Amnesty International
Conference for the Abolition of Torture

Paris · 10-11 December 1973 · Final Report
Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement which is independent of any government, political faction or religious creed. It acts on behalf of men and women who are imprisoned for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin or religion, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence.

Amnesty International opposes the use of torture in all cases and without reservation. It is now conducting an international Campaign for the Abolition of Torture.

Amnesty International has consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States and is recognized by the Organization of African Unity.

Amnesty International, in its work for Prisoners of Conscience, seeks observance throughout the world of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly Articles 5, 9, 18, and 19:

Article 5 No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 9 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 18 Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or beliefs, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19 Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.
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of the United Nations

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. ARTICLE 5,
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

We, the undersigned,
call upon the General Assembly of the United Nations
to outlaw
the torture of prisoners throughout the world.

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth Anniversary
of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
we present this Appeal on behalf of more than one million signatories in eighty-five nations.

'sAfter a while, they disconnected the wire from my finger and connected it to my ear. They immediately gave a high dose of electricity. My whole body and head shook in a terrible way. My front teeth started breaking. At the same time my torturers would hold a mirror to my face and say: 'Look what is happening to your lovely green eyes. Soon you will not be able to see at all. You will lose your mind. You see, you have already started bleeding in your mouth.' When they finished with the electric shocks they lifted me to my feet and several of those I mentioned above started beating me with truncheons. After a while I felt dizzy and could not see very well. Then I fainted. When I came to myself, I found I was lying half-naked in a pool of dirty water. They tried to force me to stand up and run. At the same time they kept beating me with truncheons, kicking me and pushing me against the walls. They then held my hands and hit me with truncheons in my palms and on my hands, each one taking turns. After all this my whole body was swollen and red and I could not stand on my feet.'

signed at the International Conference for the Abolition of Torture
Paris, 10 December 1973
On the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights it should not have been necessary for Amnesty International to convene the first International Conference on the Abolition of Torture. The fact that the conference had to be held is a frightening illustration of the gravity of the problem. The urgency of this question was underlined by the call made by the General Assembly of the United Nations which noted, on 3 November 1973, that "torture is still being practised in various parts of the world". The research and documentary evidence available to Amnesty International more than justifies the concern of the UN.

There is no doubt that the practice of torture has been on the increase in recent years. There is no doubt that its use has been more widespread. There is no doubt that it is practised with the direct or implied permission of a large number of governments, many of whom consider themselves civilized. There is no doubt that, like a contagious disease, it spreads from one country to another, and, in many cases, is deliberately imported by the armed services of one country and taught to the services of another country. Brutality evokes more brutality and violence by those against whom it is used. Hence the continued escalation in the brutality which engulfs the world.

There can never be any justification for the use of torture. Some governments seek to justify it on the grounds that it is necessary in order to extract information from subversive organizations. But in our view torture is used more as a weapon to silence opposition and criticism than as a means of obtaining information. For whichever purpose it is used, it is a crime against humanity and involves the negation of all the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

These are the considerations which prompted this conference of 300 experts and delegates to make, through its four Commissions, detailed proposals on how best to stop the use of torture. Apart from the specific recommendations made by the Commissions, it is essential to alert public opinion throughout the world to the importance of the problem, so that public opinion will in turn make governments, international and national institutions conscious of the need to take firm and effective action to eradicate torture. Because of the immoral and dehumanizing aspects of this evil, the Conference called upon the organizations with moral, ethical and religious responsibilities in the world to give a lead to the campaign which has now been launched to abolish torture from our midst.
We three hundred delegates and participants in the International Conference for the Abolition of Torture meeting in Paris, 10 - 11 December 1973, note with indignation and extreme anxiety the growing use and institutionalization of torture throughout the world, facts which have now been officially recognized by the General Assembly of the United Nations (Resolution 3059 XXVIII).*

We solemnly declare that:

1. The use of torture is a violation of all principles of human freedom and of the life and dignity of the human person, and as such must be identified as a crime against humanity.

2. There can never be any justification for torture. It creates an escalation of violence in the internal affairs of states. It spreads like a contagious disease from country to country. It has lasting effects on the mental and physical health of the victim and brutalizes the torturer.

3. It is our fundamental duty as human beings to express what is surely the conscience of mankind and to eradicate this evil.

4. We call upon all governments to respect, implement and improve their own national and international laws prohibiting torture, and to comply with United Nations Resolution 3059 (XXVIII); we also call upon individuals and organizations with moral, political, religious and professional responsibility to give an active lead to the campaign to abolish torture throughout the world.

*see last page
Introduction

Amnesty International's Conference for the Abolition of Torture, held in Paris in December 1973, was the fruit of clear purposes. The Conference set itself the clear purpose to clear up a practically program for eradicating torture in all its forms. The Conference, which was opened on the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was attended by 1,000 observers and participants from 40 countries. They represented governments, international organizations, religious and secular groups, non-governmental organizations, medical men, the press, radio and television, and victims of torture themselves.

The Conference was the culmination of Amnesty International's Campaign for the Abolition of Torture which began in December 1972 with the aim of arousing public awareness of the fact that the use of torture not only continues but is increasing, and of encouraging diplomatic steps towards effective international machinery to combat the practice.

Anxious to emphasize the universal character of the Campaign, the chairman, Mr. MacBride SC, claimed its urgency in these terms:

"Since Amnesty International's founding in 1961, our propaganda has been relentless. We have attempted to raise the world's consciousness of the blight of torture and to persuade governments to end the practice. In the year of our 25th anniversary, we feel that this is the time to focus our efforts on a practical campaign to bring about the total abolition of torture.

"Torture is everywhere. Gone to the history books it is not. It is increasing, not diminishing, around the world. In its many forms, it is a crime against humanity, a crime against individuals, and a crime against the communities to which these individuals belong. It is a crime that we must not tolerate or ignore.

"We believe that the total abolition of torture is possible. We believe that it is the duty of all government, all international, all religious, all medical, all legal, all political, all educational, all religious, and all medical organizations to work together to bring about this abolition."

To publicize the problem and encourage a practical campaign to achieve total abolition, an effective action, a petition form was circulated in 30 languages. It read: "We, the undersigned, call upon the General Assembly of the United Nations to outlaw immediately and totally in all its forms the United Nations and its agencies to translate into reality the ideals of the Declaration..."

The date and place chosen for the Paris Conference had symbolic importance: they would be commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948. It was with this in mind that Amnesty International opened its account with a letter to the UN Secretary-General on 20 September 1973, in which they expressed their desire to attend the Conference of 10-11 December 1973, to participate in it and assist the organizers in the preparation of a practical programme for total abolition of torture.

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The Four Commissions

The four Commissions were presented with individual briefs, in the form of a paper by each Chairman summarizing the problems with which they were expected to deal.

Excerpts from the Papers of the Chairman

Commission A
Identifying the Individuals and Institutions Responsible for Torture
Chairman
Eric Baker, Britain
Vice-Chairman
Mrs Lakshmi Menon, India
Rapporteur
Ashley Eide, Norway
Presenters of Papers
Ramsey Clark, USA
Lord Gardiner, Britain
Anthony Russo, USA
Secretary
Anne Burley, New Zealand

Commission B
The Socio-Economic and Political Factors Affecting Torture
Chairman
Thomas Hammarberg, Sweden
Vice-Chairman
Marcio Alves, Brazil
Rapporteur
Dirk Bäumer, West Germany
Presenters of Papers
Richard Reoch, Canada
M. Majid, India
Rapporteur
Brigitte Knobel, France
Secretary
Richard Rusch, Canada

Commission C
International, Regional and National Legal Factors Affecting Torture Practices
Chairman
Ghilbert Bäumer, West Germany
Vice-Chairman
Naif MacDermot, Britain
Rapporteur
Dr Hans G. Knittel, Austria
Presenters of Paper
Lord Gardiner, Britain
Secretary
Nigel Rodney, Britain

Commission D
Medical Aspects of Torture
Chairman
Dr Hans van Geuns, Netherlands
Vice-Chairmen
Dr Marceline Guitteny, France
Kari Poppe, Norway
Rapporteur
Dr Leonard Segal, USA
Presenters of Paper
Dr Anthony Sloer, Britain
Secretary
Richard Rusch, Canada

Although there may be gray areas in defining those acts that may constitute torture, there can be no misunderstanding about its unlawfulness. Under every relevant international legal document, torture is prohibited. In time of war, or other international armed conflict, all combatants, those placed hors de combat and other protected persons are, under the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, forbidden to be tortured. Common article 3 of the same Conventions also prohibits the use of torture in the case of armed conflict not of an international nature. Thus, in cases of civil war, no claim of domestic jurisdiction can be invoked by the parties to the conflict to deny the international illegality of the use of torture.

Similarly, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and the Declaration of the Citizen's Rights in the Arab States and Countries all prohibit the use of torture in time of peace. So do the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights. Furthermore, even though the latter treaties permit derogations from some of the rights protected in case of extreme threats to the internal order of the state, the right not to be subjected to torture is one from which no derogation is permissible. It can be safely stated, accordingly, that under all circumstances, regardless of the context in which it is used, torture is outlawed under the common law of mankind. This being so, it may properly be considered to be a crime against humanity. The problem is one of enforcement.

The late effects of torture in concentration camps during World War II have been the subject of extensive studies and research, and are well known. There are rather strong indications that torture of a shorter duration can also give rise to irreversibly damaging after-effects. This is true of physical ill-treatment as well as of psychological techniques such as sensory deprivation. More exact information should be made available for study and the neglected problems of after-care related to these effects should be considered.

Great care must be taken that the outcome of research on this problem should not be used to refine and improve torture techniques. By virtue of their profession, doctors have special duties to humanity which transcend other considerations. While this creates a responsibility for the individual doctor who is confronted with mental or physical ill-treatment, it also constitutes a collective responsibility for the whole medical profession. National and international medical bodies should become aware of these consequences for the profession so that they may support and assist their individual members whenever they are confronted with torture procedures. A special need of responsibility and conflict of conscience can occur for doctors working in prisons and camps as well as for medical personnel working in the armed forces and the police.

The Commission may wish to consider the conclusions of the Scandinavian and British Medical Commissions and means of implementing them such as: formulation of a code of conduct for all medical personnel, prohibiting participation in torture research and practice and the establishment of appropriate national and international machinery to investigate violations; a list of medical experts ready to investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners should be maintained in each country; the setting up of international examination centers; where torture victims could be interviewed and treated and research into the effects of torture carried out should be encouraged.

Political stability and social or economic progress are two of the pretences most frequently advanced to justify repression, of which torture often is a part. Each puts the planning of the State before the rights of the citizen. Experience from a number of countries shows that governments do not achieve stability through torture. On the contrary, violence tends to create counter-violence. And in a society with increasing violence, social and economic progress are threatened.
The Recommendations

The final report of each Commission contained a list of specific action programs to prevent and eliminate torture. Inevitably, the Commissions reached one or two similar conclusions, for instance, that legal and political measures should be taken to prevent torture.

Below are the main recommendations which the Conference endorsed:

- A central clearing-house for all obtainable information on torture should be established. The information should include collections of the names of those persons taking part in torture, and the institutions within which the torture occurred and the establishments where training for torture has taken place. Included should be information on the production and delivery of torture techniques used for torture. Information should also be collected about victims of torture. Lists should be kept of missing persons whose disappearances may seem politically ominous, and attempts should be made to trace their whereabouts.

- As a matter of urgency, a code should be drafted for, and supplied individually to, all military, police and prison personnel prohibiting torture in all circumstances and detailing the conduct of commissions or other treatment of detainees and prisoners which are forbidden. United Nations approval should be sought for the code. Governments should be pressed to adopt this code, and that internationally it be recognized that breaches will be punished firmly. Information in the code should form part of the education of all personnel who deal with detainees and prisoners. It should be given to all personnel in the instruction of personnel trained for the execution of their duties.

- Through instruction in the code must be given to personnel in all public and private detention centers, for police and military personnel. These centers must be placed under the jurisdiction of the national and international bodies of which they are members to combat torture, enforcing to the full extent the present provisions of international law which provide for international investigations into allegations of torture, and working to expand these procedures.

- They should further or initiate plans of public education in human rights and in the responsibilities of medical and associated personnel, paying special attention in training of government officials and military and police officers and personnel.

- The full cooperation of international organizations should continue to be sought in the establishment of all other programs and hidden budgets for torture.

- Pending establishment of an International Criminal Justice system for efforts must be continued - international tribunals independent of governments should be set up to conduct public hearings into allegations of torture. Accused persons and institutions should be provided with reasonable safeguards for defending themselves.

- Amnesty International should establish a permanent international working group which is an associate of the United Nations. The group should study and research into human rights and social responsibility and include the teaching of human rights issues in all institutions of study. They should urge their leaders and authorities to exercise their moral leadership by de-nouncing torture and all pretexts which justify it in general and in specific situations. They should urge individuals and local, national and international structures to come to the aid of persons and their families with moral, material and legal aid. Professional and religious organizations should take all steps in their power to ensure that public representatives working in prisons or other penal institutions or in the armed forces, and their families with moral, material and legal aid. Professional and religious organizations should take all steps in their power to ensure that public representatives working in prisons or other penal institutions or in the armed forces, and their families with moral, material and legal aid. Professional and religious organizations should take all steps in their power to ensure that public representatives working in prisons or other penal institutions or in the armed forces, and their families with moral, material and legal aid. Professional and religious organizations should take all steps in their power to ensure that public representatives working in prisons or other penal institutions or in the armed forces, and their families with moral, material and legal aid.

- Governmental authorities and parliaments should ensure that all application of national legislation to protect the citizens against torture and other violations of human rights, or to create such legislation if it does not now exist in their own countries. They should work in the inter-governmental bodies of which they members to combat torture, enforcing to the full extent the present provisions of international law which provide for international investigations into allegations of torture, and working to expand these procedures.

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After Paris: The Future Campaign

Amnesty International's Campaign for the Abolition of Torture took a new and decisive direction with the Paris Conference. We have moved in the space of one short year from protest to action, from expressions of deep concern and arousal of public consciousness to a concrete, practical plan to eradicate this obscene instrument of government.

Our mandate to wage an all-out struggle against torture originally came from within our own ranks, from Amnesty International Sections and members throughout the world. Now that mandate has been reinforced by the committed strength of all the governments and international organizations represented at the Conference, and by the more than one million individuals from more than 90 countries who demonstrated their support by signing our International Appeal Against Torture.

Within 24 hours of the end of the Conference, Amnesty International responded by establishing a new three-man division within its Secretariat to work exclusively for the abolition of torture. The new division has taken on the task of implementing all the action proposals of the Conference.

The United Nations General Assembly, due largely to the efforts of Amnesty International, other concerned human rights organizations and sympathetic governments, has already condemned torture unanimously and called upon its members to adhere to existing international instruments prohibiting torture.

Now pressure on offending governments will be increased, exposure of torture practices stepped up.

Professional, trade union, religious and similar national, regional and international bodies will be mobilized to support the battle against torture.

Effective legal and economic sanctions will be sought against all governments, irrespective of political complexion or geography, who practice torture.

Legal and medical experts will be available to investigate allegations of torture on the spot.

A code of conduct prohibiting torture in any circumstance will be formulated and given to all police, military, prison and medical personnel. Pressure will be exerted to have this code included in all training programs.

A program for the treatment, relief and rehabilitation of torture victims is planned. Material and legal help will be provided for lawyers, doctors and others who seek to resist and expose torture practices.

A central bank of information about torture and all its ramifications will soon be established, collecting data from all over the world. Proven instances of torture will receive instant, global publicity.

The task facing the new division is clearly enormous. But it is a task all of us in Amnesty International and all who attended the Paris Conference believe can be fulfilled.

The need, the will, the expertise, the program, the organization for the abolition of torture: all are there.

What is required now is money. Money from individuals, from other organizations, from trade unions, from businesses, from foundations, from governments themselves. Money for pressure, for action, for relief, for research, for publicity.

Given sufficient funds, given the continued support and cooperation of all those who have already committed themselves to the campaign, we have no doubt that the cruel and evil practice of systematic torture will one day survive only as a dark memory in the humane consciousness of Man.
Secretary General, Organization of African Unity

H.H. Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan,

His Excellency Dr Kurt Waldheim,

His Excellency Edward Gough Whitlam,

His Excellency Kenneth Kaunda,

His Excellency Anker Jorgensen,

His Excellency Edward Gough Whitlam,

The Federal Government of Austria,

The Australian Government,

The Government of Australia,

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The Government of Denmark,
Thank you for your kind invitation to participate in the Conference for the Abolition of Torture, on 10th December 1973. I regret that owing to other engagements I will be unable to accept. However, I would like to express my best wishes of success to the Conference.

His Excellency Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden

The Federal Government proffers the principles of human rights and welcomes the efforts of Amnesty International for their world-wide observance. I have followed with sympathy the work of your organization for political prisoners throughout the world. I wish a successful course to the Conference for the Abolition of Torture.

Very sorry not able accept invitation for attending opening plenary session at Paris on 10th December owing to overloaded diary. With you good conference.

His Excellency Joop den Uyl, Prime Minister of the Netherlands

I have read with considerable interest your letter of 11 October about the Amnesty International Conference for the Abolition of Torture. I was also very pleased to receive your invitation to attend the opening session. It is deeply depressing to note that although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted as long ago as 1948 there has been no decrease in the incidence of torture in the world, but on the contrary, clear evidence of more widespread, more systematic and more inhuman recourse to this barbarous practice.

It is certainly more than timely for the international community to be looking at ways of ensuring that all states take full effect to their obligations to respect the basic human rights of their citizens. The New Zealand Government, for its part, would readily support a proposal in the General Assembly of the United Nations which in our view could lead to an effective ban on the use of torture and establish machinery to supervise its implementation.

I have already commented, in my letter to you of 15 June, on the two draft United Nations resolutions prepared by Amnesty International. I pointed out in these letters that I was opposed to the multiplication of bodies in the human rights field which had no bite and no power of enforcement. However, you already have worthwhile support among international non-governmental organizations for your proposal to establish a committee of experts to prepare a draft convention on torture and the treatment of prisoners. I shall be carefully following the progress you make with that proposal.

Despite my personal interest in this question I regret that I shall be unable to accept your invitation to attend the Paris Conference. I have a large number of commitments which will prevent me from visiting Europe at this time. I shall, however, inform New Zealand’s Ambassador in Paris to keep himself informed of the proceedings of the Conference and ask him to let me have a report on all the decisions you take.

His Excellency Trygve Bratteli, Prime Minister of Norway

Amnesty International's Conference for the Abolition of Torture coincides with the 25th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That Declaration states unequivocally that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

However, in the 25 years which have passed since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was endorsed, the world has not succeeded in abolishing the inhuman and cruel practice of torture. It is an appalling truth that certain regimes today still resort to torture.

This situation is a disgrace to humanity. Public opinion must now be mobilized to oppose the use of torture in all its forms. Effective means must be developed to eliminate the use of torture. International commitments must be adhered to and an effective national and international enforcement machinery must be established. Amnesty International deserves praise for having organized this campaign for the abolition of torture. The organization is in this way acting in its best tradition of protecting human rights for men and women irrespective of their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin or religion.

In preparing this Conference I pledge the unreserved support of the Norwegian Government for the aims of the campaign, and I wish Amnesty International and this Conference success in its work.

Due to other obligations I could not accept your kind invitation. I wish your work and conference all possible success. As far as the use of torture is concerned, I have followed developments closely. The alarming increase of the use of torture is a cause for great concern. The efforts to ban torture and to combat its causes must not stop. In this common task I find the work of Amnesty International most valuable.

His Excellency Kalevi Sorsa, Prime Minister of Finland

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Patron of Amnesty International

I am heartened and encouraged by Amnesty International's success in being able to organize this International Conference in Paris on the abolition of torture. The Conference should result in a greater awareness in many countries of the widespread existence of torture in the present world. I hope that an increased public expression of repugnance will lead to a rapid decline in this totally unacceptable practice.

The Federal Government proffers the principles of human rights and welcomes the efforts of Amnesty International for their world-wide observance. I have followed with sympathy the work of your organization for political prisoners throughout the world. I wish a successful course to the Conference for the Abolition of Torture.

Moifigneur Ramon Torell, Vice-President, Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace

Very sorry not able accept invitation for attending opening plenary session at Paris on 10th December owing to overloaded diary. With you good conference.

His Excellency Willy Brandt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

I am heartened and encouraged by Amnesty International's success in being able to organize this International Conference in Paris on the abolition of torture. I hope that an increased public expression of repugnance will lead to a rapid decline in this totally unacceptable practice.
Conference Participants

Chairmen:

- Beuvé-Mery, Hubert
- Bpirk, Ambassador Kaj
- Boersma, Wim
- Berardi, Francesca
- Becket, James
- Wane, Professor Andrew
- Berardi, Paolo
- Becker, Georg
- van den Assum, Mrs Laetitia
- Balding, C.
- Barrenstein, Peter
- de Albuquerque, Dr Afonso
- Lady Ayer, (Dee Wells)
- Baehr, Professor P.R.
- Baez, Joan
- Baker, Eric
- Alexander, Jon
- Alaoui, M. Mehdi
- Scan MacBride S.C.
- Anisuddin, O.S.
- Achterhuis, Dr H.
- Achterhuis, Dr H.
- van der Alk, Peter
- Ackermann, M.
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Twining, Mrs. P.
Virally, Prof. Michel
Vidal-Naquet, Pierre
Viterli, R.A.

Wassilieva, Professor Zel
Wattie, Mrs. Marion
White, Kevin
Wilke, Ver. Brinck
Wonggi, S.

Young, Hon. Wolma
Yousoff, A.

Zeltner, Judge Seer

Stevens, Professor W.T.
Summery, Mr. P.
Suacl, Professor

Union, Mrs. Ewa
Vlaedu, Operaio

Vaal Noorter, Pierre
Vlaedt, Mrs. Maxine

Voskuil, Leo
Vidal-Naquet, Pierre

Vidgren, A.
Von Aesch, Professor Hans

Voskuil, A.
Von Aesch, Professor Hans

Von Arx, Benjamin

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The following is a selection of some of the papers prepared for, or delivered at, the Conference for the Abolition of Torture

Dr Micheline Guiton, Dr Rodolphe Bydlowski, Dr Allle M. Pingaud, Dr E.L. Brassol, C. Cacciari, M. Alohamed el Earwitsi, Al Alarc, M. Pierre Lebrun (Director of Information Office, Paris), Mme Vawane See, M. Jean-Alichel, Mme 1.. Raieh, Mme R. Borksztein, Mme M.P. Herzog (Director; General), M. l'alentim Jorge, Mme V. Bowers (Secretary General), M. l'alentim Jorge.


UN Resolution 3059

Resolution 3059 Adopted unanimously by the 28th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations 2 November 1973

Observance of the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Mindful of article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms that no one shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Gravely concerned that torture is still practised in various parts of the world,

Bearing in mind that this subject has been brought before various organs dealing with human rights, through various reports relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Bearing in mind also that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has asked the Commission on Human Rights to authorize it to include in its agenda for the next session an item on the human rights of persons subjected to any form of detention and imprisonment,

Rejects any form of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

Urges all Governments to become parties to existing international instruments which contain provisions relating to the prohibition of torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

Requests the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly, under the 'Report of the Economic and Social Council', of the consideration which may have been given to this question by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities or by the Commission on Human Rights and other bodies concerned;

Decides to examine the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in relation to detention and imprisonment as an item at a future session of the General Assembly.

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