

TO: TRANSLATORS & PRESS OFFICERS
FROM: PAULA (IS PRESS OFFICE)
DATE: 3 JUNE 1993

Following is the full text of the Annual Report Summaries document, in the correct order and complete with titles and subtitles. We will send the beautifully formatted version out to you by swift air today. Please, please let me know if you find any mistakes - I can hardly believe the whole document is finalized! Thanks, Paula

EMBARGOED FOR 0600 HRS GMT, THURSDAY 8 JULY 1993
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT 1993
ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARIES 1993
AN OVERVIEW OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT
AI INDEX: POL 10/03/93
DISTR: SC/PO

WORLDWIDE SUMMARY

Highlights of Amnesty International Report 1993 covering events from January to December 1992.

Appalling human rights catastrophes shocked the world in 1992. International attention focused on the carnage in former Yugoslavia and Somalia. But in many other countries, torture, "disappearances" and political killings were a daily reality for beleaguered populations.

Amnesty International's latest annual report details human rights violations in 161 countries - more than ever before in the movement's 32-year history. The report lays bare the abject failure of governments of all complexions to protect basic rights at home or abroad.

In their responses to the human rights crises of 1992, governments showed their blatant hypocrisy on human rights issues, Amnesty International said. The world witnessed human rights violations of allies being greeted with silence, while those of declared enemies were met with public condemnations, sometimes backed with action.

Government reaction to dissent or opposition at home was equally hypocritical.

While publicly proclaiming their commitment to human rights, rulers in every region of the world resorted to violent repression. Opposition groups also committed horrifying abuses on innocent bystanders, including torture, deliberate and arbitrary killings and hostage-taking.

There are thousands of stories in this 350-page report of people whose lives have been destroyed by state persecution and injustice. Among the gross human rights violations detailed in this global survey of 1992 are the following:

- Rising political conflict, often violent, in Egypt, Algeria and Israel and the Occupied Territories led to killings by the government, mass arrests, renewed reports of torture in Algeria and continuing torture in Egypt.
- Torture and rape of prisoners were widespread throughout India: the victims came overwhelmingly from among the poor and particularly vulnerable sections of society.
- With the complete breakdown of any semblance of national government in Somalia, thousands of unarmed civilians were deliberately killed by armed political groups.
- In a largely unreported civil war in Tadzhikistan, officials estimated that 20,000 people had died by the end of 1992 and unarmed civilians were deliberately killed.
- Executions spiralled in the United States of America (USA), with 31 prisoners killed by the state - more than double the previous year.

This annual report makes grim reading. It tells of prisoners of conscience in jails and camps in dozens of countries in the world. It reports the deaths of tens of thousands of unarmed men, women and children deliberately and arbitrarily killed by police, soldiers or undercover agents, or by armed political groups.

**HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WORLDWIDE
DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1993**

PRISONERS

- Prisoners of conscience - jailed solely for the peaceful exercise of their basic human rights - were held in some 62 countries. Possible prisoners of conscience were held in 32 countries.
- The number of known prisoners of conscience in those countries totalled more than 4,400.
- At least 300,000 political prisoners were detained without charge or trial or under administrative detention in more than 60 countries.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- More than 1,500 political prisoners were imprisoned after unfair trials in at least 30 countries.
- Political prisoners in 20 countries were still in prison after unfair trials in previous years.

TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT

- Detainees were tortured or ill-treated in prisons, police stations or secret detention centres in at least 110 countries.
- More than 500 people died apparently as a result of torture or inhuman prison conditions or in "suspicious" circumstances in some 48 countries.

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Suspected government opponents, members of targeted ethnic groups or people living in opposition strongholds were apparently victims of extrajudicial execution in 45 countries.

"DISAPPEARANCES"

- At least 950 people were reported to have "disappeared" after arrest by security forces in some 25 countries and many others remained "disappeared" in at least 27 countries after "disappearing" in previous years.

DEATH PENALTY

- 1,708 prisoners are known to have been executed in 35 countries and 2,697 people were sentenced to death in 62 countries. The true figures are certainly higher.
- At the end of the year, 44 per cent of countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. 47 countries have abolished the death penalty for all offences and 16 for all but exceptional offences, such as wartime crimes. A further 20 countries and territories, while retaining the penalty in law, have not carried out any executions for at least 10 years.
- 106 countries and territories retain and use the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- China and Iran account for 82 per cent of all known executions.

**VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1993**

WOMEN

- Women were victims of a range of human rights violations, including rape by security forces, in at least 45 countries.

CHILDREN

- Some 35 countries violated the basic human rights of children and juveniles.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- People from indigenous communities were targeted for human rights violations in at least 40 countries.

ASIA

Highlights of Amnesty International Report 1993 covering events from January to December 1992.

Once again, human rights violations of every description were only too common across Asia. Political killings, "disappearances", torture, detention of prisoners of conscience, unfair trials and the death penalty were widespread and across the region there was little sign of any improvement in human rights.

Extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" remained one of the most pressing and widespread problems, with reports of these violations coming from 12 countries. In some countries, such as the Philippines, Indonesia and East Timor and Sri Lanka, the killings were part of a pattern going back years, but in other countries the killings were an unwelcome addition to the human rights record.

In Papua New Guinea, for example, dozens of suspected supporters of the secessionist Bougainville Revolutionary Army were extrajudicially executed by government forces - in one incident in May, around 17 villagers were killed when soldiers fired indiscriminately on them.

In Thailand, too, soldiers opened fire on unarmed civilians. Some 52 peaceful demonstrators were killed, hundreds injured and scores "disappeared" when protests were violently suppressed by the security forces in May.

Killings continued last year in the Philippines, where scores of people were believed to have been extrajudicially executed and at least 16 people reportedly "disappeared" in police or military custody. Those killed were frequently members of farmers' or peasants' organizations, church or community workers or trade unionists. Frequently, the authorities had accused them of supporting the armed opposition.

Efforts to suppress armed opposition groups also led to extrajudicial executions in Indonesia and East Timor, where scores of people were killed by government forces in counter-insurgency operations in East Timor, Aceh and Irian Jaya. Scores more are reported to have "disappeared" in Aceh and East Timor.

In Sri Lanka "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions continued to be committed in the war-torn northeast, although at a lower rate than in previous years. In one incident, 39 Tamil men, women and children were massacred by soldiers apparently in reprisal for killings by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

In March the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), whose role is mandated by the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement, began to oversee Cambodia's administration in the run-up to the May 1993 elections. Although hundreds of political prisoners were released by the State of Cambodia (SOC), the last two months of the year saw a sharp increase in politically motivated killings by both SOC forces and the Partie of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK, or Khmer Rouge).

The conflict zones of India were also the scene of extrajudicial executions - hundreds of political activists were extrajudicially executed in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, where scores more "disappeared".

Other areas of India were not free from human rights violations. Torture and ill-treatment of detainees were widespread throughout the country and women were often raped in police cells or army custody. Victims were usually poor, often from among the most vulnerable groups of society, the scheduled castes and tribes, and were beaten, suspended by their wrists or ankles, or given electric shocks.

In neighbouring Pakistan, torture, including rape, was frequently inflicted on both political and criminal detainees and at least 15 people were reported to have died in custody as a result of torture. Mohammed Yusuf Jakhrani, President of the National Democratic Party, died in June after six days in custody. The police said he died of heart failure, but his body bore extensive marks of torture, including burn injuries on his genitals.

Torture was reported frequently in China, with the most frequently reported methods being severe beatings, shocks from electric batons and the use of shackles. Sleep and food deprivation and exposure to heat or cold were also reported to be common. Both criminal and political prisoners were tortured.

Political imprisonment also remained one of the hallmarks of human rights violations in China, and indeed the whole region. In China, thousands of political prisoners were held, hundreds of them prisoners of conscience. Scores of prisoners of conscience were serving prison sentences, but many were held without charge or trial - those targeted included political activists, religious leaders and members of ethnic groups.

In Myanmar (Burma), too, political prisoners were held in very high numbers. Despite the release of some 1,300 political prisoners, at least 1,550 more remained in detention, many of them prisoners of conscience. They included Nobel Peace Prize Winner Aung San Suu Kyi, held under house arrest since 1989. In Indonesia and East Timor, more than 180 prisoners of conscience or suspected prisoners of conscience were held, 30 or so sentenced during 1992, and at least 300 other political prisoners continued to serve lengthy sentences imposed after unfair trials. Hundreds more were arrested and held without charge or trial for periods of up to two years. In Viet Nam at least 70 known or possible prisoners of conscience remained in prison in 1992, although five were released along with over 100 former officials of the pre-1975 government, who had been held without charge or trial for up to 17 years.

Scores of prisoners of conscience were held in Pakistan for their political or religious beliefs, some of them members of the Ahmadiyya community, persecuted for their faith. Thousands of opposition party activists were also arrested: most were released after a few days or weeks, but the practice of repeatedly bringing apparently false criminal charges against some opposition leaders persisted. The death penalty became a serious problem in Pakistan, with at least 19 prisoners executed - the first judicial executions since 1988. At least 130 prisoners were sentenced to death, many by the Special Courts for Speedy Trial, which fall far short of international standards.

The use of the death penalty remained a serious human rights problem in many countries in Asia, including Afghanistan, China, Japan, and Malaysia. In China, once again executions continued on a massive scale: 1,891 death sentences were recorded and 1,079 executions - but the true figures were believed to be far higher.

In Japan, Amnesty International was concerned too about the lack of protection for refugees - asylum-seekers face difficulties in obtaining information and applying for asylum, procedures do not provide a fair examination of claims and there is little protection against forcible return for those at risk of human rights violations at home. In Thailand, 10 Chinese asylum-seekers were threatened with forcible return, despite the risk of human rights violations against them. By the end of 1992, one had been returned to China, two were in detention in Thailand and the fate of the others was not known.

In at least eight countries in the region, human rights abuses were carried out by armed opposition groups as well as governments. In India, such groups were responsible for hostage-taking, torture and deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians, mainly in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and the northeastern states. In Sri Lanka, the LTTE committed gross abuses of human rights, including deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians, torture and killing of prisoners and abduction for ransom. In the Philippines deliberate and arbitrary killings by the New People's Army (NPA) continued to be reported and military officials alleged that members had tortured wounded soldiers. Several people, including government officials and civilians, were reportedly taken hostage by the NPA.

**HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1993**

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Thousands of prisoners of conscience, jailed solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights, were held in at least 14 countries, including Myanmar, Indonesia and East Timor and China.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

- Thirteen countries between them held many thousands of political prisoners without charge or trial, particularly China and Sri Lanka.

RELEASES

- Thousands of political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, were freed in nine countries, including Afghanistan, Myanmar, Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- In at least 11 countries, including China, Indonesia and East Timor, Myanmar and Pakistan, political prisoners were held after unfair trials in 1992 and in at least three countries, including China and Indonesia and East Timor, after unfair trials in previous years.

"DISAPPEARANCES"

- Hundreds of people "disappeared" in six countries including India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, and tens of thousands of people who "disappeared" in previous years remained unaccounted for.

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Hundreds of people were apparently extrajudicially executed by government security forces or by "death squads" said to be linked to them in 12 countries, including India, Indonesia and East Timor, the Philippines, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Torture or ill-treatment of prisoners were reported in 20 countries, including China, Indonesia and East Timor, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.
- In at least eight countries - including Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia and East Timor and Pakistan - people died in custody, apparently as a result of torture.
- Women were raped or sexually abused by security forces in eight countries, including India, Pakistan, Myanmar and the Philippines.

DEATH PENALTY

- The death penalty was imposed in 13 countries, and thousands of people remained on death row.
- Executions were carried out in 11 countries in the region. In China alone, Amnesty International knows of over 1,000 executions in 1992 and of over 1,800 death sentences passed by the courts.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Armed opposition groups committed human rights abuses, such as torture or deliberate and arbitrary killings in at least eight countries - including Bhutan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, India and Myanmar.

AFRICA

Highlights of Amnesty International Report 1993 covering events from January to December 1992.

Serious human rights violations continued once again throughout 1992, with thousands killed by government forces and many thousands more behind bars without charge or trial, many of them prisoners of conscience. Torture and ill-treatment continued to be reported and in some countries opposition groups were also responsible for human rights abuses, including deliberate and arbitrary killings.

The move towards multi-party democracy continued in Africa: it led to unprecedented elections and new governments in some countries but also sparked off repression by other governments unwilling to tolerate political change or to face its consequences.

Côte d'Ivoire ended the one-party state in 1990 - in 1992, for the first time in many years, a large number of prisoners of conscience were detained, when the government blamed its opponents for damage during riots in February 1992. More than 250 people were arrested - most of them were released without charge after about two months, but over 80, all of them prisoners of conscience, were sentenced to between three months' and three years' imprisonment. They were finally freed in July.

In the continent's last formal one-party state, Malawi, demands for change surfaced publicly in March and the government committed human rights violations in a bid to stamp out moves towards reform. Unprecedented opposition to the one-party state emerged - which in turn sparked off human rights violations by the government. Hundreds of people were arrested, many of them office workers suspected of duplicating and spreading anti-government materials in what was dubbed "the fax revolution". All were released after about three months, some without charge and some to face trial on sedition charges.

Other long-term prisoners of conscience, however, remained in prison in Malawi, including Orton Chirwa and his wife, Vera Chirwa, possibly Africa's longest-serving prisoners of conscience, who were both reportedly abducted from Zambia in 1981. In September 1992, they were allowed to see each other for the first time since 1984. Sadly, Orton Chirwa died the following month. Prisoners of conscience were behind bars in many other countries in Africa.

Mass arrests also continued across the region. In Ethiopia, for example, almost 20,000 suspected supporters of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and dozens of other government opponents were detained without charge or trial in 1992. A further 2,000 members of former President Mengistu Haile-Mariam's government, arrested in 1991, remained in detention without charge or trial.

In Cameroon hundreds of government opponents were also detained and held without charge or trial. Most were imprisoned after a presidential election when a state of emergency was imposed on one province in October, many of them were prisoners of conscience.

In Sierra Leone more than 150 real or suspected government opponents were also detained without charge or trial after a coup in April - many of them, including possible prisoners of conscience, were still behind bars at the end of the year. The new government also carried out political killings: in December 1992, 26 people were summarily executed and at least three more were killed extrajudicially on suspicion of involvement in alleged coup attempts. Many suspected rebels and people accused of supporting them in areas of armed conflict near the frontier with Liberia were tortured and extrajudicially executed by soldiers.

Political killings such as these, sometimes on a massive scale, continued to be the tragic hallmark of human rights violations in Africa. A frightening list of at least 14 sub-Saharan governments carried out political killings, sometimes

in targeted extrajudicial executions of individual opponents, sometimes in wholesale massacres.

In Sudan, for example, hundreds of prisoners "disappeared" or were extrajudicially executed in the war-torn areas of South and West Sudan. In one incident alone, in Juba in June 1992, government troops arrested hundreds of southern Sudanese civilians, soldiers, police and paramilitary agents. Many of them "disappeared": the majority are believed to have been extrajudicially executed. In Angola, during violence which erupted after elections, hundreds of suspected supporters of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) were extrajudicially executed by government police or by civilians supporting them.

Civil war has been the context of violations in several other countries in Africa, not least in Somalia. A complete breakdown of any semblance of national government there saw thousands of unarmed civilians deliberately killed by various political groups. Many victims were evidently targeted purely on the basis of clan membership. In Uganda, fighting decreased and there were fewer reports of extrajudicial executions than in previous years, but the government failed to implement practical safeguards to prevent further abuses by the military.

The killings went on in less well-known situations as well. In Zaire, for example, there were numerous reports of people being extrajudicially executed by soldiers - in February at least 37 people were killed when security forces broke up a peaceful demonstration organized by lay Christians calling for political change.

Dozens, perhaps hundreds, were killed in army violence against civilians and many other victims died when the authorities in one province incited people against a particular ethnic group. In January and February about 100 people in Chad were executed extrajudicially in and around the capital, including a leader of a local human rights organization, and there were regular reports of other such killings throughout the year.

In South Africa, 1992 saw the continuance of a pattern of covert involvement by the security forces in the many politically motivated killings in the country. Some of those killed were victims of attacks on black train commuters or on African National Congress (ANC) - supporting communities by armed men - believed to be operating with police acquiescence. Others, including key figures in the ANC, the South African Communist Party and trade unions, were assassinated by "death squads" made up of or backed by elements of the security forces.

In some parts of the region, bloody inter-ethnic violence was at the root of human rights violations. In Niger, for example, more than 200 members of the Tuareg minority were arrested from August onwards: some were possible prisoners of conscience and most were still behind bars at the end of the year.

In Burundi tension between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups again led to grave human rights violations: about 500 Hutu who had been arrested in late 1991 were held throughout 1992, mostly without trial. Over 100 Hutu were brought to trial - but their trials were mostly unfair. In neighbouring Rwanda it was the Tutsi who were targeted, often for killing, by civilian Hutu whose actions appeared to be condoned by and sometimes organized at a high level within the government.

Not only governments were responsible for human rights abuses - in several countries, opposition groups also committed deliberate and arbitrary killings and torture.

In Angola, two opposition groups were to blame for gross human rights abuses, including killings. UNITA were reported to have buried alive two government air force officers and deliberately killed another two, and following the election in September to have killed suspected government supporters. Armed factions of the Frente de Libertação do Enclave de Cabinda (FLEC) also carried out deliberate and arbitrary killings of suspected government supporters.

Two factions of an armed opposition group in Sudan were also responsible

for gross human rights abuses. The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had split into two in 1991: both factions carried out deliberate and arbitrary killings and executed prisoners. In January, forces loyal to the Nasir faction raided a village and killed at least 87 civilians, including patients at a leprosy hospital.

Despite this, there were some hopeful signs for human rights in the region in 1992. Angola abolished the death penalty, for example, and in Mozambique peace accords brought an end to a long-term conflict which had been punctuated by human rights violations. Prisoners were released in several countries, including all known long-term political prisoners in Ghana, most political prisoners in Kenya and 19 prisoners of conscience in Uganda, where treason charges against a further 90 people, some of them possible prisoners of conscience, were dropped.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN AFRICA

DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1993

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Several thousand people were victims or possible victims of extrajudicial execution by security forces in 14 countries, including Sierra Leone, Angola, Chad, Zaire and South Africa.

"DISAPPEARANCES"

- Some 108 people were reported to have "disappeared" in five countries and the fate of close to 2863 others from nine countries was still unknown after their "disappearance" in previous years. The countries included Sudan, Chad, Mauritania and Mozambique.

TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT

- Detainees were tortured or ill-treated in prison, police stations or special secret detention centres in 30 countries, including Cameroon and Malawi.

- More than 420 people died apparently from beatings and other torture in some 18 countries, including Chad, Djibouti, Sierra Leone and South Africa.

- Prisoners in at least eight countries including Cote d'Ivoire and Kenya had to endure harsh prison conditions which amounted to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

PRISONERS

- Prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights, were held in at least 17 countries in the region.

- A total of more than 337 prisoners of conscience were held in 17 countries including Chad, Malawi and Sudan.

- A further 401 possible prisoners of conscience were held in eight countries including Cameroon, Guinea, Ghana and Gambia.

- More than 3,920 people were held in administrative detention - without charge or trial - in some 24 countries, including Cameroon, Chad, Burundi, Nigeria and Malawi.

- At least 4,000 political prisoners, including some prisoners of conscience and others held without charge or trial, were released in 24 countries, including Ghana.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- More than 170 political prisoners were imprisoned after unfair trials in six countries, including Djibouti and Burundi.

- More than 1,459 political prisoners were still held after unfair trials in previous years in seven countries.

DEATH PENALTY

- More than 31 people were executed - by hanging, firing squad or other method - in four countries, including Sierra Leone and Sudan.

- More than 1,329 people in 20 countries including Cameroon, South Africa and Kenya, were on death row, either after death sentences passed in 1992 or previous years.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Armed opposition groups committed human rights abuses, such as torture or deliberate and arbitrary killings in at least 17 countries - including Angola, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Somalia.

EUROPE

Highlights of Amnesty International Report 1993 covering events from January to December 1992.

1992 was an appalling year for human rights in Europe. In country after country, human rights saw setbacks rather than improvements, and at the root of many of the violations was ethnic or racist division.

In some countries, this took the form of violence at the hands of the security forces, with an element of racism - a violation common to many countries from France to Romania. In other countries, the division became the cause of armed conflict, and human rights were violated in that context in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Azerbaijan.

There was an increase in reports of torture and ill-treatment in many countries in 1992. Across the region, in countries including Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Romania and Italy, Amnesty International heard of cases in which the race of the victim played an important part.

In France, for example, there were allegations of ill-treatment in police custody, often concerning immigrants or French citizens of North African origin. Jacques Cherigui, of Franco-Algerian parentage, was reportedly kicked and punched by police officers, who subjected him to racial abuse. No judicial inquiry has been made into his official complaint and there has been no result from an internal police inquiry.

In other parts of the region, Roma (Gypsies) were frequent victims of police racism. In Bulgaria in June police officers allegedly tortured and ill-treated Roma when they surrounded a Romany community to search houses for arms and check identification. They allegedly used truncheons and sticks to beat men, women and children indiscriminately and inhabitants of one house were reportedly made to stand against a wall and were told they would be shot. In Romania and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic there were allegations of security forces torturing and ill-treating Roma.

Police ill-treatment remained a problem in other countries, including Portugal, Spain and Austria. In Portugal, Spain and Italy, allegations of torture and ill-treatment in police custody or prisons became more frequent and many appeared to have been inadequately investigated. In the United Kingdom there were frequent allegations that police and military patrols in Northern Ireland ill-treated people they stopped on the streets and that others were ill-treated by the police in interrogation centres.

In Greece, reports of torture and ill-treatment continued: several conscientious objectors to military service alleged they had been ill-treated while in detention and in September Manolis Tsapelis died a month after police allegedly headbutted him in the stomach. An autopsy recorded the cause of death as an embolism following an operation on a spleen injured in a fall or beating.

In Turkey, torture continued to be a very serious problem and at least 13 people died in custody, allegedly as a result of torture. Torture was reported from all parts of the country, and men, women and children were tortured. A 15-year-old boy, Mehmet Polat, said he was blindfolded, beaten, kicked and given electric shocks when he took food to his uncle who was in police custody.

The year also saw an increase in the number of alleged extrajudicial executions in Turkey - more than 200 killings in the mainly Kurdish southeast, in circumstances which suggested security force involvement. A further 120 or more were killed in

the same area during incidents in which police and gendarmes opened fire on unarmed civilians.

Armed conflict led to many human rights violations, both in well-publicized situations such as that in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but elsewhere too, in Georgia, Moldova and other parts of what was once the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). In Azerbaijan, for example, scores of people were held as hostages on grounds of their ethnic origin - many of them also tortured or ill-treated - and hundreds of non-combatant civilians were killed in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. In Tajikistan armed groups divided along political and clan lines, and officials estimated that up to 20,000 people were killed - some of them reportedly unarmed civilians killed deliberately.

The war in Bosnia-Herzegovina has led to human rights abuses against tens of thousands of people. Many thousands of people were held in detention camps, often purely on ethnic grounds, sometimes as hostages for exchange. Torture and ill-treatment, including rape, were common. Thousands of civilians and captured or wounded prisoners were deliberately killed. All sides in the conflict were responsible for abuses, but the majority of victims were Muslims and the main perpetrators were local Serbian armed forces.

Once again, Amnesty International had serious concerns about refugee protection in many countries in Europe, and these concerns were exacerbated by the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the horrendous human rights abuses in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Regional agreements affecting asylum-seekers were drafted and adopted by states of the European Community (EC) in 1992. Amnesty International believed that they did not include satisfactory safeguards and that in many cases they would make it more difficult for people fleeing serious human rights violations to find protection in EC countries. At the end of 1992 these concerns intensified with the adoption at an EC Summit meeting of agreements for sending asylum-seekers back to so-called "safe" countries and for dealing with other claims in "accelerated" procedures. Amnesty International believes these measures could lead to people being sent back to countries where they are at risk of serious human rights violations.

In some countries in Europe, people were imprisoned as prisoners of conscience for refusing to take part in military service. Conscientious objectors were held in a number of countries, including Finland, Russia, Spain and Switzerland. In France, between 700 and 1,000 conscientious objectors received sentences of up to 18 months' imprisonment. All but four of the known objectors were Jehovah's Witnesses, whose faith does not allow them to carry out military service.

In Greece, too, hundreds of Jehovah's Witnesses were imprisoned as conscientious objectors, including ministers - even though ministers of other religions were allowed exemption.

The use of the death penalty was a concern in several countries, most of them formerly part of the USSR. Some 95 people were sentenced to death in Russia in the first six months of 1992 alone, and one execution was carried out. Sadly, a parliamentary proposal to commute all current death sentences was voted down in June. In Belarus 28 people were executed.

Opposition groups also carried out human rights abuses in several countries in the region. In the United Kingdom, for example, violence intensified in Northern Ireland and both Republican and Loyalist armed groups carried out torture and deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians. During the year, Loyalist armed groups claimed responsibility for killing 34 people, including 29 Catholic civilians, and the Irish Republican Army (IRA) reportedly killed 29 people in Northern Ireland, including 20 civilians.

In Turkey, there were more than 100 apparently deliberate and arbitrary killings of prisoners and non-combatants by armed opposition groups. Many of them

were civilians killed for allegedly assisting the security forces.

In Spain, attacks by the armed Basque group Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA) continued and among the 26 people killed by ETA were seven civilians.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN EUROPE DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1993

TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT

- Detainees were tortured or ill-treated in prison, police stations or other detention centres in 22 countries, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Tadjikistan, Yugoslavia and Turkey.
- More than 30 people died apparently from beatings by police and other torture in some six countries.

PRISONERS

- Thousands of prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience were held in 15 countries in the region, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece, France and Switzerland.

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- More than 500 extrajudicial executions or possible extrajudicial executions were reported in six countries - Turkey, Croatia, Azerbaydzhan, Tadjikistan, Georgia and Yugoslavia. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of civilians and captured or wounded combatants were deliberately and arbitrarily killed in the course of conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

DEATH PENALTY

- Some 68 people were known to have been executed in Albania, Georgia, Latvia, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine and a further 125 were sentenced to death or remained on death row in 14 countries.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Armed opposition groups committed human rights abuses, such as torture or deliberate and arbitrary killings in at least eight countries - including Spain, United Kingdom and Turkey.

MIDDLE EAST

Highlights of Amnesty International Report 1993 covering events from January to December 1992.

Torture, unfair trials, political killings, "disappearances" and other serious human rights violations were committed by government agents throughout the Middle East during 1992. All countries in the region retained the death penalty, many using it extensively. Governments in many countries in the region failed or were reluctant to investigate past or present abuses, allowing security forces to commit human rights violations with impunity. Thousands of people were detained without charge or trial in virtually every country in the region during the year, many of them held under state of emergency laws. In Egypt, under the extended state of emergency, thousands were arrested, often following clashes between Islamic groups and security forces. Over 10,000 people were detained without charge or trial in desert camps in Algeria, with about 1,000 still held at the end of the year, and thousands more were arrested and detained elsewhere. In Syria several thousand political prisoners, including at least 195 prisoners of conscience, remained held, most without charge or trial, from previous years. Several hundred Palestinians were administratively detained under renewable detention orders of up to six months in Israel and the Occupied Territories, with over 500 detainees held without charge

or trial by the end of 1992. People were also detained without charge or trial in Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Prisoners of conscience were held in a number of countries in the region, many of them among the thousands detained in Iraq and Syria. Over 150 prisoners of conscience remained in prison in Morocco at the end of the year and Amnesty International was concerned about arrests of Christians and Sunni and Shi'a Muslims in Saudi Arabia for the peaceful expression of their religious beliefs.

Amnesty International continued to receive reports of systematic torture from most countries in the Middle East, with victims being subjected to beatings, cigarette burns, electric shocks and other brutal methods specific to different countries. In Egypt, new legislation giving additional powers of arrest and lengthening incommunicado detention, introduced in July, facilitated torture of political detainees. Three Palestinians died in detention in Israel and one shortly after release, after interrogations which reportedly included hooding, beating and sleep deprivation. There were new reports of torture, sometimes to death, in Saudi Arabia and information came to light about torture and ill-treatment of scores of Iraqi refugees held there in 1991. There were also reports of deaths as a result of torture in Syria and Tunisia, as well as widespread use of torture in Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Yemen and Morocco. In Algeria, where the use of torture had previously been greatly reduced, there were renewed reports of torture following the declaration of a state of emergency in February, and these had increased dramatically by the end of the year.

The death penalty was widely used throughout the region, particularly in Iran, where at least 330 people, including dozens of political prisoners, were executed. In Egypt, at least 35 people were sentenced to death and at least five, sentenced in previous years, were hanged. Six executions took place in Libya - the first executions to be carried out since 1987, 66 people were publicly beheaded in Saudi Arabia and hundreds remained on death row in Yemen at the end of the year.

Islamic punishments also continued to be used, with eight judicial amputations of the right hand, for theft, being carried out in Saudi Arabia and sentences of flogging routinely given in Iran.

Unfair trials resulted in heavy sentences, including death, being imposed in a number of countries, with courts ignoring reports of torture and accepting confessions allegedly extracted under torture as evidence. In a trial of civilians before an Egyptian military court in December, eight alleged members of the armed Islamic group, *Gihad*, were sentenced to death and 31 others received sentences of up to life imprisonment after unfair trials. Trials of hundreds of political prisoners in Tunisia fell far short of international standards for fair trial, courts ignored pleas about torture and several convictions were secured solely on the basis of confessions allegedly extracted under torture. In Iran, at least eight people arrested in connection with demonstrations were executed within days of arrest after summary trials. Trials in Morocco fell far short of international and Moroccan law, with statements allegedly extracted under torture being used as evidence and courts refusing to investigate torture allegations. In Syria, hundreds of political detainees, including prisoners of conscience, were reported to have been transferred to prisons in or near Damascus in preparation for trial before the Supreme State Security Court. More than 150 appeared before the court, representing a shift from the long-standing practice of holding political suspects indefinitely without charge or trial. However, the Supreme State Security Court does not conform to international or Syrian law and only one trial had been concluded by the end of the year. In Kuwait, at least 150 political prisoners received unfair trials before its State Security Court, most on charges relating to "collaboration with the enemy". Six were sentenced to death and at least 32 others received prison sentences - some on the basis of "confessions" reportedly extracted under torture. And the State Security Court in

Jordan continued to try political prisoners without the right of appeal.

Extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" continued throughout the region in 1992. Hundreds of detainees "disappeared" in Iraq and scores of judicial and extrajudicial executions were carried out. Several thousand Arab Shi'a Muslims were arrested by Iraqi government forces in southern Iraq - largely non-combatant civilians, including whole families, taken from their homes and public places and transferred to unknown destinations. An unknown number of unarmed civilians were extrajudicially executed in the southern marshes region, where thousands of suspected government opponents and Iraqi army deserters remained in hiding. Between April and August, government forces launched repeated military attacks from the air on the marshes region. These air attacks were ended after the imposition by the UN of an "air exclusion zone", but ground attacks then intensified, accompanied by widespread arrests and torture or execution of detainees. New information was received about an estimated 100,000 Kurds who had "disappeared" in Iraqi government custody after being detained in 1988, including the discovery of mass graves, one containing bodies of 107 Kurdish villagers killed in 1987. A new law in Iraq, introduced in December, forbade the arrest, interrogation and bringing to justice of law enforcement officials who kill or injure criminal suspects, security offenders or army deserters in the course of their duty. Amnesty International was concerned that this law facilitates a "shoot-to-kill" policy by Iraqi forces and may lead them to commit new human rights violations. In Northern Iraq, the Kurdish administration was also responsible for executions and torture of prisoners, which Amnesty International condemned.

Hundreds of Sahrawis and Moroccans who "disappeared" in previous years were believed to be still held in secret detention centres in Morocco and long-term "disappeared" and political prisoners released in 1991 continued to be subject to restrictions there. Two opponents of the Iranian Government were abducted outside Iran and at least four others were killed outside the country in circumstances suggesting they may have been extrajudicially executed.

At least 120 Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli forces, often in circumstances suggesting extrajudicial executions or other unjustifiable killings. Amnesty International believes investigations of abuses and subsequent measures taken were inadequate. In December, 415 Palestinians were deported from Israel to south Lebanon following an upsurge in attacks against Israeli forces by the Islamic Resistance Movement, *Hamas*. They remained stranded there at the end of the year, with Lebanon also refusing to accept them.

Armed political groups were also responsible for grave abuses in other countries in the region, which Amnesty International condemned. In Algeria, Islamic opposition groups carried out numerous attacks in which over 200 people were killed, including civilians and members of the security forces. In Israel and the Occupied Territories, Palestinian armed groups were responsible for deliberate and arbitrary killings of Israeli civilians and Palestinians suspected of "collaborating" with the Israeli authorities. Islamic opposition groups were also responsible for deliberate and arbitrary killings during the year in Egypt.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1993

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- At least 500 people were victims or possible victims of extrajudicial execution by security forces in six countries, including Algeria, Iraq and Israel and the Occupied Territories

"DISAPPEARANCES"

- Hundreds of people were reported to have "disappeared" in Iraq.
- The fate of many thousands of others was still unknown after their "disappearance" in previous years in six countries including Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Morocco and Western Sahara.

TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT

- Detainees were tortured or ill-treated in prison, police stations or special secret detention centres in virtually every country in the region including Kuwait, Morocco, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Iran and Iraq.
- People died apparently from beatings and other torture in five countries, including Saudi Arabia, Syria and Tunisia.

PRISONERS

- Prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience were held in at least 11 countries in the region: some 1,500 prisoners of conscience in 11 countries and a further 2,000 possible prisoners of conscience.
- More than 14,000 people were held in administrative detention - without charge or trial - in at least 12 countries in the region.
- Over 5,000 political prisoners, including some prisoners of conscience and others held without charge or trial, were released in nine countries.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- Hundreds of political prisoners were imprisoned after unfair trials in 11 countries, including Iran, Jordan and Kuwait.
- Over 3,500 political prisoners were still held after unfair trials in previous years in nine countries, including Bahrain, Libya and Tunisia.

DEATH PENALTY

- More than 400 people were executed - by hanging, firing squad or other method - in seven countries, at least 330 of them in Iran.
- More than 500 people in nine countries including Algeria and Morocco were on death row, either after death sentences passed in 1992 or previous years.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Armed opposition groups committed human rights abuses, such as torture or deliberate and arbitrary killings in at least five countries - Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Territories and Lebanon.

AMERICAS

Highlights of Amnesty International Report 1993 covering events from January to December 1992.

Gross human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions and "disappearances", continued to be persistently carried out by government agents in many countries in the Americas during 1992. Torture and ill-treatment by police and military personnel also continued to be endemic in the region. Many governments still failed to make any serious attempt to bring those responsible for recent and past violations to justice, and their agents continued to commit crimes with impunity.

At least 1,000 people were reportedly extrajudicially killed by armed forces or paramilitary groups operating with their support or acquiescence in Colombia during the year. "Death squad"-style killings of "social undesirables" in urban areas continued to be reported and over 100 people "disappeared" after detention by security forces or paramilitary groups. In Brazil, hundreds of street children were killed by police or by death squads, which often included off-duty police

officers.

At least 200 people were allegedly extrajudicially executed by security forces and their civilian agents in Guatemala, targeting indigenous people, human rights activists, members of popular movements, journalists and judges. Most human rights violations in the country, including thousands of extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" over the previous 15 years, remained uninvestigated and unpunished. Of 178 people known to have "disappeared" after detention by security forces in Peru during the year, 139 remained unaccounted for at the end of 1992 and thousands of past cases of human rights violations remained unclarified. Little progress was reported in clarifying the whereabouts of hundreds of people who "disappeared" in previous years in Mexico and largescale reports of extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" were also received from many other countries in the region during the year.

In Haiti, at least 100 people were killed in circumstances suggesting extrajudicial execution and at least ten "disappeared" and could not be traced, despite efforts by relatives and human rights groups. At least 800 people, mostly prisoners of conscience, including supporters of the exiled President Aristide, were arrested without warrant by the military and police, apparently for political reasons. Many were held without charge for longer than the 48-hour limit laid down by the Constitution and prisoners and their relatives were often asked for money to secure release or avoid ill-treatment. Amnesty International was concerned that thousands of Haitian asylum-seekers were forcibly returned to Haiti by the USA without a hearing.

In Cuba, more than 1,000 prisoners were believed to be held for political reasons, over half of them prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience. They were most commonly charged with offences such as "enemy propaganda", "disrespect" and "illegal association", or for trying to leave the country illegally.

Opposition groups were also responsible for serious abuses in the Americas. For example, in Peru, the *Partido Comunista del Perú (Sendero Luminoso)*, Communist Party of Peru (Shining Path), deliberately and arbitrarily killed large numbers of civilians, and in Colombia several hundred people were kidnapped and held hostage by armed opposition groups.

Throughout Mexico, torture was frequently used by law enforcement agents, particularly the state judicial police, during the year. Most victims were criminal suspects, but some - including leaders of indigenous communities and human rights activists - were apparently targeted solely for their peaceful political activities. Confessions extracted under duress continued to be admitted as evidence in Mexican courts, and scores of people were convicted solely on the basis of statements signed under torture. In Haiti, most detainees were reportedly tortured or ill-treated and at least 10 people allegedly died as a direct result. At least 50 cases of torture and ill-treatment by security forces were reported during the year in Chile. Methods used included near-drowning, electric shocks, standing for long periods and beatings, and those responsible were not brought to justice. Torture or other ill-treatment by police was widely reported in many other countries in the region, including Guatemala, the USA, Colombia and Peru.

Amnesty International was investigating two prison massacres in Brazil, one of which occurred in October, when military police killed 111 prisoners and wounded 35 others, during a disturbance in a São Paulo prison. Evidence indicated that many of those killed were extrajudicially executed and a Ministry of Justice investigation later suggested firearms found in the prison had been "planted" by military police. In Peru, at least 39 inmates were killed in May - some reportedly after surrendering - during a police operation to regain control of the Castro Castro Prison in Lima. And in March, at least seven prisoners were reportedly arbitrarily killed in a state prison in Venezuela, when prison guards quelled protests about overcrowding and

ill-treatment. Prison conditions were harsh in many countries in the region, with severe overcrowding and inadequate medical care for prisoners.

Although the death penalty has been abolished in most countries of Latin America, it continued to be widely used in other countries of the Americas. Thirty-one people were executed in the USA during the year - the highest number in that country in one year since executions were resumed in 1977 - and four states carried out executions for the first time in a quarter-century or more. The USA continues to be one of only six countries in the world that sentence juvenile offenders to death and more than 2,600 prisoners remained on death row in 34 states at the end of the year. In Jamaica, Amnesty International was concerned about the fairness of capital trials, including lack of adequate legal representation and the poor quality of evidence in many cases. At least 15 new death sentences were passed during the year, but no executions were carried out.

Indigenous peoples continued to be the target of human rights violations, including killings, in a number of countries in the region. Members of the Council of Ethnic Communities (CERJ) in Guatemala were targeted and one "disappeared" in Guatemala City in May after receiving death threats from local civil patrollers, because of his opposition to civil defence patrols. Others, including 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Rigoberta Menchú, an indigenous leader, were threatened with abuse. Six members of indigenous communities were detained as prisoners of conscience in Mexico and scores of others were arbitrarily detained and ill-treated by security forces in the context of land disputes and during peaceful demonstrations. A Mixe Indian was extrajudicially executed in January when police raided his house and arrested other Indian activists involved in a peaceful campaign for their community's land in Mexico. Members of indigenous communities, among others, continued to suffer summary killings, threats and attempts on their lives by private gunmen in Brazil and the authorities persistently failed to identify and bring those responsible to justice. Indigenous peoples were also the victims of human rights abuses in many other countries in the region, including Peru, Bolivia and Colombia.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE AMERICAS DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1993

"DISAPPEARANCES"

-People "disappeared" or remained unaccounted for in 18 countries. Hundreds of people "disappeared" in Colombia and Peru, hundreds more remained unaccounted for from past years in countries including Argentina, El Salvador, Uruguay and Mexico.

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

-At least 3,700 people were apparently extrajudicially executed by government security forces or by "death squads" said to be linked to them in 11 countries, notably Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala and Haiti.
-There were prison massacres by security forces in Peru, Brazil and Venezuela - in which more than 100 people were killed.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

-Torture or ill-treatment of prisoners were reported in 26 countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti and Peru.
-Women were allegedly raped or sexually abused by security forces in 13 countries, including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala and Haiti.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Hundreds of prisoners of conscience, jailed solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights, were held in many countries in the region, including Cuba, Haiti and Venezuela.

UNFAIR TRIAL/DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

-Other political prisoners were held after unfair trials or held without charge or trial in several countries including Peru, Cuba and Haiti.

DEATH PENALTY

-The death penalty was imposed in 10 countries, and thousands of people remained on death row, notably in the USA, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

-Some 33 executions were carried out in two countries in the region, 31 of them in the USA.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

-Armed opposition groups committed human rights abuses, such as torture or deliberate and arbitrary killings in at least eight countries - including Peru, Bolivia and Colombia.