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HAITI

Human rights abuses follow coup

ON Monday 30 September troops overthrew the elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who had taken office on 7 February 1991. In the aftermath of the coup, AI learned of widespread human rights violations by the security forces. These included extrajudicial executions, beatings and illegal arrests of President Aristide's supporters.

In the days following the coup soldiers opened fire on hundreds of civilians in different sectors of Port-au-Prince, including Cité

Soleil and Lamentin 54, and in other parts of the country, leaving hundreds dead and wounded. Among those extrajudicially executed was Jacky Caraïbe, director of Radio Caraïbe, who was seized on 30 September by soldiers, beaten in front of his family and taken away. His severely tortured body was found shortly afterwards.

Several supporters of President Aristide were arrested and beaten. On 7 October, Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul was severely beaten following his arrest by

soldiers at Port-au-Prince airport. He was released hours later. Other supporters of President Aristide, including an employee at the Port-au-Prince town hall, the administrator of a day care centre, a businessman and a well-known singer were among the scores arrested without warrant in the days following the coup. At the time of writing, AI was investigating their legal situation.

Members of President Aristide's cabinet, who went into hiding when the coup started, said that soldiers entered their homes

looking for them, and then damaged their homes.

Radio stations were attacked and damaged by soldiers, and most of them subsequently stopped broadcasting.

Grassroots organizations reported harassment of their members, and priests close to President Aristide went into hiding, in fear for their safety. Two Christian activists, Sénatus and Fritzner Nosther, were detained without warrant on 4 October by soldiers in the southern city of Jacmel. □

TUNISIA

Executions resume in Tunisia

FIVE men were executed on 9 October 1991 in Tunisia, despite President Ben Ali's repeatedly stated personal opposition to the death penalty.

Three of those executed, all suspected sympathizers of the illegal Tunisian Islamic movement *Hizb al-Nahda*, had originally been sentenced in May 1991 to prison terms ranging from 20 years to life imprisonment for murder and arson against an office of the ruling party; these sentences were raised to the death penalty by the Court of Appeal in June. The others were convicted of rape and murder.

In November 1990, a man convicted of multiple rape and murder became the first person in Tunisia to be executed since the President came to power in 1987. At the time the Tunisian Government stated that this execution was an exception, carried out because of the particularly heinous nature of the crime.

AI has written to President Ben Ali expressing its deep regret at this resumption of executions, and urging him to commute all outstanding death sentences as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty. □



A mock-up of the Astra car in which the army shot and killed the two is displayed in an army canteen. The text to the left says: "Vauxhall Astra, Built by Robots, Driven by Joyriders, Stopped by A COY!" [Meaning A Company of the Parachute Regiment].

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UNITED KINGDOM

Soldier charged with murder

KAREN Reilly, 18, and Martin Peake, 17, were shot dead in Northern Ireland in September 1990 while driving a stolen car. They were killed by soldiers from the Parachute Regiment. Soldiers initially alleged that they fired at the car after it had driven through an army checkpoint and hit a soldier. However, eye-witnesses stated that they saw soldiers simulating a leg injury in order to corroborate the above statement.

In July 1991 six soldiers were

charged in connection with the deaths of Karen Reilly and Martin Peake: one with murder, two with attempted murder, and all six with attempting to pervert the course of justice and obstructing the police investigation.

For many years AI has been calling for an independent judicial inquiry to investigate the pattern of disputed killings by security forces in Northern Ireland in order to help prevent unlawful killings. □

CHAD

Four killed by firing squad

FOUR people, three of them soldiers, were publicly executed by firing squad on 7 October 1991 in the capital, N'Djamena. They were convicted of criminal offences and sentenced to death in recent months, with no right of appeal, by a military court set up in April 1991.

These were the first court-ordered executions to take place in Chad for many years. □

CAMPAIGN FOR PRISONERS OF THE MONTH



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

ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Abie Nathan: an Israeli peace campaigner aged 64, he began an 18-month prison sentence on 10 October 1991. He was convicted of breaking a 1986 law forbidding unauthorized contacts between Israeli citizens and groups designated as "terrorist" by the Israeli authorities.

Abie Nathan was charged with having met Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis on 10 and 16 March 1990. During these meetings they reportedly discussed the development of the Middle East peace process, direct talks between the PLO and Israel, the Palestinian *intifada* (uprising) and the fate of Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon.

"It's a sad day for democracy, for human rights and for peace," Abie Nathan reportedly said after he was sentenced. He has decided not to appeal against his con-



Abie Nathan

viction and sentence and has pledged to renew his contacts with the PLO immediately upon his release from prison.

Abie Nathan spent four months in prison in 1989 and 1990 for having met Chairman Arafat and



Vic Williams

other senior PLO leaders in September 1988. AI at that time called for his release. Abie Nathan also served a 40-day prison sentence in 1966 for flying a plane to Egypt carrying a petition for peace in the Middle East signed by 100,000 Israelis.

Amnesty International believes that Abie Nathan is once again a prisoner of conscience. The Israeli Government maintains that Abie Nathan was prosecuted "not ... because of his political views or his expression of them, but as a consequence of his actions". However, the internationally recognized rights to freedom of expression and to peaceful association fully encompass peaceful actions such as those carried out by Abie Nathan.

AI believes that the 1986 law should be reviewed to ensure that it does not lead to the imprisonment of prisoners of conscience. ■ Please send courteous letters appealing for the immediate and unconditional release of Abie Nathan to: President Chaim Herzog/Office of the President/Beit Hanasi/3 Hakeset Street/Jerusalem 92188/Israel. □

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Jampa Ngodrup: a 46-year-old Tibetan medical doctor in Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, he was sentenced on 24 December 1990 to 13 years' imprisonment on charges of spying.

A doctor at Lhasa's City Barkor Clinic, Jampa Ngodrup was apparently detained on 20 October 1989 and formally charged on 13 August 1990. He was accused of having, "with counter-revolutionary aims, collected lists of people detained in the disturbances and passed them on to others, thus undermining the law and violating the [laws of] secrecy". The "disturbances" refer to activities by supporters of Tibetan independence in Lhasa in 1988.

The court's verdict on Jampa Ngodrup's case said he had asked a young monk working at the Barkor Clinic to compile a list of people detained as a result of violent clashes between police forces and demonstrators on 5 March 1988. Jampa Ngodrup is said to have passed the list on to a foreign resident who in turn gave Jampa Ngodrup a list of people injured and detained in a pro-independence demonstration on 10 December 1988. Jampa Ngodrup apparently confessed to all charges.

The court ruled that Jampa Ngodrup be deprived of his political rights for a further four years

after he has served his 13-year sentence.

Amnesty International considers Jampa Ngodrup to be a prisoner of conscience, detained and sentenced solely for the peaceful exercise of his right freely to receive and impart information.

■ Please send courteous letters appealing for the immediate and unconditional release of Jampa Ngodrup to: Gyaltsen Norbu/Chairperson of the Tibet Autonomous Region/Tibet Regional Government/Lhasa/Tibet Autonomous Region/People's Republic of China. □



Jampa Ngodrup

UNITED KINGDOM

Vic Williams: a 28-year-old soldier in the British Army's Royal Artillery, he has been sentenced to 14 months' imprisonment for desertion and "conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline".

On 11 September 1991 a court martial found Vic Williams guilty on three charges relating to deserting his regiment and speaking out against the Gulf War. He went absent without leave from his regiment in December 1990, the day before he was due to be sent to Saudi Arabia. He left because he had decided that his conscience could not allow him to take part in military action arising from the Gulf crisis.

Vic Williams has said that he left his regiment only after concluding that he had no other op-

tion remaining (at no time prior to his decision to leave was he made aware of his rights as a soldier to register a conscientious objection to military service). The regulations setting out the procedure whereby a soldier in the British Army can apply for conscientious objector status are classified as a "restricted" document — to which only Army officers have access.

Evidence given by officers at the court martial and the statement made by the judge advocate at the close of the proceedings sup-

ported Amnesty International's concern that Vic Williams was not guaranteed reasonable access to information about procedures for registering his conscientious objection to military service in the Gulf War.

■ Please write courteous appeals for the immediate and unconditional release of Vic Williams to: The Right Honourable John Major MP/Prime Minister/10 Downing Street/London SW1 2AA. □

PRISONER NEWS

AI learned in September 1991 of the release of 59 prisoners under adoption or investigation. AI took up 15 cases.



FOCUS

amnesty
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Gross and widespread human rights violations have afflicted Peru for almost a decade. Since 1983 large areas of the country have been progressively designated emergency zones and placed under military control as part of counter-insurgency operations against the armed opposition groups, principally *Sendero Luminoso* which has been responsible for widespread atrocities.

Thousands of people have "disappeared" or been extrajudicially executed after being abducted by members of the security forces. Most of those who were killed had been brutally tortured, as were the few who survived abduction or "disappearance".

Most of the victims have come from towns and isolated peasant communities in remote rural areas. Often they were targeted simply because they lived in zones of armed conflict between government forces and opposition groups. In recent years, "disappearances" have increased in urban areas. Human rights defenders, often the only hope for victims seeking help for themselves or their relatives, have been threatened, tortured, killed and "disappeared".

By July 1990 nearly half of the country was under emergency regulations. In most emergency zones, headed by political-military commands, the armed forces, in practice, have not been accountable to the civilian authorities. It is within these emergency zones that the vast majority of human rights violations by military forces and abuses by opposition groups have been committed.

This was the legacy inherited by the new government of President Alberto Fujimori which took office in Peru on 28 July 1990.

The promise

In his inaugural speech on 28 July, President Fujimori promised to respect human rights fully: "The terrorist violence our fledgling democracy currently faces cannot justify the occasional or systematic violation of human rights."

The "central element" of the new government's policy was to be the creation of a national human rights commission. During the government's first year in office further measures to



Widows in formation for civil defence patrol

Peru: The suffering continues

reinforce these pledges were promised. In February 1991, for example, the government stated that it was adopting measures to "make available registers of detention...(and) promptly and objectively to establish the fate of those whose 'disappearance' is claimed as certain".

In May 1991 the government outlined a new set of proposals on human rights and referred to the need "to eliminate every form of excess by the security forces in fulfilment of their duties, and to punish those responsible".

The reality

Despite these promises there was no significant improvement in Peru's human rights record in the first year of the new government. The pattern of endemic human rights violations arising from *Sendero Luminoso's* armed actions against government forces and the civilian population continued.

Between 28 July 1990 and 27 July 1991, AI received reports of 179 "disappearances" and 58 extrajudicial executions perpetrated by members of the security services. Most of these violations

were committed in the emergency zones under military control. The difficulty of obtaining information in these zones means that the true total of violations may be significantly greater. Human rights defenders and their organizations are still under attack.

In September 1991 the government announced new measures on human rights, including giving Public Ministry prosecutors full authority to enter all detention centres, including military installations in the emergency zones, to investigate the condition of detainees and alleged "disappearances". On 13 September the government announced that President Fujimori had ordered all members of the armed forces to respect human rights. He stated that those who disobeyed this order "will be severely punished".

Whether these measures will succeed in ending the pattern of gross human rights violations in Peru remains to be seen. In addition, the government has yet to indicate whether it intends to investigate past human rights violations and bring those responsible to justice, a measure that AI

considers an essential element of a policy to end human rights violations.

The armed opposition

Sendero Luminoso is the main armed opposition group in Peru. Since 1980 it has repeatedly engaged in operations which have included the torture and execution-like killing of captive civilians, local authorities and members of the security forces.

Among the civilian victims have been members of peasant communities and rural cooperatives who refused to join or support *Sendero Luminoso*. Often they have been killed or tortured following mock trials.

Sendero Luminoso has also engaged in a protracted strategy of sabotaging public utilities and destroying the livestock and produce of peasant communities.

In the run-up to the 1990 presidential elections *Sendero Luminoso* reportedly assassinated several parliamentary candidates and bombs were planted in public places, causing several casualties. *Sendero Luminoso* has been accused of murdering some 90 mayors in the emergency zones

since 1982. Its attacks have left some areas without any civilian authorities: the latter have either fled or been killed.

In the past year, AI has continued to receive numerous reports of *Sendero Luminoso* atrocities. For example, in May 1991 its members reportedly carried out the execution-style killing of a former prisoner of conscience, Porfirio Suni Quispe, who had been elected a regional deputy.

The other main armed opposition group in Peru is the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), which began to launch armed attacks in June 1984. By 1991 the group had extended its sphere of operations to rural as well as urban areas.

The MRTA engages in sabotage, political killings, the occupation of towns, villages and public buildings, and armed attacks on police and army patrols. According to reports, MRTA members have been known occasionally to kill their captives.

AI, as a matter of principle, condemns the killing or torture of prisoners, other deliberate and arbitrary killings and the taking of hostages by political opposition groups. It does not treat such groups as if they had the status of governments. It is governments which are obliged to uphold international human rights standards. However, any opposition group should abide by minimum international standards of humane behaviour, such as the principles contained in humanitarian law.

Impunity

The central issue which underlies the continuing pattern of human rights violations is that members of the armed forces are rarely brought to justice for the crimes they commit and therefore act with impunity.

Human rights violations have continued despite the legal safeguards enshrined in the Constitution and in international human rights standards which Peru has pledged to uphold.

Although thousands of civilians have been reported extrajudicially executed or "disappeared" in the emergency zones during the past decade, no members of the armed forces are known to have been convicted for their part in these violations.

To AI's knowledge, judicial proceedings have been initiated in only four of the hundreds of cases of "disappearance", extrajudicial execution and torture reported to the organization since President Fujimori took office.

Public prosecutors attached to the Public Ministry, the official



Army tank patrolling Lima, 1990

© Alejandro Balaguer

body responsible for upholding human rights, and the judiciary have attempted to investigate the violations. However, they have been repeatedly obstructed and sometimes threatened by the military. AI, therefore, welcomed new legislation passed on 2 September which gave public prosecutors full powers to enter all detention centres in Peru, including military bases in the emergency zones, to investigate reports of "disappearance".

In most cases of human rights violations, witnesses have testified that members of the armed forces were responsible. In most

instances, the military either deny their involvement or claim the detainee has been released, in the case of "disappearances", or else attribute the abuses to the armed opposition. Further action is rarely taken.

A major obstacle to bringing to justice those involved in perpetrating human rights violations in the emergency zones has been the role of military courts which, under current Peruvian law, have sole jurisdiction over members of the armed forces accused of human rights violations committed while on duty. These courts, which are presided over by military officers



Detention by the security forces near Uchiza, San Martín department; many of those detained by the military later "disappear"

© Alejandro Balaguer

and exclude members of the public from their proceedings, have routinely closed cases of military involvement in human rights violations, and exonerated the defendants.

Unless the present government breaks the pattern and brings the perpetrators of human rights violations to justice before civilian courts, and ensures that basic preventive measures are effectively implemented, there is little hope for the future.

The government must enforce the measures it takes to make the armed forces accountable for their actions and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are brought to justice.

'Disappearance'

Twenty-two-year-old student Ernesto Castillo Páez was last seen on 21 October 1990. He was in the custody of police officers who detained him as he was walking through the Central Park in the Villa El Salvador neighbourhood of Lima. Eye-witnesses saw him handcuffed, forced into the boot of a patrol car, and driven away.

In an historic ruling, Judge Elva Greta Minaya Callo upheld a *habeas corpus* petition on his behalf, saying there were serious irregularities in police procedure.

However, the Supreme Court annulled the *habeas corpus* writ on the grounds of procedural irregularities.

The lawyer for Ernesto Castillo Páez' family, Dr Augusto Zúñiga Paz, who is also head of the legal office of the independent Commission for Human Rights, received death threats as a result of his work on the case. He informed the Supreme Court of the threats in February 1991 but apparently received no form of protection.

On 15 March a large envelope was delivered to Dr Zúñiga's office. It was a letter bomb; it exploded when he opened it and severed his left forearm. According to the Defence Ministry, the package contained explosive of a type used only by the Navy.

Torture

Fidel Intusca, a mine worker, was detained in August 1990 and taken to the military base at Puquio, Ayacucho department. There, he said, he was severely tortured. He escaped shortly afterwards.

"They stripped me down to my underpants and socks. They tightened the gag and the blindfold. They chained my wrists behind my back and tied my ankles so tightly that it felt like steel. Then...they beat me in the most sensitive areas...I was tortured for



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Above: Ernesto Castillo Páez' parents with a picture of their son;
 Top right: Dr Augusto Zúñiga Paz, with his son, in hospital after he was injured by a letter bomb;
 Bottom right: Fidel Intusca with photographs showing the injuries he sustained under torture.

more than four hours. They beat me and put me into a vat full of water until I was half dead."

Fidel Intusca was tortured because the military suspected he was involved with *Sendero Luminoso*.

The independent Association of Human Rights (APRODEH) and a senator denounced his torture and demanded guarantees for his safety. APRODEH director Francisco Soberón received death threats after publicizing this case. The senator, Javier Diez Canesco, also received death threats and on 16 November 1990 a bomb was thrown at his house. Although the blast caused material damage, no one was hurt.

Massacre

In mid-October 1990 villagers from Huamanga province discovered three mass graves — the gruesome evidence of a recent massacre. One witness described the scene as they uncovered 18 bodies: "Everyone starts digging frantically, some with spades, others with pick-axes, and others with their bare hands. Nearly all of them are crying and the stench is increasing. The weeping aloud of the relatives turns to melancholic songs in the local Quechua dialect. Zacarías Cconoc Huayhua...sings words of grief to his wife whom he has just recognized."

A few weeks earlier, on 21 and 22 September, nearly 40 people from peasant communities were detained by a military patrol from

the Castropampa military base in Huanta, in a joint operation with civil defence patrol members (*montoneros*). The joint force entered the districts of Santiago de Pischa and San José de Tiellas, Huamanga province, following a *Sendero Luminoso* attack in the locality.

The patrol released several prisoners but took 18 of them to a ravine named Chilcahuaycco

"The weeping aloud of the relatives turns to melancholic songs in the local Quechua dialect"

and apparently beat and then shot them. On 18 October their bodies were exhumed from three mass graves in the presence of a provincial prosecutor, a judge, police officers and two doctors. Seventeen of the bodies were identified.

The massacre was investigated by the Public Ministry and a senate commission of inquiry. In February 1991 the Public Ministry's Special Attorney for Human Rights announced that an army sergeant was to be charged with homicide. The Senate Commission published its report in May 1991. It attributed the killings to a combined force of soldiers and *montoneros*.

At least three other massacres by the security forces have taken place since the new government took office.

Protect human rights

AI urges the Government of Peru to take the following steps to ensure that human rights are upheld and maintained.

- 1. **Prevent human rights violations**
- The President, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, should ensure that the security forces obey orders that counter-insurgency operations must be carried out

within the framework of national and international law, and that human rights violations are not tolerated.

- The political-military commands should rigorously ensure the protection of human rights in the emergency zones.
- Up-to-date registers of detention should be maintained in recognized detention centres throughout Peru and in armed forces installations in the emergency zones. These registers should be made



Funeral of Thomas Quispe Sayhua, a peasant leader

available on request to relatives, Public Ministry officials, judges, lawyers and representatives of human rights organizations.

- International human rights organizations which monitor the conditions of political detainees should be granted unrestricted access to all places where detainees are held.
- A Public Ministry official or a judge should be notified promptly of all arrests.
- Judges, doctors, lawyers and relatives should be given prompt and regular access to detainees.
- Detainees should be released before a public prosecutor or a judge, in order to verify that the release occurred.
- The government should seek to prevent extrajudicial executions by ensuring strict control over all security force personnel engaged in counter-insurgency operations.
- The government should explicitly prohibit and take measures to prevent rape and sexual abuse by soldiers.

2. Investigate human rights violations

- All reports of "disappearances", extrajudicial executions and torture should be immediately and thoroughly investigated by impartial and independent teams, headed by special prosecutors appointed by the Public Ministry, with

powers to require members of the security forces to submit evidence.

- The Public Ministry and the judiciary should receive the political support and resources necessary to carry out their duties.
 - All investigations of extrajudicial executions should include adequate autopsy procedures, and the collection and analysis of all physical and documentary evidence and statements from witnesses.
 - Victims and witnesses who wish to give evidence of human rights violations should receive official protection on request, as should journalists and human rights monitors investigating such abuses.
- ### 3. Bring the perpetrators to justice
- All members of the security forces against whom there is evidence that they ordered, committed or concealed human rights violations, should be brought to justice before the civilian courts.
 - Individual officers against whom there is evidence of involvement in human rights violations should be suspended from active service during investigation and judicial proceedings.
- ### 4. Compensate the victims
- The victims of human rights violations, including families

and dependants of victims of "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution, should receive full compensation and, where necessary, medical treatment and rehabilitation.

What you can do

Involve any organizations you know of, such as your church, trade union, professional body, social club, business, local council, women's group, law firm or political party. Ask them to write to the President of Peru, calling on him to:

- uphold human rights;
- investigate all reports of human rights violations;
- bring the perpetrators to justice;
- compensate the victims.

Human rights experts are convinced that organizations like these are influential upon the Peruvian Government. That is why we are asking people to approach all sorts of organizations

- If you want to know more about our concerns in Peru, contact the AI office in your country and ask for the 1991 Peru Report: *Human rights in a climate of terror*.
- If you want to get more involved — join AI
- If you don't have the time to get involved — make a donation to AI.

and ask them to write letters to Peru.

Defend the defenders

Organizations working on the defence of human rights in Peru are under attack by *Sendero Luminoso* and the government. In July 1991 the *Sendero Luminoso* newspaper *El Diario* accused human rights defenders of "spilling crocodile tears" in denouncing human rights violations perpetrated by the security forces. At the end of September the official government newspaper *El Peruano* reported a speech by President Fujimori to the armed forces. He charged human rights defenders with being "useful sops" and of collaborating with subversion.

Human rights defenders in Peru are under attack and need your help. You can help them by copying your letters (see above) to the coordinating body of human rights organizations in Peru. In this way human rights organizations there will know how concerned people outside Peru are about the human rights situation in that country.

Send copies to:

Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos, Capac Yupanqui 2151, Depto. 204, Lima, Peru. □

JORDAN/SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabian at risk after refoulement by Jordan

ON 2 October 1991 Jordanian security forces arrested Muhammad al-Fasi, a Saudi Arabian businessman, and reportedly handed him to Saudi Arabian authorities at the al-Haditha crossing point on the Saudi-Jordanian frontier.

Muhammad al-Fasi had been publicly critical of the Saudi Arabian Government during the Gulf crisis and its aftermath. He is allegedly being held in a secret location in Riyadh where it is feared he is at risk of torture

and execution.

AI issued urgent appeals calling on the Saudi Arabian authorities to clarify his fate and whereabouts, and to provide assurances that he will not be ill-treated or executed. AI also sought clarifications from the Jordanian authorities as to their reason for expelling Muhammad al-Fasi, and any assurances they may have sought or obtained from the Saudi Arabian Government that his human rights would not be violated. □



Muhammad al-Fasi

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PAKISTAN

Ahmadis imprisoned for practicing their religion

POLICIES pursued by the government of President Zia (1977 to 1988) and the present government of Nawaz Sharif, in office since November 1990, have violated the right to freedom of religion, particularly for the Ahmadis of Pakistan. The Ahmadiyya community, numbering over three million members in Pakistan, considers itself Muslim but is regarded as heretical by orthodox Muslims.

Changes in the Pakistan Penal Code introduced in recent years make it a criminal offence for Ahmadis to profess, practice and propagate their faith. In the most recent such amendment the death penalty has become the mandatory punishment for the offence of defiling the name of the Prophet Mohammad. Orthodox Muslims consider that an Ahmadi defiles the Prophet's name by speaking or writing it.

Amnesty International is concerned that Ahmadis continue to

be charged, convicted and given prison terms solely for the peaceful exercise of their religious beliefs. For instance, in November 1990 two brothers in Abbotabad were each sentenced to six years' imprisonment and given a heavy fine for having preached about their faith. Several Ahmadis are known currently to be serving prison sentences for using Muslim phrases of greeting.

Amnesty International published a document in September 1991 describing human rights violations and abuses reportedly suffered by Ahmadis in 1990 and 1991.* It urged the Pakistan Government to release all Ahmadi prisoners of conscience unconditionally and immediately, and to bring the country's legislation in line with international human rights standards.

* *Pakistan: Violations of human rights of Ahmadis (AI Index: ASA 33/15/91).* □

MACAO

Basic Law fails to protect human rights

Macao, the Portuguese territory on the southern coast of China, will revert to Chinese sovereignty in 1999. The draft of the Basic Law, which will govern the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) after 1999, was published in July. In a memorandum submitted to the Macao Basic Law Drafting Committee in November, Amnesty International said the draft Basic Law did not adequately protect fundamental human rights. It failed in particular to include safeguards against the reintroduction of the death penalty, which was abolished in Macao in the 19th century.

AI also expressed concern that the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, currently in force in Macao by virtue of Portugal's ratification, should continue to apply to the MSAR beyond 1999. □

SOUTH AFRICA

Black Sash members detained in 'homeland'

IN October 1991 Amnesty International called for the release of 11 members of the South African human rights organization Black Sash, detained in the nominally independent "homeland" of Bophuthatswana. They were arrested on 5 October while staging a peaceful protest to highlight repression in Bophuthatswana. After three days' imprisonment they were convicted of attending an illegal gathering under the terms of Bophuthatswana's Internal Security Act, fined, and released from custody.

The police action against the members of Black Sash, which, although legal elsewhere in South Africa, remains banned in Bophuthatswana, underscored the extremely restrictive conditions confronting human rights as well as political activists in Bophuthatswana.

The "homeland's" Internal Security Act effectively prohibits the holding of any public meeting or demonstration unless official permission has been granted. Officials rarely agree to or even respond to requests to hold meetings. This provides the security forces with broad scope to disperse any meeting, and has imposed severe constraints on political activists who have frequently been arrested and charged. On 7 April 1991 a group of over 60 people were arrested at an African National Congress (ANC) workshop in It-soseng and charged with attending an illegal gathering.

Human rights activists have also been affected. Members of the Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum (MAREF) have been repeatedly detained since MAREF's formation in mid-1990, and MAREF's chairperson was one of five observers arrested at the Black Sash protest on 5 October. She was released uncharged.

In addition to detaining and charging activists under the Internal Security Act, on various occasions over the past year the police have dispersed non-violent gatherings with gunfire, resulting in injuries or deaths. A young man, Johannes Mafatshe, was shot dead on 21 March 1991 when police opened fire to disperse peaceful demonstrators in Phokeng. □

COLOMBIA

Lawyer threatened

Dr Eduardo Umaña Mendoza, law professor and human rights lawyer, has been repeatedly threatened with death over a number of months, apparently as a result of his activities in defence of human rights. Although no specific motive was given, the threats may be connected to Dr Umaña's role in representing the surviving members of a peasant family whose relatives were allegedly killed by members of the Colombian army.

On 18 August Antonio Palacios Urrea, three of his children and his son-in-law were shot dead by soldiers in their home on the outskirts of Fusagasugá,

Cundinamarca department. Two men, whose identity is not yet clear, were also found dead at the entrance to the house. A statement issued by the Commander of the XIII Brigade of the Colombian army alleged that those killed were members of a guerrilla group who had died during an armed confrontation with soldiers. This version of events was contradicted by eye-witness reports and the findings of police and journalists who visited the scene shortly afterwards who reportedly found no evidence that the people inside the house had fired on their attackers. The only adult sur-

vivor of the attack testified to the military court investigating the killings that her relatives were shot through the back of the head after being made to lie face down on the floor. At the end of September, military investigating court No. 115 issued arrest warrants against a second-lieutenant, a sergeant and five privates, in connection with the killings.

On learning of the threats against Dr Umaña, the Colombian authorities took steps to safeguard his immediate physical integrity. However, AI remains concerned about the long-term safety of Dr Umaña. □

BURUNDI

Arrests by security forces

ABOUT 100 members of the majority Hutu ethnic group were arrested between July and November 1991 by members of the Burundi security forces in various parts of the country. Virtually all those arrested were accused of being supporters of the opposition *Parti pour la libération du peuple hutu* (PALIPEHUTU), Hutu People's Liberation Party, which the government accuses of seeking political change through violence against the minority but dominant Tutsi ethnic group. These were the first large-scale arrests of government opponents since a program of political reforms started in 1989.

Arrests were particularly numerous in September, when members of the Burundi refugee community in Tanzania, which had previously provided support for PALIPEHUTU, returned to Burundi as part of a voluntary repatriation scheme. Returnees were among 40 people detained in Musinga province, in the northeast.

Some detainees were subjected to severe beatings while in police custody, for example at the *Brigade spéciale de recherche* (BSR), Special Investigation Brigade, in Bujumbura. By October most had been transferred to ordinary prisons but had not been tried. They were accused variously of circulating tracts, receiving foreign assistance to endanger the security of the state and engaging in activities which might disturb the peace. Five of those arrested in July were apparently meeting to plan a commemoration of the anniversary of the death of the PALIPEHUTU leader, Remy

Gahutu, in prison in Tanzania in August 1990.

The arrests coincide with the publication in September of the recommendations of a Constitutional Commission. This called for the establishment of a multi-party political system in place of the present one-party state, with a ban on parties based on just one ethnic group. □

USSR: Allegations of ill-treatment

AI is concerned about numerous reports of ill-treatment of ethnic Armenians during an operation by Soviet troops and Azerbaydzhani special police units (OMON) in April and May this year in areas of the Republic of Azerbaydzhani which have been the scene of ethnic violence.

Many men detained, both briefly by the OMON and in Azerbaydzhani prisons, claim they were beaten and otherwise ill-treated: allegations refer to regular daily beatings with truncheons, often to the point of unconsciousness; rape and insertion of bottles into the anus; and deprivation of food and water. At least two men reportedly died in prison from injuries inflicted. One, a police officer, is said to have been tortured and his cries relayed by radio to other ethnic-Armenian officers as a warning. The other reportedly had his skull fractured in 15 places, broken fingers and numerous stab wounds. The official cause of death was given as suicide by hanging and internal haemorrhaging respectively.

AI is also concerned that in other instances, during the operation some unarmed civilians were reportedly killed deliberately by law-enforcement officials without warning or attempts to ap-

GUATEMALA

Reports of police brutality

EXEQUIEL Trujillo Hernández, Francisco Castillo García and Carlos Geovanny Rosales Chávez were arrested in Guatemala City on 25 August 1991, accused of murdering nine people, including two police officers and two university students. The photos of the three accused, who appeared scarred and bruised, were shown on the national press. Several days later, relatives of the men claimed that the detainees had been tortured.

According to the men's testimonies, moments after their arrest they overheard police say "With these, we wash our hands". They were taken to the 6th Police Precinct and beaten. Then they were handcuffed, blindfolded and taken to the National Police headquarters, where they were separated. They said each was taken to a room in the Criminal Investigation Department (DIC), where they were again beaten with fists

and sticks and kicked while interrogated. Two of them claimed they had sticks introduced in the anus. Police also threatened to kill them and their families.

Two of the men said they were then taken to an open space, given a gun and made to shoot. Back in the DIC, police agents applied the paraffin test (to assess whether firearms had been used), resulting in severe burns to the men's hands. Finally, they were transferred to the Preventive Detention Centre in Zone 18 of Guatemala City. Sources inside Guatemala, including Congressmen and the University Students Association, have expressed doubt whether, despite police statements, the men did commit all the killings attributed to them. AI is concerned that Guatemalan police reportedly used torture and threats in order to obtain evidence to prosecute the three men. □

prehend them, and that some people are said to have been detained for short periods solely on grounds of their ethnic origin.

AI recognizes that law-enforcement officials in the area are charged with keeping order in a situation in which they and the civilian population are subject to attacks from armed bands. However, it is urging that all law-enforcement officials be made aware of, and conform to, the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and other international human rights standards. It is also urging the authorities to initiate a full and prompt inquiry into allegations of ill-treatment; that the findings be made public; and the perpetrators brought to justice. □

YAR and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen stipulated that separate legislation would remain in force during a 36-month transitional period, during which time a common penal code and other relevant legislation would be agreed upon. □

MOROCCO

Detention centre demolished

THE secret detention centre of Tazmamert in southeastern Morocco is said to have been demolished in mid-September 1991 and its inmates moved to an undisclosed location. Only one of the Tazmamert detainees, M'Barek Touil, who is married to a US citizen, was released on 23 September 1991; the fate of the others remains unknown.

Of the 61 former military personnel moved from Kenitra Military Prison to Tazmamert in 1973, 29 are said to have since died, almost certainly due to the harsh conditions of detention. These detainees, convicted of taking part in attempted coups against King Hassan II in 1971 and 1972, were held incommunicado, completely cut off from the outside world for 19 years; the only news from them was in rare letters smuggled out. The sentences of many of them had expired 17 years ago.

The Moroccan authorities have never given any reason for continuing to hold these prisoners and have repeatedly denied the existence of this secret detention centre. □

YEMEN

Executions carried out

ON 13 August 1991 five executions and five amputations took place in public in the northern provinces of the Republic of Yemen. Those executed were convicted of murder, while those whose right hands were amputated were convicted of repeated theft. According to eye-witnesses, the severed hands were displayed in the town centre. The amputations were the first reported since unification in May 1990.

Before unification, executions and amputations took place in the former Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) in accordance with interpretation of the shari'a. The Unity Agreement between the

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