were also reported on a smaller scale in **Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Kuwait** and the **United Arab Emirates**.

Hundreds of people were reported killed by government forces in **Syria** after summary legal procedures or none at all.

In **Libya**, institutions supporting the government again vowed to "physically liquidate" its enemies; since the first such call in February 1980, more than

MEMBERSHIP

AI now has more than 350,000 members, subscribers and supporters in 154 countries. It has sections in 41 countries, with groups or individual members in many others.

a dozen Libyan citizens abroad have been killed or wounded in assassination attempts.

AI continued to appeal for information on "disappearances" of political prisoners or of presumed political opponents in **Iraq, Morocco, Syria** and the **People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY)**. Some of these people "disappeared" as far back as 1972.

Reports of torture or ill-treatment of prisoners came from many countries including **Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia**, and the **PDRY**.

People imprisoned solely for expressing their views included students, political activists, journalists, trade unionists, Islamic fundamentalists and members of other religious groups, and advocates of the rights of minority cultural and ethnic groups.

AI worked for the release of such individuals in **Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Syria, Tunisia** and the **PDRY**. In all of these countries except **Oman**, on which information was lacking, there were cases of inadequate trial procedure or detention without trial. Similar cases were reported in **Saudi Arabia**.

Regional non-governmental organizations working to promote respect for human rights included the Arab Lawyers Union. The International Islamic Council, a European-based organization grouping Muslims from many Islamic countries, proclaimed a Universal Islamic Declaration of Human Rights and set up an International Islamic Commission on Human Rights under the chairmanship of Ahmed Ben Bella, former president of Algeria.

The Third Islamic Summit Conference in Taif, Saudi Arabia, at which most governments in the region were represented, decided to establish an Islamic Court of Justice. Government representatives and legal experts continued work on a draft document on human rights in Islam □

Copies of the Amnesty International Report 1982 may be ordered from Amnesty International Publications, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, UK; or from the section in your country. Cost £5.00 a copy.

Poland Ex-KOR leaders arrested

Five former leaders of the unofficial and now disbanded Polish civil rights organization KOR have been formally arrested and are under investigation by the authorities on charges of "making preparations for the violent overthrow of the Polish socio-political system". Four of them had been interned without charge for almost nine months.

If brought to trial, they will appear before a military court under summary proceedings which provide for a maximum sentence of death for this offence and which deny the accused the right of appeal. The charges are under Articles 123 and 128 (1) of the Polish Penal Code.

The four detainees who had been interned are Jacek **Kuron**, aged 48, a co-founder of KOR and adviser to the suspended unofficial trade union Solidarity; Adam **Michnik**, aged 36, historian and Solidarity adviser; Henryk **Wujec**, aged 42, physicist, co-editor of KOR's journal *Robotnik* and member of Solidarity's National Commission; and Jan **Litynski**, mathematician and co-editor of *Robotnik*.

The fifth arrested KOR member is Jan Jozef **Lipski**, aged 56, writer, literary critic and founder member of the organization.

The authorities announced the decision to prosecute the four interned men after widespread demonstrations on 31 August in which five people died in clashes with the police. The authorities said the next day that there was "concrete evidence" that KOR had organized the demonstrations.

Adam Michnik, in an open letter on 2 September, appealed to "world public opinion" and *AI* "to do all within your power to ensure that we have an open trial in the presence of observers and lawyers from democratic countries".

Although he supported the call for the 31 August demonstrations, he denied that they had been organized by the interned members of KOR.

The arrest of the four was announced the next day.

The authorities announced also that warrants had been issued against certain KOR leaders in hiding and said that proceedings *in absentia* had been started against Jan Lipski and Miroslaw **Chojewski**, who were out of the country at the time.

Medical treatment

Jan Lipski was arrested in Warsaw on 16 September, the day after he returned from London, where he had received medical treatment for a heart condition. He is reported still to need medication.

- On 10 September *AI* sent a telex message to General Wojciech Jaruzelski, Chairman of the Military Council for National Salvation, expressing concern at the arrest of the interned KOR members and appealing for them to be granted full legal safeguards, including access to defence counsel, and to receive a fair and open trial.

After learning of Jan Lipski's arrest, *AI* issued a similar appeal on his behalf and called also for him to be given all the medical treatment he needs □

Rwanda Forty-three executed by firing squad

Forty-three prisoners who had been sentenced to death after being convicted of common-law crimes were executed by firing squad in Rwanda on 15 September 1982. The executions took place in Kigali and Butare.

Two months earlier, on 22 July, President Habyarimana announced that the death sentences imposed by the Court of State Security on two prisoners convicted of plotting to overthrow the government were being commuted to

life imprisonment. He said also that death sentences passed on other prisoners would be carried out.

In March 1982 a representative of the Rwanda Government told the United Nations Human Rights Committee that since 1974 all death sentences had been commuted to life imprisonment. During the same period, however, a considerable number of political prisoners are reported to have been deliberately killed in prison □

Libya Students reported dead after torture in custody

Ahmed Ismael **Makhlouf**, a 31-year-old student from Benghazi, and another student, Naji **Bahouia**, are reported to have died under torture at the end of July 1982 while in the custody of the security forces in Libya.

The two students are said to have been arrested on 7 April 1982 after demonstrations at Benghazi University.

Some 200 other students and teachers are believed to have been arrested at the time by order of the university's Revolutionary Committee. Their fate and whereabouts are unknown.

AI wrote to Colonel Mu'ammarr Gaddafi, Libya's Leader of the Revolution, on 6 October calling for an investigation into the two students' deaths □

Central African Republic Political party leader arrested

The leader of a political party in the Central African Republic, the *Front patriotique ousanguien-Parti du travail* (FPO-PT), was arrested in Bangui during August 1982. Dr Abel **Goumba**, President of the FPO-PT, was arrested on 17 August, three days after the arrest at Bangui airport of another leading member of the party, Patrice **Endjimoungou**.

Both have been adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience. Two weeks after the arrests the Minister of the Interior claimed that Endjimoungou had been carrying subversive letters written by Dr Goumba. He said the FPO-PT was planning to set up a "clandestine revolutionary organization" in order to overthrow the government and that it was engaged in political activities, banned since the present military government took power in September 1981.

Both Dr Goumba and Endjimoungou are reported to have been transferred to Kassaï military camp in Bangui. They are said to be held incommunicado in crowded conditions with more than 100 other political detainees, some of whom have been held for between nine and 14 months without trial □

Seven Jamaicans hanged — fears for other inmates on death row

Seven men who had been under sentence of death for some six years were hanged in Jamaica during September—bringing to 14 the number of people executed there since 1980. It is now feared that the authorities may proceed to execute many of the more than 120 other prisoners under sentence of death in Jamaica.

Noel Riley, Anthony Forbes, Clifton Irving, Elijah Beckford, Errol Miller, Vincent O'Sullivan and Enos Henry had been convicted of murder between March 1975 and November 1976. Their appeals were dismissed by Jamaica's Court of Appeal between 1975 and 1977.

All executions in the country were, however, suspended from April 1976

Death penalty appeal

until 1979, while parliament considered the abolition of the death penalty.

On 30 January 1979 the House of Representatives voted 23 to 20 for retention, with a recommendation that all existing death sentences be reviewed.

On 9 February 1979 the Senate voted 10 to five to recommend suspension of the death penalty for 18 months pending a detailed study on it.

No reprieves were granted in the above cases, however, and dates for execution were set for May and June 1979.

Five of the seven condemned men sought a ruling from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London (which serves as a final appeal court for some Commonwealth countries and territories) that execution after such a long delay would be "inhuman and degrading punishment" in violation of the Jamaican Constitution.

The appeal was dismissed in a judgment given on 28 June 1982 by a majority of three to two (see August Newsletter).

The two dissenting judges found that the appellants had proved that they had been subjected to a "cruel and dehumanizing experience" and that "the execution of the respective death sentences in May and June 1979, against the background of the lapse of time since conviction, would have been

"inhuman treatment" within the meaning of Section 17 of the Jamaican constitution prohibiting torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The majority opinion, although rejecting the appeals on technical grounds, stated that the judges fully accepted that "long delay in the execution of a death sentence, especially delay for which the condemned man is himself in no way responsible, must be an important factor to be taken into account in deciding whether to exercise the prerogative of mercy".

Jamaican law provides for a mandatory death sentence for people convicted of murder. The Governor-General, in consultation with the Jamaica Privy Council, has the power to exercise clemency.

In June 1979, following the Senate's vote of February that year, the Minister of Justice appointed the Committee on Capital Punishment and Penal Reform. Although it has since submitted its report to the government, its findings and recommendations have not been made public. It is, however, known to have recommended that all death sentences imposed before 31 March 1981 be commuted.

Eighty-one of those under sentence of death in Jamaica were sentenced before then; 38 of them, like the seven executed men, were sentenced before or during the period in which executions were suspended.

- Two men scheduled for execution on 30 September (Roosevelt Edwards) and 12 October (Fernando Marks) have been granted stays of execution; the former on grounds of new evidence, the latter pending the outcome of an appeal.

Please send courteous letters expressing concern about the recent executions, and appealing for the immediate staying of all executions; address your letters to: Hon. Florizel Glasspole/Governor-General/Kings House/Kingston/Jamaica; and to: His Excellency Mr Edward Seaga/Prime Minister/Jamaica House/Kingston/Jamaica □

Death penalty

AI has learned of 58 people being sentenced to death in 14 countries and of 86 executions in 12 countries during September 1982.

Guatemala Four are executed in cemetery after secret trial

Four prisoners were executed by firing squad in a Guatemalan cemetery on 17 September, reportedly after a secret summary trial and conviction for crimes "against national security".

The sentences had been announced only the day before and the executions were carried out despite urgent appeals for clemency by AI and other international organizations.

The four were named as Jaime de la Rosa Rodríguez, Julio Hernández Perdomo, Marcelino Marroquín and Julio César Vásquez Juárez.

They are the first people known by AI to have been tried, convicted and executed under the provisions of Decree Law 46-82, which came into force on 8 July 1982.

The new decree greatly widened the range of political crimes for which the death penalty may be applied, established military tribunals whose members were appointed directly by the President and who need not be legally trained to hear the cases under very summary proceedings with no right of appeal.

Basis of conviction

The men were reportedly convicted on the basis of having in their possession literature produced by one of the opposition groups in Guatemala, the *Ejército Guerrillero de los Pobres* (EGP), Guerrilla Army of the Poor. Before their execution the men are reported to have denied belonging to the EGP.

The names of those who served on the tribunal which convicted them have not been made public and all the proceedings were held in secret—such was the secrecy surrounding the case that it cannot be certain that any proceedings were in fact held.

Fourteen other Guatemalans are believed to be awaiting trial by special military tribunal.

- AI wrote to President Efraín Ríos Montt on 31 August 1982 indicating its opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances and pointing out various provisions of the new legislation which are in violation of the basic principles of the right to life, the right to fair trial and the right of appeal established in both Guatemalan legislation and international instruments to which Guatemala is a party □

UN body votes to hold torture hearings

The United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has decided that hearings should be held next year before its Working Group on Detention on the incidence of torture throughout the world.

It has also called for "strong and effective measures to prevent extrajudicial executions".

The 1982 annual session of the Sub-Commission, composed of 26 experts chosen by the Commission on Human Rights, took place in Geneva on 16 August to 10 September. It adopted a recommendation by its Working Group on Detention that the group "at its next sessional meeting should give special attention to hearing and receiving information. . . concerning the extent of and facts relating to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, unless the Commission on Human Rights establishes a system for examining such information".

During the working group's session this year, *AI* had noted the need for UN action on torture to go beyond the major standard-setting steps the UN had taken so far and had stressed the need for those standards to be implemented.

Extrajudicial executions

AI had also made a major intervention before the Sub-Commission plenary session drawing attention to the problem of extrajudicial executions and the *AI*-sponsored International Conference on Extrajudicial Executions in Amsterdam (see July 1982 *Newsletter*).

AI suggested that the Sub-Commission urge upon the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur on Summary or Arbitrary Executions "the need for speedy and effective action by the UN in situations in which people are being subjected to extrajudicial executions or are threatened with that fate".

The Sub-Commission, in turn, made much the same recommendation to the UN.

However, it did not act on an intervention by *AI* on the death penalty, in which the organization had argued that the failure of some UN member states to adhere to the stated restrictions and safeguards with respect to the imposition of the death penalty was a major obstacle to its abolition in all countries.

General Assembly

Two significant measures designed to increase safeguards for prisoners against torture—each considered a high priority by *AI*—are to come up again for adoption by the United Nations General Assembly at its 37th Session in New York.

They are the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons Under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment and the Code of Medical Ethics.

When the General Assembly adopted the Declaration against Torture in 1975 it recognized the need for further international standards to ensure adequate protection against torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

It called, therefore, for the elaboration of a Code of Conduct for Law

Enforcement Officials, which the General Assembly adopted in 1979, and the two measures now to come again before the 37th Session (both were considered by the 36th Session).

The Code of Medical Ethics is to establish clearly that no health personnel—in particular doctors—may participate in practices involving the infliction of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The Body of Principles contains essential safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention.

AI considers the adoption of these standards essential and urgent and has appealed to all UN member states to accord them priority and to ensure that if changes are found necessary they lead to the strengthening of the existing texts□

Expelled Chilean says CNI tortured him

A 34-year-old Chilean glass-maker and trade unionist who says he was interrogated and tortured by Chile's secret police and then expelled from the country without explanation has appealed to the Supreme Court in Santiago to be allowed back home.

His wife lodged the appeal on 7 September. Speaking at a press conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 9 September Silvio Espinoza Sánchez said he was detained just after leaving his home in Santiago on 24 August, blindfolded and taken to the basement of a building which he later learned belonged to secret police, the *Central Nacional de Investigaciones* (CNI).

He was held there for 12 days, he said, blindfolded all the time and interrogated about his and others' trade union activities and his political affiliations. He is a member of the Chilean Glass Workers Federation.

"I was strapped to a [kind of] bed and tortured with electric shocks for two days," he told the press conference.

On one occasion, he said, he lost consciousness and was resuscitated with massage and an injection administered by a doctor.

From his cell (measuring two metres by one), he said, he could hear the screams of other men and women prisoners.

On 4 September, still blindfolded and with nothing more than the clothes he was wearing and an identity card, he was taken to Santiago airport and later

put on a flight to Sao Paulo.

He said he had been given no explanation for what had happened. He later learned that after his arrest more than a dozen men in civilian clothes had searched his home without showing any warrant or identification to his wife, who was nine months pregnant at the time. They told her afterwards that he was in the custody of the CNI.

Under Transitory Provision 24 of Chile's new constitution, the Minister of the Interior—on the orders of the President—is empowered to order the arrest and detention of any person without charge for up to five days; and, in cases where terrorist offences are said to be under investigation, for up to 20 days.

AI often receives reports of suspected political dissidents being detained without charge by the security forces under this provision and then tortured before release.

The Minister of the Interior has the power to expel Chileans—or to prohibit their entry—under the same provision. People affected by arbitrary decisions taken by authorities under the provision have no right of appeal to the courts against them□

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England. Printed in Great Britain by Shadowdean Limited, Unit 2, 37 Briscoe Road, Colliers Wood, SW19. Available on subscription at £5 (US \$12.50) per calendar year.



amnesty international supplement

There are grave fears about the fate of nearly 3,000 prisoners detained on political grounds in Guinea during the 1970s. AI has no recent reports of them being seen alive in custody and eye-witness testimonies received by the organization strongly suggest that all may now be dead, the victims of secret mass executions, systematic starvation or appalling prison conditions.

The fate of the 'disappeared' in Guinea

AI has sent the authorities in Guinea the names of 78 political prisoners it believes have died in Guinean prisons and called on the government to account for them and some 2,800 others who have "disappeared" since their arrest in the 1970s.

Many are believed dead as a result of execution, torture, deliberate starvation and inhuman prison conditions. AI has specific reports on the deaths of each of the 78 named on a list submitted to the Guinean authorities last year.

AI made its appeal public after the Guinean authorities failed to respond to the list handed over by its delegates during a visit in December 1981.

Of some 4,000 prisoners reported to have been arrested for political reasons from 1969 to 1976, about 100 were said by the authorities to have been executed and up to 1,000 are believed to have been released. The fate of approximately 2,900—most of them never tried—is unknown. AI has no recent reports of any of them being seen alive in custody.

The movement has received reliable reports that some prisoners died after being put on what was known in the prisons as "*la diète noire*" (the black diet)—denial of food and water until death. This was reported to have happened to prisoners who failed to "confess" under torture.

Many were secretly executed. In January, July and August 1971 large numbers of political detainees were taken from prisons all over Guinea and never seen again.

Many others, underfed and usually lacking any medical care, are believed to have died of malnutrition and disease.



Diallo Telli, arrested in 1976 and since "disappeared". . . he is a former Guinean Ambassador to the United Nations and the USA, as well as former Minister of Justice and first Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity.

AI has received eyewitness testimony on frequent deaths of prisoners held in overcrowded, insanitary conditions at Camp Boiro, in the capital Conakry; Camp Keme Bouraïma, in Kindia, and elsewhere during the 1970s.

• The fate of the "disappeared" was one of the subjects raised by two AI delegates who visited Conakry from 16 to 23 December 1981 and met government leaders, including President Sekou Toure. The mission was AI's first contact with Guinean authorities in nearly 15 years, and the organization considers this an important and

welcome development even though the authorities failed to shed light on the "disappeared"

Mass arrests and the 'permanent plot'

No fewer than 14 "plots against the revolution" have allegedly been discovered by the authorities in Guinea since independence in 1958 and several thousand people have been detained and accused of "counter-revolutionary" or "fifth column" activities.

President Sekou Toure has frequently stated that a "permanent plot" exists to overthrow his government and install an administration more politically favourable to the "imperialist" powers—particularly, according to him, France and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Although violent attempts to overthrow the Guinean Government have undoubtedly taken place, the threat of external intervention has been used on many occasions by the authorities to justify the suppression of all forms of internal dissent and to imprison several thousand of its real or alleged critics.

The greatest number of arrests took place after an abortive armed attack on Conakry by Portuguese forces and exiled Guineans in November 1970. Soon afterwards, the authorities began arresting "internal reactionaries" and "fifth columnists", who, they alleged, had helped plan or execute the attack.

By the end of 1971 some 3,500 people were reportedly detained, in-

cluding 16 government ministers (more than half the government at the time of the attack), five former ministers, several provincial governors, a large number of civil servants, most of the high-ranking officers of the Guinean army, members of the professional classes, traders and farmers.

In January 1971 the alleged "confessions" of a number of prominent prisoners, known to have been extracted under torture, were broadcast on radio, and the various structures of the country's sole political party, the *Parti démocratique de Guinée* (PDG), the Guinea Democratic Party, were asked to pronounce their verdict on the guilt of the prisoners and recommend sentences.

Before the verdicts were passed senior government officials called on the population to impose heavy sentences. Ismaël Toure, a government minister and a brother of the President, is reported to have declared on the radio: "You have the enemy in your hands... crush the vermin".

Not surprisingly, all of the accused were found guilty by the PDG.

The Popular National Assembly, Guinea's parliament, was convened as a Supreme Revolutionary Tribunal and passed final verdicts and sentences: 92 people were sentenced to death (33 *in absentia*) and 58 people received sentences of life imprisonment with hard labour.

'Confessions' broadcast

A second spate of "popular trials" began in July 1971, when further "confessions" were broadcast daily over the radio, and local and regional PDG structures were called on to deliver verdicts and sentences.

By October 1971, 128 cases were apparently tried in this fashion. Although some of the prisoners were reportedly sentenced to death, most of the sentences imposed were never publicized.

During these grossly unfair "trials" the accused were not only denied the right to defence counsel but were not allowed to attend the hearing of their own case.

The number of those tried and sentenced (even in the manner described above) represented a small minority of the total number arrested in 1970 and 1971. Many of the detainees in 1970 and 1971 have "disappeared" including, for example, Aribot Souleymane, nicknamed "Aribot Soda", a businessman and official of the PDG; Bangoura Karim, former minister and ambassador; and Keita Fadiala, magistrate and former

'DISAPPEARANCES' IN GUINEA . . . some of the thousands of prisoners whose fate remains unknown



Pictured above are some of the 78 prisoners whose names appeared on a list AI submitted to the Guinean authorities last year — AI believes that all have died in custody

ambassador.

Shortly after the defeat of the November 1970 invasion, the authorities announced that 29 prisoners, arrested in 1969 following the alleged discovery of two other plots and sentenced at the time to long terms of imprisonment, had now been sentenced to death for complicity in the invasion.

No trial preceded this new sentencing and no evidence was produced to justify the accusation against the 29 prisoners who were being held in Camp Boiro at the time of the invasion.

Four other prisoners sentenced in 1969 have "disappeared" in prison and are believed to have been extrajudicially executed.

A second major wave of arrests took place in 1976, when President Sekou Toure announced that an attempt on his life by a young member of the *Peuhl* (or *Fulani*) ethnic group had been foiled. The President is reported to have declared: "We will annihilate them (the *Peuhl*) immediately, not by race war, but by radical revolutionary war."

Between June and August 1976 some 500 *Peuhl* were arrested. New "confessions" of "counter-revolutionary" activities, known to have been extracted under torture, were broadcast and published in Guinea.

An executive body, the National Council of the Revolution, was convened as a Revolutionary Tribunal and resolved in advance that all prisoners convicted of involvement in the "*Peuhl* conspiracy" would be sentenced to death.

No trials

However, no trial proceedings are believed to have taken place and no publicity was given to any sentences which may have been handed down.

Among those arrested and "disappeared" were such prominent individuals as Diallo Telli, former Guinean Ambassador to the United Nations and the USA, as well as former Minister of Justice and first Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU); and Drame Alioune, former minister and ambassador.

What happened to those who 'disappeared'?

In late 1980 the last 16 survivors of the thousands of prisoners who had been detained since 1969, 1971 or 1976 were released from Camp Boiro prison. No other prisoners known by AI to have been arrested on these occasions are believed to be alive in prison today. The fate of the remaining thousands of untried and unsentenced prisoners is not known. Eye-witness testimonies suggest strongly that all may now be dead, either as a result of torture, secret mass executions or because they were deliberately starved to death.

Secret executions

On the night of 25 January 1971 large numbers of political prisoners,

for the most part untried, were removed from various prisons throughout Guinea and transported to secret places of execution.

As many as several hundred prisoners were taken from their cells in Camp Boiro, and were never seen or heard of again. It is reported that large numbers of prisoners held in Keme Bouraima camp, and in the Alpha Yaya and Samory camps, in Conakry, were also taken away for execution on the same night. Several other mass executions took place in 1971, mainly in July and August.

The 'diète noire'

After the waves of arrests in 1970-1971 and 1976, the "*diète noire*" was reportedly inflicted on prisoners who proved insufficiently "cooperative" during the torture sessions which accompanied interrogation and who were unwilling to "confess" to being members of an international conspiracy against the government. Most prisoners on the "*diète noire*" are said to have died within 15 days after suffering extreme pain and distress. According

to witnesses, the screams and groans of the starving prisoners could often be heard throughout the prison block at Camp Boiro.

Newly arrived prisoners in Camp Boiro were systematically starved for periods usually lasting between three and five days. Afterwards many prisoners were so physically and mentally reduced that they were prepared to "confess" at their first interrogation. Those who were not were tortured and deprived of food and water for longer periods.

According to information received by AI, prisoners destined by the authorities to be starved to death under the "*diète noire*" had the letters "DN" written in charcoal on their cell doors. Those to be starved for shorter periods had a "D" chalked on the door.

Other torture

Up to 100 prisoners are unofficially reported to have died either under other forms of torture or as a direct result of such torture. Methods used are reported to have included the application of electric shocks to the head, limbs and genitals, severe beatings with fists, sticks and whips, and burning with cigarettes.

Torture victims have also had their heads immersed in water until they lost consciousness and have been hung up by the ankles for long periods. Many prisoners suffered deep lacerations and partial paralysis of the limbs after being bound tightly with wire for hours.

AI has received consistent reports indicating strongly that the 78 "disappeared" prisoners whose names the organization submitted to the Guinean authorities were killed in mass executions, starved to death under the "*diète noire*" or died under torture.

Large numbers of other prisoners are known to have died as a direct result of the very harsh conditions of imprisonment, particularly at Camps Boiro and Keme Bouraima. In both places, prisoners were held in grossly overcrowded and insanitary conditions, and were poorly fed. Medical facilities were virtually non-existent and many prisoners are believed to have died from malnutrition and disease. In a six-month period in 1974, for example, over 250 deaths were unofficially reported in one section of Camp Boiro.

• In the course of AI's mission to Guinea, its delegation submitted to the authorities a list of 78 "disappeared" prisoners, known not to have been sentenced to death and not reported to have been released, and appealed for information regarding their fate. The

authorities agreed to supply this information within months of the mission, but also stated that the delegation would not be given information on prisoners who had died in prison.

Incommunicado detention without trial

An unknown number of real or alleged opponents of the government are reported to have been detained incommunicado in Guinea for long periods without trial—estimates of the number of these detainees range from 70 to several hundred.

During its December 1981 mission, *AI* expressed to the authorities its concern about such long-term detention without trial and appealed for the release or the prompt trial, depending on the case, of 22 named political detainees. *AI* believes that none of these detainees has been tried and that some of them are prisoners of conscience. A list containing the names of these 22 detainees was submitted to the authorities by the delegation.

The authorities told *AI*'s delegation that each of the 22 detainees had been tried, convicted and sentenced—and they agreed to provide the organization with information on the judicial status of each detainee in the months after the mission. They also stated that there were no prisoners of conscience in Guinea, and that political prisoners there were guilty of involvement or complicity in violent attempts to overthrow the government.

At the time of going to press *AI* had received no information on the 22 detainees.

Most of them were arrested between 1977 and 1981.

- In August 1977 up to 50 people were detained in Conakry and other major towns after demonstrations by market women against the activities of the *Police économique*, Economic Police, which enforced a government ban on private trading. *AI* has appealed to the authorities for the release or trial of four named detainees held since August 1977.
- At least 10 people were arrested in August 1979, after which the authorities claimed to have discovered a plot to destroy public buildings with explosives. Six of the detainees are reported to have been subjected to the "*diète noire*" and to have died in Camp Boiro

Visit to Camp Boiro Prison

In its 1981 annual report *AI* stated that conditions at Camp Boiro prison had become less harsh; in particular, nutrition had improved and there was less overcrowding.

During its visit to Guinea, the *AI* delegation was allowed to visit Camp Boiro prison and interview five prisoners of its own choice, without prison officials being present. (The delegation stressed to the authorities that this visit did not constitute a detailed inspection of existing conditions of imprisonment, which could only be undertaken by competent bodies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The authorities told the delegation that the ICRC would not be allowed to visit prisons in Guinea.)

Four of the prisoners interviewed were arrested in August 1977 and the fifth in August 1979. The confidentiality of interviews carried out in such circumstances will be respected by *AI*—but it can be revealed that all five prisoners declared that they were in good health and that the quality of the food provided to prisoners had improved substantially in the last few years.

prison shortly after their arrest. *AI* has appealed for the prompt trial or release of the remaining four detainees.

- Up to 100 people were arrested after a grenade exploded during a public performance at the *Palais du Peuple*, People's Palace, in Conakry in May 1980.
- In February 1981 the authorities announced that an attempt to cause explosions at Conakry airport had been foiled, and up to 100 people were reportedly arrested.

Most of these two latest groups of detainees were reportedly released after interrogation, but some 50 remained in detention without trial. *AI* has appealed to the authorities for the prompt trial or release of nine of them, including Barry Moutar, a Guinean exile extradited forcibly and extrajudicially from the Ivory Coast in April 1981.

- The detention without trial of political prisoners contravenes both Guinean internal legislation and international legislation (such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was signed by Guinea in 1978).

The Guinean constitution of 1963 guarantees the rights to freedom from arbitrary arrest, to defence counsel before a tribunal, and to freedom of expression. The Guinean penal code specifies penalties to be imposed against state officials who carry out arbitrary arrests and provides that no arrested person shall be held for longer than 72 hours without judicial sanction.

Political trials

Of the thousands arrested for political reasons since independence, a small number have been tried by non-judicial bodies such as, for example, the National Revolutionary Assembly or supreme organs of the ruling PDG, convened as Revolutionary Tribunals.

The procedures used by these tribunals fell far short of internationally-recognized standards for a fair trial. The accused were denied defence counsel or the right to present their own defence. In most cases, they were not allowed to be present at the hearings—and their "confessions" were brought before the tribunals in either written form or by means of tape recordings.

These "confessions" were in most cases obtained by a body known as the "*Commission révolutionnaire*", Revolutionary Commission, composed of high-ranking members of the PDG and of the government, which met within the major centres of political detention. Many detainees are known to have "confessed" under torture, or following several days of total deprivation of food and water.

The authorities told *AI*'s delegation that the exceptional nature of the tribunals and the procedures used by them was justified by the exceptional nature of the circumstances in which they were convened. The authorities stated that the Revolutionary Tribunals were permanent bodies, which are empowered to hear all cases involving offences against the security of the state.

Information available to *AI* prior to the mission suggests strongly that the Revolutionary Commission and the security forces are subject to no limitations or controls in the field of political detention. People arrested for political reasons are reportedly denied any access to the judiciary and remain in detention solely at the orders of the executive arm of government □