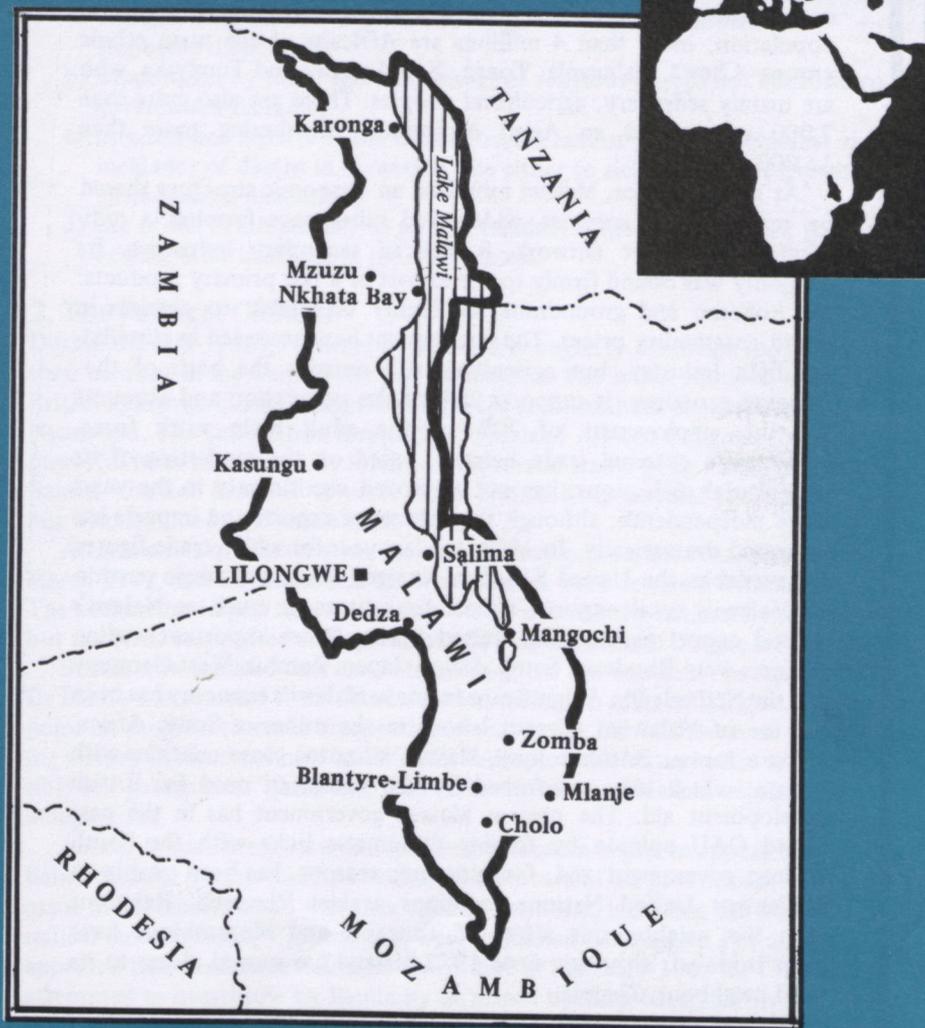

Amnesty International Briefing

MALAWI



August 1976

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BRIEFING ON MALAWI

ERRATA

THE POLITICAL CONTEXT

Page 4, first paragraph, eighth line should read:

"... level in the governmental and party hierarchy."

MALAWI IN OUTLINE

First declared a British protectorate in 1891, when it was known as Nyasaland, Malawi achieved independence from colonial rule on 6 July 1964. It is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations.

Malawi's total population was estimated in 1973 to be 4,791,000. Its relatively small land area of 94,080 square kilometers makes it one of the most densely-populated nations in Africa. Of the total population, more than 4 millions are Africans of the main ethnic groups—Chewa, Ma'nganja, Tonga, Yao, Longwe and Tumbuka, who are mainly sedentary, agricultural peoples. There are also more than 7,000 whites and an Asian community numbering more than 11,000.

At independence, Malawi inherited an economic structure shared by many former colonies—widespread subsistence farming, a rudimentary transport network, a lack of secondary industries. Its economy was bound firmly to the export of a few primary products: tea, tobacco and groundnuts, all highly vulnerable to changes in world commodity prices. The government has succeeded in stimulating light industry, but agriculture still remains the basis of the national economy. It supports 90% of the population and accounts for the employment of 70% of the adult male work force.

Malawi's external trade balance, based on the marketing of its agricultural cash crops, has not improved significantly in the years since independence, although the volume of exports and imports has increased dramatically. In 1974, the last year for which trade figures are available, the United Kingdom received the largest single portion of Malawi's total exports—almost four times as much as Malawi's second export partner, the United States. Other important trading partners were Rhodesia, South Africa, Japan, Zambia, West Germany and the Netherlands. A significant factor in Malawi's economy has been the use of Malawian migrant labour in the mines of South Africa.

As a former British colony, Malawi inherited close relations with Britain, which were reinforced by the Malawian need for British development aid. The present Malawi government has in the past defied OAU opinion by forging diplomatic links with the South African government and, for economic reasons, has been unable to implement United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia. Relations with the neighbouring states of Tanzania and Mozambique have been troubled, although since 1972 Malawi has moved closer to its third neighbour, Zambia.

Malawi is a one-party republic ruled by the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) under its leader and Life President Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda.

Malawi

1. Introduction

The following human rights issues in Malawi are of particular concern to Amnesty International:

- a) widespread use of prolonged detention without trial as a means of political control, intimidation of potential opposition and punishment of suspected dissidence;
- b) suppression by force and harassment of religious groups not conforming to government dictates;
- c) intermittent reports of the use of torture against political detainees and the incidence of deaths in detention due either to sickness, maltreatment or extra-judicial execution;
- d) use of the death penalty to punish criminal offences and violent political crimes, after insufficient judicial process.

2. The Political Context

During the mid-1950s, Nyasaland nationalists began to challenge the inclusion of their country in the Central African Federation. The latter, founded in 1953 with British approval, brought together Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The nationalists forged the Nyasaland African Congress (NAC) into a powerful mass-movement. It found a charismatic leader in Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda, who had lived for 40 years in the United Kingdom and the United States, but who returned to Nyasaland in 1958.

After a series of clashes with the colonial authorities, the NAC was banned in March 1959, and Dr Banda and its other leaders were detained without trial. The authorities hoped that this action would destroy the nationalist movement, but the NAC reappeared in September 1959 as the Malawi Congress Party (MCP).

Britain now realized that the federation could not continue. In April 1960 Dr Banda was released from detention and invited to talks in London. From this point on progress towards independence was rapid. The MCP won an overwhelming victory in elections held in 1961. In January 1963 Malawi achieved "responsible self-government", and on 6 July 1964 the state of Malawi became officially independent.

Almost immediately after independence, tension began to appear between Dr Banda and the younger and more radical members of his government. The crisis came in September 1964 when six cabinet ministers, including the leader of the radical faction, Henry Chipembere, were dismissed or resigned. For a time it appeared that dissidence had died down. But in February 1965 Mr Chipembere attempted to overthrow Dr Banda by an armed uprising based on his own home area, the Mangochi region. This attempt failed, as did the invasion of Malawi by an armed group under the leadership of former cabinet minister Yatuta Chisiza

in October 1967.

Since the "cabinet crisis" of September 1964, the surviving dissident cabinet ministers have lived in self-imposed exile outside Malawi. Mr Chipembere died in the United States in 1975, leaving Kanyama Chiume as the main opponent outside the country of Dr Banda's regime.

Dr Banda consolidated his power after the split in his cabinet and the failure of the February 1965 rising. In November 1964 provision for preventive detention without trial was introduced. It was given final form in the Public Security Regulations of February 1965. Large-scale arrests began of persons thought to be sympathetic to the six former cabinet ministers. Dr Banda's attitude towards the use of preventive detention was expressed in a speech he made on 1 April 1965:

If, to maintain political stability and efficient administration I have to detain 10,000, 100,000, I will do it. I want nobody to misunderstand me. I will detain anyone who is interfering with the political stability of this country. . .

Since then, detention without trial of suspected government opponents has been a feature of Malawi political life. Dr Banda has continuously strengthened his personal hold on the country. He became president under the new republican constitution introduced in July 1966 and president for life in July 1971. As Malawi is a one-party state, membership of Dr Banda's party, the MCP, is compulsory for anyone wishing to hold public office. Militants of the Youth Wing of the MCP, as well as the Malawi Young Pioneers (MYP), harass persons who do not possess party cards.

There is little articulate opposition to Dr Banda within the country. This is principally due to fear of denunciation by an extensive network of informers, which leads to imprisonment. Malawians in opposition to Dr Banda live in exile in Tanzania, Zambia and elsewhere. Dr Banda habitually attributes any internal unrest to plotting by these groups. Occasionally, other scapegoats are found: in 1967, 1972 and 1975/76, for example, the 23,000-strong Jehovah's Witness sect in Malawi was severely repressed by the MYP and MCP because of its members' refusal to purchase party cards (see below).

Although periodic amnesties are announced—usually on 14 May (Kamuzu Day) or on 6 July (anniversary of independence)—the number of political detainees held without trial in Malawi has rarely dropped below 500. On occasion it has risen into the thousands. Some present detainees have been held since 1965 and have little prospect of release under present circumstances. Dr Banda said in a speech in January 1975 that as far as the detainees were concerned, "they will rot. . . they will rot". In November 1975 the president stated that he had intended to release detainees "very soon", but alleged support for the exiled leader Kanyama Chiume among teachers, businessmen and civil servants had changed his mind. Consequently he would "not release any one of them soon".

3. Legal Situation

The republican constitution of Malawi, established in 1966, states *inter alia* that the "four corner-stones of the government and the nation shall be Unity, Loyalty,

Obedience and Discipline". But it adds (section 2 (1) (iii):

The Government and the People of Malawi shall continue to recognize the sanctity of the personal liberties enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and of adherence to the Law of Nations.

Section 2 (1) (v) guarantees equal rights and freedoms to all persons regardless of colour, race or creed. In practice, most of these provisions have been violated by the government in recent years.

(i) Legislation under which prisoners are held

In September 1964, the first of a series of Public Security Regulations issued under the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance empowered the prime minister (now the president) to restrict and control the residence and movement of persons, and to prohibit publications considered prejudicial to public security. In November 1964 the Constitution (Amendment) Act was passed. This provided for preventive detention "when such detention is reasonably required in the interests of defence, public safety and public order".

More stringent security regulations came into force in February 1965. These regulations provide that the prime minister (now the president) may "if he considers it to be necessary for the preservation of public order so to do, make an order against any person directing that he be detained". Detention may be for an indefinite period, but detention orders must be reviewed at the end of six months. This clause of the regulations does not now appear to be operative.

Further provisions of the February 1965 Public Security Regulations made it an offence, punishable by a maximum of 5 years' imprisonment, to publish anything likely, *inter alia*, "to undermine the authority of, or public confidence in the government". Harboring persons acting in a manner prejudicial to public security became an offence punishable by up to 7 years' imprisonment. Offences relating to possession of firearms became punishable by a maximum of 10 years' imprisonment.

The Malawi penal code provides for imprisonment for persons furthering the aims of an "unlawful society", that is, any group considered to be "dangerous to the good government of the Republic". This provision has been applied to the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society (WTBTS)—the Jehovah's Witnesses. In July 1973 an act was passed punishing by life imprisonment any person who sends "false information" out of Malawi which may be "harmful to the interests or to the good name of Malawi". The same month an act was passed prescribing prison terms for persons wearing long hair or short skirts.

(ii) Legal/administrative detention procedures

a) *Arrest process.* According to the February 1965 Public Security Regulations, any "authorized officer" may arrest any person without warrant on suspicion that the person's detention would be justified. Such persons may be held for a period "not exceeding 28 days" pending a decision on whether a detention order should be made against them. Under a series of acts passed during 1965 the MYP was given powers of arrest, and the police were prohibited from releasing from custody persons arrested by the MYP.

In practice, the 28-day detention provision is not strictly observed. Individuals may be held for many months without trial or being served with a detention order. In most cases, arrests are made by the local police or the police Special Branch (ie, security police) on the instructions of either the president or a high official in the MCP. But prominent individuals have been arrested in the past apparently without the knowledge of the president. This is an indication that the power to arrest and detain has devolved to a lower level in the governmental and party heir.

In most instances, arrested persons are not permitted to see a lawyer and are not informed of the reason for their detention. The names of detained persons are not published. Therefore it is often some time before relatives and friends discover the exact situation and place of detention of arrestees. Initially, arrested persons are usually interrogated at Police Special Branch headquarters in Zomba, while being held in the political detainee sections of Zomba Prison. When finally served with a detention order (implying indefinite detention without trial), the prisoner is usually transferred to Mikuyu Detention Center (if male) or held in Zomba or transferred to Lilongwe (if female).

b) *Release process.* The six-monthly review of detention orders called for by the February 1965 regulations appears not to be followed in practice. Detainees are reportedly divided into four categories, ranging from those whose release is highly unlikely to those who may expect to be detained only for several weeks or months. Releases appear to be made solely at the discretion of the president, who is presented with a list of possible releases by the police Special Branch. Traditionally, amnesties occur on or around 14 May (Kamuzu Day—a national holiday) and 6 July (the anniversary of independence). The number of individuals released on these dates varies: about 40 detainees were reportedly freed in May 1974, while in 1975 the figure was more than 170. Those amnestied include criminal prisoners. Former detainees are sometimes re-detained a few months after release.

(iii) *International legal instruments*

The constitution of Malawi incorporates a commitment to the values enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But the government of Malawi has not, to date, signed or ratified the international instruments intended to ensure implementation of those rights. These instruments are the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the optional protocol to the latter.

4. Location of Detention Centers

During the late 1960s and early 1970s the main political prison in Malawi was the large detention camp at Dzeleka, near Dowa in the Central Region. This had been set up shortly after preventive detention was introduced in the winter of 1964/65. The Dzeleka camp, a barbed-wire compound surrounding a complex of huts, housed several hundred political prisoners.

A variety of sources have reported that the main camp at Dzeleka was largely closed down early in 1973. Many of the Dzeleka detainees were transferred to a new detention center at Mikuyu, which is located in flat scrubland 13 kilometers east of the town of Zomba. Mikuyu has now become the principal holding center for male detainees. However, short and long term detainees of both sexes are still held in special cell blocks at Zomba Prison. The latter, which also houses criminal offenders, is a British-built prison on the southern outskirts of Zomba.

Blantyre Remand Prison (also known as Chichiri Prison), which is equidistant from the towns of Blantyre and Limbe in the Southern Region, has also been used to house small numbers of political detainees either immediately after arrest or just prior to release. Lilongwe Prison, in Malawi's new capital, houses male and female detainees. Once a detention order has been made against them, female prisoners initially held at Zomba are sometimes transferred to Lilongwe and long term male detainees are usually transferred to Mikuyu.

When the government ordered the arrest of adult members of the WTBTs, in October 1975, these prisoners were confined in local prisons and, according to the WTBTs, in barbed-wire compounds built at local police stations. There were also reports that members of the sect were being held in the old detention camp at Dzeleka, as well as at other detention centers at Kanjedza and Malaku.

5. Number and Analysis of Prisoners

It is difficult to be precise about the number of persons detained or sentenced to prison terms for "political" offences in Malawi. Arrests and detentions are not publicly announced, the government issues no public statements concerning the number of prisoners it holds and releases are likewise usually unpublicized (the exceptions being the annual Kamuzu Day and independence day amnesties). Another confusing factor is the fluctuation of the political prisoner population which sometimes expands through waves of arrests (such as those which took place late in 1975 and early in 1976) or temporarily contracts due to periodic amnesties.

However, it is possible to provide a rough estimate of the figures. In 1968 government sources indicated that approximately 200 people were being held. Unofficial sources put the number at that time at much more than 1,000. Calculations in late 1972 gave a figure of about 1,000 detainees. This dropped to about 600 in the spring of 1973, then rose rapidly again during the summer and autumn. In October 1975, approximately 400 long term detainees were believed to be at the Mikuyu Detention Center and a further 155 political detainees at Zomba Prison. An additional 150 were being held at Lilongwe.

Arrests in late 1975 and early 1976 have driven the total figure for political detainees up to more than 1,000. To this figure must be added the members of the WTBTs arrested on government orders from October 1975 onwards. By January 1976, the WTBTs estimated that 5,000 of its members had been arrested and that 1,900 were serving 3-year prison terms for membership of an illegal organization.

Apart from the imprisoned WTBTs members, the vast majority of political detainees are detained without trial under either the 28-day arrest provisions of the Public Security Regulations or under formal detention orders. They often

do not know the reason for their imprisonment. Most detainees are male. Out of a total of approximately 700 detainees in October 1975, less than 100 were female. Most detainees had received some European-oriented education and many are from the Northern Region of Malawi. Almost all political prisoners in Malawi are detained without trial, often without knowing the reason for their imprisonment.

Since the application of detention without trial in Malawi is random in its operation, the detainee population at any one time will contain a variety of types of prisoners:

- Jehovah's Witnesses;
- civil servants who have in some way angered the government or fallen under suspicion of subversion;
- relatives of the dissident cabinet ministers who fled in 1964;
- persons who have attracted government displeasure because they have travelled to Lusaka in Zambia or Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, where communities of self-exiled Malawians live;
- individuals denounced by informers for criticizing the government;
- members of a variety of professions, including journalists, teachers, and lawyers;
- chiefs and local leaders whose actions have angered Dr Banda;
- Malawians and foreigners who have violated the strict dress regulations;
- ordinary Malawians who know no apparent reason for their detention. They include old men, students, women and children. In one instance in 1971 the population of an entire village in the Mangochi area was detained at Lilongwe for a number of months.

6. Conditions of Detention

(i) Zomba Prison

Political detainees in Zomba Prison are confined to a special block ("A Block"). They have no contact with the criminal prisoners in the prison except through the convicts who are detailed to clean their cells. They are locked into their cells from 15.00 to 05.30 hours each day. Each cell is occupied by a minimum of five to six detainees (in the larger cells the number may be 20 or 30), who sleep on the concrete floor and have two blankets each. An extra blanket is provided in winter but this covering is wholly inadequate in the cold season, and blankets may be withdrawn as a punishment. The blankets are infested with lice and bedbugs. The only toilet facilities in the cells are buckets, which are emptied each morning.

Diet consists of a breakfast of maize gruel, and a meal of *nsima* (maize paste) at 11.00 hours, accompanied by either one of two types of Malawian peas, *kobwe* and *nandoro*. Detainees are locked out of their cells and into a small exercise yard from 07.00 until 12.00 hours. During this period they are given no occupation and are not allowed newspapers or radios.

Medical attention is minimal and few detainees are allowed a special diet for health reasons. Visits are permitted for a maximum of 15 minutes in the presence of a warder.

(ii) Mikuyu Detention Center

Although less is known about conditions at Mikuyu, they appear to be considerably worse than those at Zomba. The low-lying plain on which the center was built is malarious and extremely hot. According to reports, the prison itself is a brick compound divided into cell blocks. The groups of detainees held in each of these blocks are isolated from one another. The cells themselves are grossly overcrowded. One report in late 1975 spoke of 47 prisoners being held in a cell measuring 3 meters by 7 meters although this may have been exceptional due to a sudden wave of detentions. Under these conditions prisoners cannot stretch out on the floor to sleep. Detainees are only allowed out of their cells briefly once a day. Exercise facilities are limited and the prison diet is poor. No newspapers, radios or letters are permitted, and reports state that visits have been forbidden since late 1975.

Conditions at Blantyre Remand Prison (Chichiri Prison) seem to be somewhat better than those at Zomba Prison, while conditions at Lilongwe approximate those at Zomba.

7. Allegations of Torture and Deaths in Detention

It was evident when preventive detention was introduced in Malawi that Dr Banda intended detention to be not only preventive but also a deterrent. To this end he seems to have actively encouraged brutality against political detainees. In January 1965 he told the Malawi parliament, in reference to the prisoners at the new detention camp at Dzeleka:

I will keep them there and they will rot. . . they will rot. And I am going to make sure that in addition to the regular prison officers we have additional. . . warders (Youth Leaguers) who. . . will know what to do with these fools. . . they will knock sense into their heads.

Amnesty International received reports that serious maltreatment of prisoners subsequently took place at Dzeleka during the late 1960s. Tortures reported included sexual abuse, beating, burning and rubbing of extreme irritants into the skin. Conditions seemed to have improved somewhat by 1970, but in 1973 AI received allegations of torture in Dzeleka, dating from the winter of 1972/73.

There appears to be little brutality toward political detainees by guards or warders at Zomba Prison, although maltreatment has been reported at the Special Branch headquarters in Zomba during interrogation. However, in recent years hunger strikes in Zomba Prison have been punished by transferring the leaders to the condemned cells with convicts awaiting hanging. Other punishments in Zomba include being given blankets or bowls marked with a cross (indicating previous use by prisoners with leprosy or tuberculosis). At least two prisoners at Zomba were reportedly given electric shocks to the head, apparently as a combination of punishment and therapy. This was described by other prisoners as the "electric hat" torture.

Treatment of prisoners at Lilongwe appears to be more brutal than at Zomba. Punishments have included beatings, soaking in cold water, chaining and confinement in a cell with mentally defective prisoners. This ill-treatment is ascribed by some sources to the fact that many warders who formerly served at Dzeleka were

transferred to Lilongwe in 1973 after the Dzeleka camp was closed.

Little is known about treatment of prisoners at Mikuyu. But AI has received reports that some detainees released from Mikuyu appear to have been broken in physical health (for example, one case of partial paralysis was reported) or to have suffered mental or nervous collapse.

Reports also say that several detainees have died as a result of the conditions in Mikuyu, and deaths in detention are certainly not uncommon in Malawi. Malawian opposition sources have claimed that individuals are being "tortured to death" in Malawi. In January 1975 these sources published the names of 10 persons allegedly killed in prison in March, April and May 1974. AI has been able to substantiate that at least one of these prisoners, Matupi Mkwandawire, died in Zomba Prison at the time alleged. In 1975 a prominent academic detained the previous year reportedly died in detention. Similar reports of prison deaths began to circulate soon after arrests of students and teachers early in 1976.

The large-scale maltreatment of Jehovah's Witnesses (see below) must also be considered as part of Malawi's record regarding torture.

8. The Judiciary and Capital Punishment

The judicial system which Malawi possessed at independence was closely modelled on that of the United Kingdom, with a high court, a supreme court of appeal and subordinate courts. In November 1969 the local courts were renamed "Traditional Courts" and given additional powers, including that of passing the death sentence. This move led to the resignation of a number of British judges who were members of the Malawi judiciary.

The Traditional Courts seem to function well in civil cases, but there has been deep disquiet regarding their function in cases where the death sentence may be imposed. Between May 1972 and August 1973, 27 persons were hanged in Malawi. Some of these, reportedly, were executed on evidence which in other African states would have led to a conviction and prison sentence for manslaughter. Between December 1973 and September 1975, a further 25 persons were hanged. They may have included some of the 26 persons sentenced to death in September 1973 by the Traditional Court at Mangochi. Since an amendment to the penal code in 1965, treason has been punishable by mandatory death penalty.

All judicial executions are carried out in Zomba Prison by an itinerant hangman who visits Malawi at intervals of several months. During each of these visits, usually up to 12 convicts—in groups of three—are executed by hanging.

Malawi's Chief Justice, Sir James Skinner, previously served as Chief Justice of Zambia but resigned when he clashed with the government over the independence of the judiciary.

9. Persecution of the Jehovah's Witnesses

One constant theme in the internal politics of Malawi during recent years has been the persistent and brutal persecution of members of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society (WTBTS)—Jehovah's Witnesses. Members of the WTBTS, who number more than 20,000 in Malawi, are prohibited by their religious convictions from joining political groupings. This has provoked the anger of the MCP,

which interprets their refusal to buy party membership cards as disloyalty. In October 1967 the WTBTS was declared an illegal organization, and violence against sect members by MCP and MYP militants resulted in at least five deaths of WTBTS members.

A second wave of persecution was launched at the MCP annual convention at Zomba in September 1972. Convention resolutions virtually gave a free hand to MCP militants to attack and harass WTBTS members. At least 50 and possibly as many as 100 WTBTS members were killed in the subsequent pogrom—sometimes after torture. More than 21,000 sect members fled to Zambia to escape the persecution. But, after 342 members died from disease or starvation at the ill-equipped Zambian refugee camp at Sinda Misale, Zambia forcibly repatriated the bulk of the refugees to Malawi. Some were imprisoned, but many fled a second time, to live as refugees in Mozambique.

In June 1975, immediately after coming to power, the new FRELIMO government in Mozambique began to demand political allegiance from both Mozambiquan WTBTS members and from the Malawian refugees. This precipitated a second repatriation to Malawi, beginning in mid-August 1975.

By September 1975 the MCP and MYP had resumed their persecution of the returning sect members. Harassment, beating, sexual torture and burning of body hair were reported from a variety of districts. In October 1975, on the orders of the government, WTBTS members in Malawi were rounded up and interned at local police stations and in detention camps, including the former main camp at Dzeleka. Children forcibly separated from their parents during these internments were reportedly left to die. WTBTS members attempting to flee to Zambia were forcibly repatriated by the Zambian authorities.

By January 1976 WTBTS sources reported that up to 5,000 of their members had been arrested in Malawi. They said some 1,900 of them were serving prison terms for membership in an illegal organization. Reports in March 1976 said atrocities against Jehovah's Witnesses were continuing, especially in the south of Malawi.

10. Action by Amnesty International

During the late 1960s AI received some data on individual prisoners and prison conditions, but it was not until after 1970 that sufficient material was assembled to form the basis of appeals by AI groups to the Malawian authorities for releases. These appeals were for the most part unanswered. A direct appeal from the Secretary General of AI to Dr Banda in March 1974 received no reply and met with a specific rejection when Dr Banda indicated in a public speech that he would not release prisoners who had not "repented".

In its Annual Reports, and in its *Report on Torture* first published in December 1973, AI publicized the situation of political prisoners in Malawi. AI also supported the worldwide appeal during the winter of 1975/76 for a halt to atrocities against WTBTS sect members.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is a worldwide human rights movement which is independent of any government, political faction, ideology, economic interest or religious creed. It works for the release of men and women imprisoned anywhere for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin, language or religion, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. These are termed "prisoners of conscience".

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL opposes torture and capital punishment in all cases and without reservation. It advocates fair and early trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of persons detained without charge or without trial and those detained after expiry of their sentences.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL seeks observance throughout the world of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of prisoners.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has 1,665 adoption groups and national sections in 33 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North America and South America and individual members in 78 countries. Each adoption group works for three prisoners of conscience in countries other than its own. The three countries are balanced geographically and politically to ensure impartiality. Information about prisoners and human rights violations emanates from Amnesty International's Research Department in London.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, is recognized by UNESCO, and has observer status with the Organization of African Unity (Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees).

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is financed by subscriptions and donations of its worldwide membership. To safeguard the independence of the organization, all contributions are strictly controlled by guidelines laid down by AI's International Council, and income and expenditure are made public in an annual financial report.

These papers are intended to summarize available information on political imprisonment, torture and capital punishment in a single country. They are designed to be concise and factual and are written primarily for reference purposes.

Since AI is limited by its statute to act only in specific human rights situations, reference is made to the political, economic and social situation in each country *only where this has direct relevance to particular human rights problems*. The information contained in each paper is accurate at the time of publication.

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