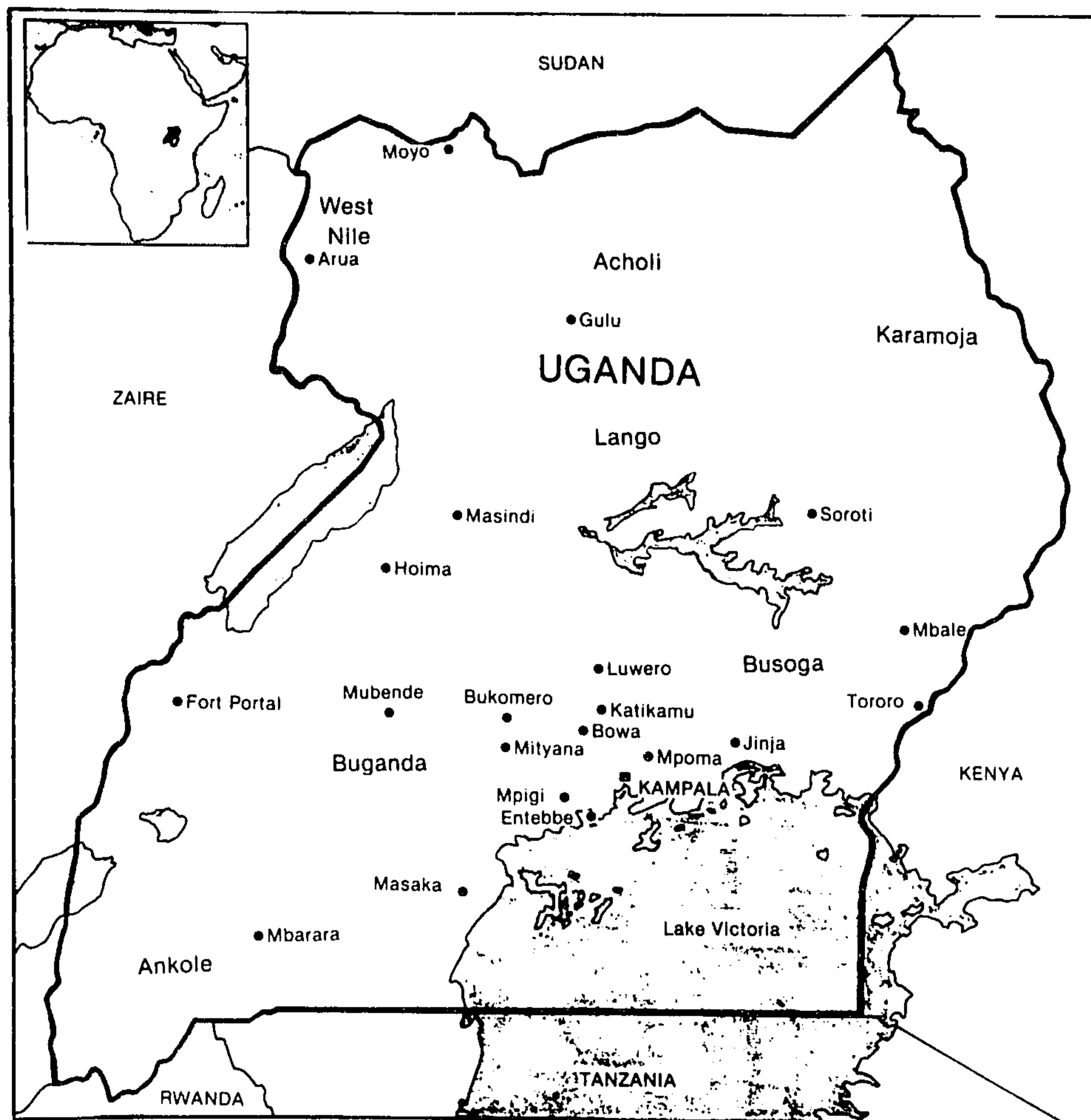


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2301 HOURS G.M.T. TUESDAY 18 JUNE 1985

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UGANDA: EVIDENCE OF TORTURE

Introduction

For the past four and a half years Amnesty International has been concerned about persistent reports of the widespread and systematic use of torture against detainees in Uganda. Those most at risk are civilians unlawfully imprisoned for political reasons in military barracks where the use of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment is routine. Amnesty International has concluded that all but a few of those detained in military custody are tortured. Many torture victims have "disappeared" in custody and are feared dead.

Amnesty International has expressed these concerns to the Ugandan Government on a number of occasions in the past four and a half years, both in general terms and in the course of inquiries about individual cases. The government's consistent response has been to deny that any civilians are detained in military custody.

However, Amnesty International's conclusion that torture is indeed routine is based on reports obtained from a variety of sources over the last four and a half years. These include: alleged torture victims who have later been released, families and associates of those detained, and former Ugandan security officials. By comparing and cross-checking the information in a large number of such reports Amnesty International has been able to identify a number of places of detention where it believes that torture occurs and to compile an account of the types of torture used.

In February 1985 Amnesty International commissioned two doctors, a surgeon and a forensic pathologist, to examine a number of Ugandans outside the country who alleged that they had been tortured. They examined 16 people, who were selected to provide examples of people who had been imprisoned at different times between early 1981 and late 1984. One of these (Case No. 10) did not bear physical scars consistent with her account of ill-treatment. The remaining 15 displayed physical signs and described symptoms consistent with their accounts of being tortured. In common with other torture victims interviewed by Amnesty International, those examined by the doctors have asked to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals to themselves or their families. The doctors' reports on all 16 are attached as an appendix to this document.

Unlawful detentions by the army and NASA

Political detainees in Uganda fall into two categories: those detained in civil prisons or police stations, often under the provisions of the Public Order and Security Act, and those held incommunicado in military barracks, intelligence headquarters or secret prisons run by the National Security Agency (NASA). According to reports received by Amnesty International, those held in civil prisons are unlikely to be tortured. Most of those detained under the Public Order and Security Act are held in Luzira Upper Prison, a maximum security prison just outside Kampala where conditions are said to be poor but torture is not reported to be practiced. Amnesty International has received reports of torture in police stations (see for example Case No. 8), but although the torture of suspects in police custody is widely reported it is apparently not routine.

By contrast, it is reported that anyone detained unlawfully by the army or NASA is likely to be tortured. Many of those detained by the military are held in army barracks. These include Makindye, Kireka and Lubiri, which are situated in and around Kampala, as well as other military barracks elsewhere in the country. Detainees are also held in Nile Mansions military intelligence centre in Kampala, a former luxury hotel which also reportedly houses presidential and vice-presidential offices, and at Park Hotel interrogation centre. Others are held in unofficial detention centres run by NASA, an organization which is responsible to a Minister of State in the President's Office. There are reportedly NASA detention centres at Kamakuzi in Mbarara in south-western Uganda and at Ihungu in Masindi in the Bunyoro region of north-western Uganda. Others are imprisoned in "safe houses" in Kampala, which are reportedly run by security officials and members of the ruling party, the Uganda People's Congress. There have also been reports of people being detained by the army at Uganda's earth satellite station at Mpoma (see for example Case No. 9). This installation is the centre for Uganda's international telecommunications and in 1984 was the target for guerrilla attacks in May and October. On both occasions it is reported that local villagers were subsequently arrested and detained at the satellite station. Unlawful detentions are reported to be most widespread in those areas of the country particularly affected by the activities of armed opposition groups. In all these places of imprisonment torture is reported to be routine.

Amnesty International has received a number of reports that since the beginning of 1985 the army has set up detention camps within the "Luwero triangle" area of Buganda near Kampala to hold prisoners arrested elsewhere in the country, principally in Kampala and in Bunyoro where widespread arrests have been reported in recent months. These camps are reported to be located at Katikamu, Bowa, Mityana, Bukomero and Kabunyata. However, it appears that detainees also continue to be held in military barracks. Amnesty International has received a detailed account from someone who claims to have been tortured in a military barracks in Jinja as recently as February 1985.

Amnesty International has made repeated inquiries into the whereabouts and safety of those detained in military custody but the government consistently denies that anyone is held by the military. Under Ugandan law the army has no power to detain civilians. Those held in military custody are reportedly told that they are anti-government guerrillas or have knowledge of the guerrillas. In fact it appears that many of those detained are unconnected with the armed opposition to President Obote's government. Rather, they include: members or supporters of the Democratic Party (DP), the parliamentary opposition party; members of the Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM), also a legal opposition party; ordinary villagers, especially young men, in areas where the army is conducting counter-insurgency operations; and individuals who are imprisoned either in an attempt to extract ransom money or because of some personal disagreement with officials in the security forces.

Reports of Torture

From the testimonies of many former detainees Amnesty International has been able to compile a detailed picture of conditions and the use of torture within military barracks. Many reports refer to Makindye barracks in Kampala as the most notorious of these, but conditions in other places of military detention are reported to be similar.

On arrival at Makindye it is reported that detainees are normally taken to a section just inside the main gate known as the "quarter guard". One former detainee describes how there were a large number of prisoners in the four cells of the "quarter guard" and that they had to sleep in squatting positions one behind the other. In or outside the "quarter guard" new prisoners are usually beaten with iron bars, cable, pieces of wood into which nails have been driven, rifle butts, pangas (machetes) or hammers. In some cases prisoners are alleged to have died as a result.

After the "quarter guard", prisoners are taken to other sections of Makindye. The largest section, which figures in many former detainees' accounts, is known as the "go-down". This is a long concrete building with a corrugated iron roof, a former store. It has an iron door and no windows, but a few ventilation holes. The numbers held there reportedly vary but are sometimes more than 100. According to all accounts the turnover of prisoners is rapid.

Prisoners held in the "go-down" at Makindye barracks are reported to be fed infrequently, perhaps twice a week, and also rarely given water. According to one former prisoner: "People often begged for your urine because they had gone so long without water." This claim is repeated by a number of former prisoners. Food, when it is available, consists of poorly cooked posho (maize meal porridge), often with maggots in it. Some prisoners are apparently able to bribe guards to let them have food provided by their families.

One woman described to Amnesty International how she was served with food in Muhoti barracks in Fort Portal. She said that prisoners were often given a hot, watery bean stew which was poured into their cupped hands. It was often too hot for them to hold. At the same time posho was thrown into the cell. It was impossible to catch both before they landed on the floor, which was covered with dirt and excreta.

Toilet facilities in the "go-down" at Makindye and in most places of military detention consist of an oil drum or bucket in the room where prisoners are held, which the prisoners can only empty infrequently, often as rarely as once a month. Some former detainees report that the floor of the "go-down" was covered with water. No bedding is provided.

It is reported that many prisoners die in the "go-down", either from starvation or as a result of their beatings. Their bodies may not be removed for up to two weeks. Similarly, a detainee who was held for two months in Kireka barracks in 1984 alleges that approximately five people died there each day as a result of starvation or torture.

When dead bodies are removed, this is done by prisoners. One former prisoner has described being told to remove the "meat and bones". Prisoners were beaten as they moved corpses.

Other former prisoners report having regularly been taken out at night to load bodies onto lorries or Land Rovers. The bodies are reportedly driven out of the barracks and dumped in mass graves. In 1984 an Australian television crew filmed an open mass grave within a few hundred yards of an army barracks. Interviewed by the television reporter, a Ugandan Government representative said that he did not know who was responsible.

Amnesty International has received reports of mass graves in the Luwero area to the north-west of Kampala. Former Ugandan security personnel, as well as former detainees, allege that they drove lorryloads of bodies from military barracks in Kampala to dump on the edge of forests near the city.

Beatings: For many prisoners, the frequent beatings continue throughout their time in Makindye or other military barracks. In a few instances it is reported that prisoners are not beaten after being transferred from the "quarter guard", possibly because they are from wealthy families and the soldiers guarding them hope to receive a ransom. There is a section in Makindye referred to by some former detainees as the "paying wing". Among those former detainees interviewed by Amnesty International, by far the largest number had bribed their way out of prison.

The victims of beatings appear to be selected at random, for example when food is brought. One former prisoner describes being regularly beaten at the same time each morning and this being described as "breakfast". Another gives a similar account, except that in his case it was described

as "coffee". Sometimes prisoners are reportedly taken out of the cell for interrogation and beaten. It does not appear, however, that the main purpose of this ill-treatment is to gather information since most accounts indicate that the questioning which takes place is cursory. Those interrogated in Nile Mansions or in "safe houses" are more likely to be thoroughly interrogated, though the methods of torture reportedly differ little.

On a number of occasions, prisoners are known to have been taken from their cells and apparently deliberately beaten to death. One former prisoner described how an inmate was beaten with an axe on his head and another had his arm cut off. Both died. He himself was beaten with an iron bar and left for dead outside the barracks.

Another former Makindye prisoner described one man being killed by having his head hit against a wall while another was killed by being hit hard on top of his head with a rifle butt.

Burns: Although beating is the most common form of torture, other methods are reported. One which is described in a number of accounts consists of tying the victim down, with a car tyre suspended over him or her. This is then set alight and the molten rubber drips onto the victim, causing serious burns. This is reportedly done for many hours, often until the victim is dead.

One prisoner who suffered such torture was detained in Makindye in 1982 (Case No. 2). She described what happened to Amnesty International:

" They tied my legs and hands and tied me onto a metal chair. Then they started asking me where the guerrillas were and which government I was supporting. They told me that we wanted to bring back the Kabaka [the former king of Buganda] and Lule as president. They accused me of being DP and Catholic and Muganda and therefore very dangerous.

" After questioning me the soldiers came and tied an old tyre over my head, lit it and then left me there. There were so many people there, men and women prisoners. The practice was that they started beating them and tied them up and then lit the tyre

" The hot rubber droplets were made to fall on my head, my face, my right hand and on the right side of my chest. The hot rubber droplets fell and spread all over my upper body causing untold suffering to me. All along they were asking me to tell them where my sons were and insisting that my sons had joined the guerrillas in the bush and that I must know where they were operating from. I told them that my sons were not guerrillas and that I did not know whether they were engaged in guerrilla activities or not. Apart from my sons, the soldiers were asking me to tell them where Idi Amin's soldiers were operating from and who were the people supporting Yusufu Lule.

" The melting hot rubber burned the skin off my face, chest and arms and the pain is just indescribable. I spent the whole day from about 8.30 a.m. in this position and at about midnight I prayed to the Virgin Mary with my rosary around my chest."

She was helped to escape. She received some medical treatment inside Uganda and then fled the country. She later had a number of operations to graft skin from her thighs onto her face and right arm. She still feels considerable pain in her head, breasts, hip, back, legs and arms, as well as suffering from headaches and high blood pressure.

Another former prisoner witnessed the same method of torture in Kabale police station in western Uganda:

" They used to burn people. I saw this once. There was a special sort of steel cupboard which they used to make someone stand in. They used to put a tyre on the top hanging by a steel string. They would set fire to this and as it burned it would melt and drip on top of you. When I saw this the person died. The policemen used to call other prisoners to have a look and say: 'Look, this is what will happen to you.'

" Sometimes they would burn them for hours, some eight hours. If you didn't die they would take you again. Some would die instantly. The one I saw took three days to die. We knew they had died because other prisoners had to go and take the body out."

Amnesty International has received a number of other accounts of prisoners being burnt. One man (Case No. 12) described how he was burnt by having a red-hot cooking-stove coil placed against his face, neck, chest and thigh. He also alleged that he had had a cloth wrapped around his arm which was then soaked in paraffin and set alight. Medical examination revealed scars consistent with this account. A woman (Case No. 15) reports being burnt on the stomach with a flat-iron. Again medical examination found scarring consistent with this.

Sexual torture: Another commonly reported type of torture is that of a sexual nature or torture applied to the genitals. One former prisoner in Makindye described how he was made to sit on a chair and his fingers were tied together with a thin string which was then placed over a beam in the ceiling. He then had a brick tied to his testicles. The string around his fingers was pulled over the beam until the pain made him stand up and therefore cause the brick to pull down on his testicles.

A number of former prisoners have described similar methods of torture and two have alleged in separate accounts that their testicles were crushed with cattle-gelding implements (see for example Case No. 13).

A former detainee in Luzira Military Prison (which is not the same as Luzira Upper Prison) has described his treatment to Amnesty International, including a similar method of torture:

" They would tie a weighing 2 kilogram stone onto our testicles so that with the terrible pain we would be able to say what they wanted us to say. Every morning we received beatings which was termed as our breakfast and electric cable was the stick for this type of beating. We were taken into special torture theatres as they called them, then given electric shocks.

" We were not provided with any beddings or even one blanket to cover ourselves. We slept on very cold cemented floor and our food was placed on the floor from where we ate it as no plates were provided. And of course our food was always put in old and rusty dustbins."

A medical examination revealed injuries consistent with this prisoner's account of his torture. After his release he required operations for the reconstruction of his urethra.

Women are also reported to be subject to torture and ill-treatment of a sexual nature. Rape is reported to be frequent. One woman who was detained in Makindye barracks (Case No. 3) described to Amnesty International how she was beaten, had her toenails removed and had hot burning plastic dripped on her legs and back. She was raped and became pregnant.

Another woman who had been detained at Makindye (Case No. 14) said in a statement to Amnesty International that she was forced to be a concubine to a soldier:

" My husband was killed by military soldiers who attacked our home, and I was seriously assaulted -- and I was also sexually assaulted by three soldiers. I was driven to military police Makindye where again I was re-assaulted, being accused of being a guerrilla.

" I remember having fainted and I was put in cells with my child while I was unconscious. This I found out after I gained consciousness and I found out that we were more than 15 prisoners in that cell and the place itself was so smelly and it was stinking. It was very cold inside and it was dark. I stayed in that cell for a week. I remember having been given no food for two days and at some days we were given very little to make us live.

" On the eighth day I was taken out of the cells with my child who by then was very sick, by one soldier who took me to his house. He forced me to become his wife despite the worse condition I was in. He threatened to kill me and my child if I could dare to refuse his demands. I stayed with this man for five days and on the sixth day I managed to escape"

In 1983 many people in the Luwero area near Kampala were displaced from their homes in the course of the army's operations against guerrillas. Some 150,000 of them were groups together in displaced persons' camps under army guard. Amnesty International received many reports of women and girls being raped by soldiers and allegedly being kept forcibly by the soldiers for repeated sexual abuse.

Another woman who was pregnant when she was taken to Makindye barracks described how she was beaten on the stomach. She was made to lie down and her torturers stepped on her. She later had a miscarriage.

Former detainees in Kireka barracks have described to Amnesty International how a woman named Rose Nakasibwe was tortured to death in 1983 by having her breasts cut off and her buttocks burned.

Amnesty International has received a number of reports of children detained in military custody with their mothers. Annet Florence Nnakandi was arrested in May 1984 with her eight-month-old daughter and taken to Makindye military barracks, where she was tortured, and then to Nile Mansions. She was later transferred to civil custody. The baby contracted severe diarrhoea as an apparent consequence of the conditions of imprisonment. However, in September 1984 both were released, possibly as a result of repeated inquiries on their behalf from abroad.

A woman (Case No. 9) who was detained by the military in October 1984 with her two-year-old daughter reported to Amnesty International that she was raped and beaten by the soldiers. She was separated from her daughter who has "disappeared" and is feared dead.

"Disappearances" from military custody

In many instances torture in Uganda apparently results in the death of the victim. However the government does not acknowledge that anyone is held in military custody so the death is unlikely to be admitted. Consequently in many cases the relatives and friends of people who have been arrested by the military do not know what has happened to them: they have effectively "disappeared".

For example, Amnesty International has made inquiries into the whereabouts of Ludovico Mangeni and Joseph Wabwiire, two elderly officials of the DP who "disappeared" in military custody in 1984. They were arrested at Tororo police station in eastern Uganda in April 1984, along with six other DP officials, reportedly when they were applying for permission to hold a party meeting in the town. The eight were transferred from police custody to Rubongi military barracks in Tororo. Six were later released but Ludovico Mangeni and Joseph Wabwiire have not been seen since. It is alleged that they were being denied food deliberately in Rubongi barracks. Amnesty International has since received reports that they died in custody. In response to Amnesty International's inquiries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs did not comment on reports of the death of Ludovico Mangeni and Joseph Wabwiire

but stated that it had conducted an investigation which established that they were never arrested and detained. The Ministry repeated the government's general denial that any prisoners are held in military custody in Uganda.

In August 1984, John Muhanguzi and George Nkakale, both civil servants in the District Commissioner's office in Hoima in the Bunyoro region of western Uganda, were arrested, possibly by officials of NASA. It was alleged that they had been collaborating with anti-government guerrillas. They were reported to have first been taken to Hoima prison, then to a secret detention centre run by NASA in nearby Masindi, where Amnesty International believes that they may have been tortured. Amnesty International has since received a report that they may have "disappeared" while in the custody of NASA. The organization issued an urgent appeal for information about their whereabouts, to which the government has not so far responded.

Christopher Mugisa, Margaret Mugisa and Ronald Mugimba were reportedly arrested by security officials in Kampala in November 1984. Christopher Mugisa, aged in his early 40s, is chief accountant with Total Uganda oil company; Margaret Mugisa, aged in her early 30s, is his wife; Ronald Mugimba, aged about 30, is a lecturer at Makerere University. Some time after their arrest it was reported that Christopher Mugisa had apparently died in detention as a result of torture and that Margaret Mugisa, who was pregnant at the time of her arrest, subsequently gave birth in detention to a baby who, it has been alleged, was killed by those detaining her. In late March 1985 Margaret Mugisa was reported to be detained at Nile Mansions military intelligence centre. Later reports indicated that all three might still be alive and held in Katikamu detention centre. However, the government has not responded to Amnesty International's requests for information about their whereabouts and well-being.

Amnesty International's recommendations

Since 1981 Amnesty International has repeatedly approached the Ugandan Government to express its concern on individual cases of torture and "disappearances" and has recommended investigations into allegations of torture and the implementation of safeguards against its use. However, no independent inquiry into allegations of torture or "disappearances" is known to have taken place.

The government has from time to time criticized indiscipline or abuse of power by the army and a number of military personnel have reportedly been arrested for offences against civilians. However, in Amnesty International's view insufficient measures have been taken to deal with this area of gross and persistent violations of fundamental human rights.

People who are tortured while held incommunicado by the army or other security agencies have no opportunity to seek the protection of the courts through the legal remedy of habeas corpus. In rare cases

victims of illegal military detention have won compensation in the courts, but usually the unacknowledged and unlawful nature of the detention makes any such remedy difficult to obtain.

In April 1984, Amnesty International published a 12-point program of practical measures for the prevention of torture. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda explicitly protects citizens against "torture or ... inhuman or degrading punishment or other like treatment". However, in view of the detailed and recurrent reports of torture in Uganda, Amnesty International believes that the government should implement the 12-point program as a way of stopping torture and upholding human rights. The following points are especially relevant:

1. The Ugandan Government should issue clear public instructions to all officials involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of prisoners that torture will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
2. The government should ensure that all detainees are brought before a judicial authority promptly after being taken into custody and that relatives, lawyers and doctors have prompt and regular access to them.
3. Relatives and lawyers should be informed promptly of the whereabouts of detainees. No-one should be held in secret or unacknowledged detention. A central registry should be established to receive information about the names and whereabouts of every person detained without charge for more than the 24 hours permitted by the Criminal Procedure Code, so that relatives and lawyers can obtain information from this source. Amnesty International also calls on the Ugandan Government to investigate the breakdown of the remedy of habeas corpus.
4. All places of imprisonment, including military establishments, should be open to regular independent inspection by an international humanitarian body with the appropriate expertise.
5. The government should establish an impartial body to investigate all complaints and reports of torture and "disappearances". Its findings and methods of investigation should be made public. In particular, Amnesty International believes that there is an urgent need for an independent investigation into allegations of torture in places of imprisonment including Makindye, Kireka, Lubiri, Katabi, Muhoti, Magamaga, Bombo and Rubongi military barracks, Luzira Military Prison, Nile Mansions military intelligence centre and the NASA prisons at Kamakuzi (Mbarara) and Ihungu (Masindi), as well as into allegations of "disappearances" from those places. In the case of an allegation of "disappearance" Amnesty International calls on the government to state publicly where the prisoner is. Complainants and witnesses to such inquiries should be protected from intimidation.

6. Steps should be taken to ensure that confessions or other evidence obtained through torture may never be invoked in legal proceedings.
7. All acts of torture should be made punishable offences under the criminal law.
8. Those responsible for torture should be brought to justice.
9. It should be made clear during the training of all officials involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of prisoners, as well as members of the armed forces, that torture is a criminal act. The United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners should be widely disseminated.
10. Victims of torture and their dependants and dependants of those who have "disappeared" should be afforded redress for their material and moral sufferings, without prejudice to any other civil or criminal proceedings.
11. The Ugandan Government should ratify international instruments containing safeguards and remedies against torture, including the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol.

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A P P E N D I X

Medical examination of 16 alleged Ugandan torture victims

These examinations were carried out in late February and early March 1985. Those examined were selected by Amnesty International on the basis of the allegations of torture which they had made and cover the period from early 1981 to late 1984. The examinations were conducted outside Uganda by a surgeon and a forensic pathologist.

The examination and case reports were in three parts: a history of the alleged detention and torture; a medical history; and a physical examination. In the following case reports the doctors have added a brief summary of their findings. Photographs were taken to illustrate visible physical signs consistent with torture. Where X-rays were consulted (for example Case No. 1) these had been taken by the hospital responsible for the treatment of the torture victim.

In all but one of these cases the doctors found consistency between, on the one hand, the complainant's account and, on the other hand, the symptoms described by the complainant and the signs found by the doctors. In one case (Case No. 10) the doctors did not find physical signs of torture.

* * * * *

Case No. 1

Female, aged 24

History

Her account of events was as follows :

In November 1983, "A" was arrested from her home by men in army uniform who arrived in a Land Rover. They were armed and during the drive to Nile Mansions in Kampala, they beat her with gun-butts, fists and kicks. An attempt at sexual assault was made, but it failed as the vehicle was moving.

She was told that she was being arrested because she was the secretary of a "Sub-club", a political group associated with the Democratic Party.

She was taken to Nile Mansions, where she was kept for four days. She was put in a room with three women who were the only survivors of a group of 33 who had been arrested together, the others having been killed. These three expected to be executed also, though they were still there when she left.

The room was bare and smelt badly, with no lavatory or bucket. They had to sleep on the floor. No food was given to her for the first three days and no water for the whole four days. Before they were eventually given some food, which was bad and of insufficient amount, they were indiscriminately beaten.

Her family did not know where she was, but some friends discovered her through contacts in the army. "A" was not interrogated further in Nile Mansions, but she was "beaten all over", suffering many bruises and abrasions, on the first, third and fourth days.

She was stripped naked, but no rape was attempted.

The friends who discovered her whereabouts arranged for her escape by paying a bribe. On the third day, a soldier told her to pray and prepare for her death within the next few hours. However, the next day he told her she could get out, but she could not walk, as she felt paralysed after the beating and had difficulty passing water.

She was kicked and thrown into a Land Rover containing three armed men: they drove out of the premises and reached a parked car. She was thrown out of the Land Rover and got into the car, where she recognized three of her friends. They drove off, but the Land Rover pursued them and the soldiers began shooting. One friend alongside "A" was shot in the abdomen and died before arrival at hospital. She was shot several times in the hip, but the other shots missed the tyres and they escaped. They drove to a hospital where she was operated upon the same day. Three bullets were left in her body: she was re-operated upon on the third day, but one bullet remained in her hip. She was unable to pass urine and had to be catheterised.

Troops were looking for her - her family at home were mistreated and their goods were looted and they were interrogated as to "A's" whereabouts. Because of this, she had to be taken from the hospital to avoid recapture and fled the country.

Medical History

Radiology

- X-rays of the right hip showed a bullet apparently above the acetabulum.
- An Austin-Moore prosthesis in situ with protrusio acetabuli (protrusion from the hip joint) of about 3mm. depth.
- Right hip with prosthesis removed. Some dense fragments of foreign material could be seen, possibly metallic. The femur had ridden up and was abutting on to the ilium (effectively a Girdlestone hip).

She spent five months in hospital - the remaining bullet was removed and a metal prosthesis (artificial joint) inserted into her hip. She was told it would last for 20 years, but after three months it became very painful.

She was advised to try to walk, but had severe pain on weight-bearing and was told by another doctor that it would break her pelvis if she continued. X-rays showed that she had protrusio acetabuli, so after six months the prosthesis was removed at another operation "because it was the wrong size". As there was much infection, no other procedure was carried out at that time.

She was put on leg traction for two months, then a further operation performed, but the acetabulum was eroded and the procedure was abandoned. The surgeon recommended either another hip joint replacement or an arthrodesis (fusion of the joint).

She now complains of sub-sternal pain intermittently at night, with breathlessness. The pain does not radiate to the arms or neck. She has pain in her right hip and knee and finds sitting difficult. During the interview and while translating for another refugee, she had to stand up and ease herself by supporting herself on her crutches.

On Examination

There were a number of scars and hyperpigmented areas of skin consistent with healed abrasions and wounds:

1. On the upper outer quadrant of the left breast above the nipple was a 2.5 by 2.5 cm area of hyperpigmentation with a central raised scar.

2. On the right upper arm, an area of hyperpigmentation on the outer surface, spirally around to the anterior surface of the elbow, about 20 cm in length.
3. Over the left scapula (shoulder blade), an area of hyperpigmentation 3 by 1.5 cm, and another depigmented area lower down, 1 by 1.5 cm.
4. On the left buttock, an elliptical scar 2.5 by 1cm, with adjacent hyperpigmentation and fat necrosis medially.
5. On the right buttock, a 2 by 1 cm pigmented area, with several adjacent smaller areas.
6. There was hyperpigmentation over the front of the left knee.
7. A pigmented scarred area 2 by 1 cm inside the left thigh above the knee.

The outer side of the right hip and thigh showed:

1. A distorted, depressed scar from bullet wounds 8 cm in length, continuous below with a 23 cm surgical scar.
2. A surgical scar 24 cm long on the antero-lateral aspect of the upper thigh.

The upper part of the right shin shows scars from Steinmann pins for leg traction. The right leg is 7cm shorter than the left. Although arterial pulses were present in both limbs, the right leg was cooler than the left. Sensation to light touch was diminished on the right.

Hip joints : the left had full movement and was pain-free, but caused pain in the right side. The right hip allowed 15 - 20 degree flexion, eliciting pain.

External rotation 5 - 10 degrees, eliciting pain.

Internal rotation - zero. Extension - zero.

Knee-joints : both had full and painfree movements. Slight patellar crepitus (cracking sound) on right.

Power : right calf - slightly diminished compared with left.

Muscle wasting : there was only 1 cm less circumference of the right thigh 9cm above the patella, but 2cm less in the right calf compared with the left, 12cm below the insertion of the patella tendon.

Conclusion

This young woman reported that she was repeatedly beaten after arrest and then shot after "escaping" following payment of a ransom. The scars found on examination are consistent with beatings and with her story of multiple bullet wounds, as is her present physical disability.

Case No. 2

Female, aged 56

History

Her account of events was as follows:

In July 1982, three Land Rovers carrying uniformed soldiers came to "B's" house. The soldiers beat her husband severely and took him away. She does not know where he was taken and has not seen or heard of him since. The soldiers looted her house and told her that her husband was being taken because he and her sons were involved in anti-government guerrilla activities. The husband, who was a farmer and businessman, was a member of the Democratic Party. The sons were not at home at the time and were not arrested.

"B" was not herself assaulted on that day, but on the next day, the soldiers returned and took her to Makindye Barracks telling her that her husband wanted to speak to her. She was not beaten on the journey.

On arrival at Makindye, she was put into a large room containing many prisoners, guarded by many soldiers. There were men, women, young women and youths there. The guards said that the youths were "guerilla leaders". There were over 50 people held in the room, including some schoolchildren. There were corpses and pools of blood and urine on the floor and the whole place was filled with smoke. She was given no food or water.

She had been detained early in the morning and her torture began soon after she arrived. During the day that she was there, she saw other prisoners being subjected to various forms of ill-treatment.

"B" had her hands tied behind her back and a rubber tyre was set alight above her. The burning material fell on her scalp, face, arms and chest.

In addition, some corrosive liquid was thrown over her. She thinks it was acid, as the skin peeled off.

After one day in custody she managed to escape from Makindye Barracks and was taken to a hospital.

However, soldiers came and began robbing, beating and raping the patients - even those on intravenous transfusions. Some were killed. She escaped again and was taken to another hospital, where she stayed about a month. Skin-grafts were taken from her thigh and abdomen. Then she heard that the army were searching the hospitals, so it was arranged for her to be smuggled out of the country. She has not heard of her husband or children since the time of her arrest.

Medical History

Hospital notes dating from 1982 record a cicatrised ectropion of the left eye, vision R 6/24, L 6/9/ BP 220/110. She had an exposure keratitis of the left cornea. Hypertension controlled with Aldomet before surgery, under general anaesthetic. A plastic repair and full thickness graft of the upper eyelid, skin taken from the left thigh, sutured all around. Tarsorrhaphy done. Sent home on tetracycline for a corneal ulcer.

The hospital records attribute the injuries to a "road traffic accident" - other interviewees had been advised to say the same thing.

She now complains of intermittent pain in the chest, under the sternum, and in her abdomen and legs. She has palpitations, headaches, sometimes accompanied by a "shadow" affecting her eyesight and dizzy spells. She wears sunglasses now, as strong sunlight makes her eyes water.

On Examination

Most of the face is badly scarred by old burns, the only part spared being the left lower face and chin. The scars distort the right side of the mouth and the left eye, the lids of which are distorted with over-exposure of the sclera.

There was early cicatricial ectropion on the right, the lacrimal duct being obstructed by scar tissue. The site of the skin graft to the left eye was satisfactory.

There are thickened keloid scars at the right angle of the mouth, alongside the nose and on the bridge of the nose.

There is total depigmentation of skin on the right upper forehead and above the inner side of the left eyebrow.

Keloid scars run downwards from the right side of the chin on to the neck, over the sternomastoid muscle.

Dense keloid scars begin in the suprasternal notch and drip downwards between the breasts, where there is a "shadow" area of normal skin due either to clothing or the apposition of the breasts.

Almost the whole of the front of the right arm is covered in wrinkled keloid scarring, from shoulder to back of hand, with some white depigmentation near the axilla. There are patches of scarring on the right upper chest.

There is a 5cm burn scar on the front of the right knee and on the left upper arm 10 by 3cm in area. The front of both thighs and the abdomen have scars where skin grafts have been taken : split skin grafts from the right thigh, full-thickness grafts from the left lower quadrant of the abdomen.

There are de-pigmented spots on the front and back of the left thigh and the back of the right thigh. On the upper part of the right thigh is a scar 3 cm long below the buttock crease.

Conclusion

A middle-aged woman with gross facial and chest scarring from severe burns. The nature and distribution of her scars is consistent with her story of burning material falling upon her when she was either standing or seated, falling mostly on her right side involving the right arm and face, and some trickling down the front of her chest.

Case No. 3

Female, aged 21

History

Her account of events was as follows:

In February 1984, while she was still attending school, uniformed soldiers came to "C's" house one night in Land Rovers to look for her fiance. He was a soldier who had been arrested and taken to prison, but who had escaped with the help of friends. She has heard nothing of him since the time of his arrest.

The soldiers took her from her home to Makindye Barracks in Kampala. She was beaten on the way and was put in a room at the barracks with other women, men and youths, but no children. There was no toilet or bucket, but there was a tap. They had to sleep on the floor and no food was provided, only that brought by friends of other prisoners, which was shared. Many people died, mainly of starvation but also from injuries.

She remained at Makindye for a month and was continually badly treated. Soldiers beat her with fists, sticks and pangas (machetes), as well as being kicked. The skin was not broken and did not bleed, but she was badly bruised.

Her toes were beaten with the butt of a pistol and she lost a big toe-nail.

She was burned "all over" but especially on the legs, with what seems to have been a paraffin or butane gas flame, possibly a blowlamp. Her legs were tied together while this was done. Sometimes, the guards put a rope around her waist "for fun" and she was pushed backwards and forwards, causing abrasions on her waist.

She was threatened with execution and saw others who died from torture and lack of food.

"C" was repeatedly raped many times by many different soldiers. Many other women were raped in her presence. Some women were killed during rape. She became pregnant, but has no idea who the father was.

She remained in Makindye for a month, then was moved to Kireka barracks, where she was told that "they didn't really know how to torture at Makindye", as she had not revealed her fiance's whereabouts. She was beaten at Kireka, but implied that this was not as severe as at Makindye.

She remained at Kireka for four months until she was able to escape and flee the country.

Her daughter was born in December 1984. There were no problems with the pregnancy or birth, although the baby twice required exchange transfusions, for jaundice.

Medical History

She complains only of occasional pains in the left hip as a result of her ill-treatment.

On Examination

There were a number of scars visible :

Right leg :

- Three parallel scars 4 cm long transversely across the lower quadriceps above the knee.
- A branching scar 3 by 0.5cm over the medial tibial condyle (below the inner side of the knee).
- A 1.5 by 1.5 cm shiny scar on the front of the shin.
- A 1.0 by 0.5 cm shiny scar just above the front of the ankle.
- A small punctate scar over the patella.
- A 2 by 2 cm shiny scar in the middle of the back of the calf.
- A 2 by 2 cm shiny scar over the outer side of the ankle.

Right foot:

- A long thin scar 8 cm long on the lateral side of the dorsum, over the 4th metatarsal.

Left lower leg :

- A 1.0 by 1.0 cm shiny scar just below the back of the knee on the inner side (medial head of gastrocnemius).
- A 4 by 2 cm shiny scar on the outer side of the back of the calf just below the knee (lateral head of gastrocnemius).

Left foot :

- Hyperpigmentation over the dorsum; a scar on the base of the hallux (big toe) and deformity of the nail of the big toe.

Around the waist on each side as an oblique area of rough skin, with both hyper and hypo-pigmented areas.

Conclusion

A school student, 20 years old at the time of her alleged arrest, who reported having been beaten, repeatedly raped and made pregnant, and having been burned with a blow-lamp. The nature and distribution of the scars found on examination, in particular the multiple scars on both legs, are consistent with her story.

Case No. 4

Male, aged 32

History

His account of events was as follows:

"D" worked as a salesman of evangelical books. On 12 January 1984, he was visiting a house to sell books. The owner of the house, the managing director of a company in Kampala, was politically active and apparently suspected of being in communication with armed opponents of the government.

While he was at this house soldiers in army uniform arrived in a Land Rover and lorry and began shooting at the door. There were five people in the house at the time. Two tried to run away but were shot dead. The others, including "D" hid under the beds, but were dragged out.

A woman cooking breakfast had the fire she was cooking on tipped over her - she was burned and he thinks she may have died. The soldiers (including two men not in uniform) searched the house for ammunition, but did not find any.

"D" was accused of being connected with the household, in spite of his protestations that he only happened to be there to sell Christian books. He was accused of being a money collector for the guerrillas. He was beaten and slapped with fists in the house. He was then made to carry the two corpses out to a lorry. Another Land Rover arrived and took the bodies away. The men captured in the house were then driven in the lorry to Kireka Barracks, but just before arrival, the lorry stopped near a railway line where there were bushes. They were taken from the lorry and questioned, with suggestions that they should admit being armed. The prisoners agreed to confess to save their lives.

At the gates of the barracks, they were beaten again by a new batch of soldiers, beaten "terribly for one hour". "D" was hit across the head with the butt of a rifle.

They were then put into a small room about 5 metres by 5 metres, where they were questioned by an army officer. He called another man to interrogate the owner of the house, who denied that he was a guerrilla. They accused "D" of being a spy and alleged that he had been followed from house to house and that he had been collecting money to finance the guerrillas. More soldiers and another officer came and he and three other prisoners were thrown into another bare room, with blood on the floor. They were beaten with bars and sticks, especially on the arms and knees, and thrown against the walls several times. He was by now bleeding from nose and mouth and could no longer hear properly. He was ordered to lie down and was trodden and stamped upon by soldiers wearing army boots. He thinks that this went on for about five hours.

Next day, they were taken out one by one, "D" first. His interrogation and torture began at about 10 am. A written statement had been prepared with a "confession" and he was told to sign it, as it alleged that he was involved in spying and assisting people who were fighting the government. He refused and was badly beaten again.

He was then asked if he knew his own body-weight. Then a copper weight of about 5 or 6 kilograms was hung to his penis and testicles with thin string and he was forced to walk about, going round the room ten times with a guard. He fell down several times and was slapped on the face. This episode lasted about 15 minutes, the whole interrogation about three hours. He eventually signed the confession and was returned to his cell about 1 pm.

The cell was very cramped, now having eight people in it, instead of four. A man who had been present when they arrived had died and the owner of the house, who developed severe diarrhoea, died on the third day. A few hours later, another man died.

There was no toilet or bucket in the room and faeces everywhere. They were given food on the third day, consisting of posho (maize meal porridge) which had not been properly cooked and meat which was rotten. They had to eat the meat in the presence of the soldiers, or get tortured again. "D" was vomiting, but the soldiers tried to stop him being sick, and wanted him to eat his own vomit. The other prisoners developed diarrhoea.

Also on his third day in the cell, he was forced to lie down, while soldiers stepped on his chest. He was kicked on the right hip, which still remains painful. He was pushed or dragged on the rough cement floor and had to crawl on it, grazing his hands and elbows for half an hour at a time, causing them to bleed. He was made to lie on his back and look up at the sun.

He was also burned on the right heel with a heated metal brand and stabbed with a knife in the right thigh. He was made to walk barefoot over broken bottles, which cut the soles of his feet.

He was then made to eat more food, causing vomiting. Another man died at about 6 pm. that day and another at 7 pm : both bodies were left in the cell.

At midnight, the cell was opened and they were taken out to where many dead bodies were on a lorry. The engine had broken down and they were ordered to move the bodies to another truck. Some were beaten as they were too ill and weak to help. Five were left unconscious in the cell. "D" was told to go to a "big room near the gate". He refused, saying that he had not been ordered to go there by an officer. He was stabbed in the right arm with a bayonet, but ran back to his original cell.

On the fourth day he was questioned by an officer and was able to establish that he was indeed a religious book salesman. He was then released from the barracks. However, later the same day soldiers came to arrest him again at his home. He escaped arrest but later learned that his wife had been arrested and that she had died in custody at Kireka Barracks.

Medical History

He used to have a cough and to spit up blood. He had pain in his chest, but this has gone. His eyes itch and the whites become red, with watering. He has a lot of pain near the right iliac crest (hip). After the weight had been hung from his genitals, he had blood in his urine and a lot of swelling, but these symptoms have gone.

On Examination

On the inner side of the right upper arm, over the biceps, is a healed pigmented elliptical scar 2 by 0.5 cm, consistent with a bayonet stab.

Over the right iliac crest (hip) there is a 1 cm depigmented scar.

Over the left shoulder-blade, there are three small scars.

On both knees, there are multiple pigmented scars.

On the front of the left thigh, there is a 1 cm scar, consistent with a stab.

On the right heel (Achilles tendon insertion) there is a 4 cm scar consistent with a burn.

On the soles of both feet there are multiple small pigmented scars.

There was a very small scar on the right side of the base of the penis.

He was markedly tender in the abdominal muscles, especially adjacent to the right iliac crest.

Conclusion

A religious book salesman who reported having been inadvertently arrested whilst visiting a customer. His story of being beaten, having a heavy weight tied to his genitals, being burned and stabbed, was consistent with the scars found on his body.

Case No. 5

Male, aged 26

History

His account of events was as follows:

"E" was a guerrilla belonging to an armed opposition group which was attacked in the bush by government troops. He was captured on 27 September 1982 and was beaten with gun butts, but managed to escape the same day.

He began walking to Masaka, hoping to escape to Zaire, but on reaching a road-block, was pointed out by a man who knew him and he was recaptured. He was taken to Mpigi, where some of the guards were soldiers who had also served under President Idi Amin. He was badly beaten with bars and sticks until he was unconscious. His genitals were also cut with a knife or razor.

Two days later, he was transferred to Makindye Barracks and after a further two days he was interrogated by an intelligence officer, who promised him a rank in the Ugandan army if he would cooperate. He refused to give any information about the guerrillas and was returned to Makindye for a month.

From there he was taken to Luzira Upper Prison, where he stayed for two years. There were no beatings at Luzira, but there was no work to occupy the prisoners.

At either Mpigi or Makindye, a red-hot panga was applied to his right shoulder and string was tied tightly around his genitals.

Eventually he was returned to Makindye. He was able to escape and fled the country.

Medical History

Immediate problems relate to his genitals : sometimes his testicles swell up : he also has difficulty in achieving intercourse. He sometimes gets dizzy.

On Examination

There was a 3 cm scar, said to be from a bayonet wound, on the right upper eyelid.

There was another raised wound scar (consistent with a bayonet wound) on the scalp in the right occipito-parietal area (right side of back of head).

The right third lower molar tooth had been removed.

On the upper part of the right side of the chest below the collar bone was a 3 cm pear-shaped keloid scar.

On the front of the upper chest over the breastbone was an 8 cm keloid scar.

On the back, over both shoulder-blades, were multiple small healed scars, some linear, some circular.

Below the left armpit, on the chest, was a 4 cm scar at the level of the sixth rib.

On the trunk, there were the entrance and exit scars of a through-and-through gun-shot wound, said to be a pistol. This entered in front on the left side and emerged on the left side of the back above the iliac crest, missing the peritoneal cavity.

There was a 7 cm linear scar above the right side of the scrotum in the inguinal region, said to be from a knife or razor cut inflicted during captivity.

Over the right deltoid area, just below the point of the shoulder, there was a 5.5 by 3 cm scarred area, typical of a healed burn.

On the outer side of the right arm above the elbow, was a 7cm prominent, thick scar. Parallel and behind this was another thick scar 2.5 cm in length: these were consistent with lacerations from a stick.

On the right forearm, there was a round 1.5cm scar on the outer side : a 5 cm scar above the wrist and about five smaller scars across the wrist.

On the left arm, there were about twelve scars extending from outer side of shoulder to wrist, with three "tramline" scars below the elbow typical of beating with a rod.

On the left side of the back, just above waist level, was a 3cm scar, probably a burn, with depigmentation.

On the front of the right leg, above the ankle, were two scars, one 3 by 2cm the other 1 by 1 cm in size.

Conclusion

A captured guerrilla, he was reportedly beaten unconscious, stabbed with a bayonet, and had his genital area cut with a knife and bound with a cord. The multiple scars found on examination were consistent with his story, especially elliptical scars typical of a bayonet or knife.

Case No 6

Male, aged 26

History

His account of events was as follows:

In June 1982, while "F" was at his place of business, selling motor spares, soldiers in uniform arrived in a Land Rover with two plain-clothes men who were either members of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) or military intelligence. They took him to Makindye Barracks, which was only 2 kilometres away. On the way, they beat him badly with their fists. On arrival, he was beaten all the way to a cell with canes and batons. The "cell" was a big room like a go-down (store) with about 200 men in it, where he was kept for a fortnight.

The room was dark, it had only a small ventilator near the roof and there was no toilet or bucket. There was a primitive toilet outside : to use this, they had to shout for a guard, who would then beat them for wanting to use it. The only drinking water was a tap at the toilet.

The prisoners had to sleep on the floor. The cell was very crowded. The prisoners were taken outside for interrogation and for food. This was supplied irregularly, sometimes none for two days, unless the guards were bribed.

"F" was accused of providing supplies to armed opposition groups. His business activities had involved him in trade with Nairobi (in Kenya) and it was because of this that he became suspect. He was accused of passing information and his interrogators wanted to know about his finances. When they could not make out a case against him for lack of any evidence, they wanted him to give a bribe for his release.

Every time the guards changed shift, a roll-call was made and indiscriminate beating took place, while the guards ordered the men to explain why they were in prison. The guards were usually drunk and laid about them indiscriminately with their rifle-butts. Some prisoners died - he saw "pink stuff" coming from their heads, presumably brain tissue. At other times, the guards used hammers to hit people on the head. This was always at night, especially if the soldiers were drunk. He personally saw men being killed in this way and helped to carry out dead bodies. People were huddled together, some fainting. He saw fractured jaws and eyes being gouged out by the guards.

After two weeks, he managed to talk to one of the soldiers about a bribe and gave him a small amount of money (or promised it) to contact his business associates. They raised 1,500,000 Ugandan shillings (about £2,000) which was paid to an officer and he was released to his home, where he found his family unhurt.

At the end of 1982, he was rearrested. He had just closed his shop at 6 pm. and had gone home, when seven soldiers came from Lubiri barracks and attacked his house. They began shooting, breaking the windows. The front door was made of steel and was bolted. While he was fumbling with the bolts, bullets were fired at it : something hit him on the head from the door.

When it was opened, he was forced to lie on the floor and they began beating him. He was told not to raise his head, which was bleeding. One soldier remained to guard him, while the others rampaged through the house. He was struck on the back of the head with a pistol or gun butt and lost consciousness. His family were at a relative's house, but the soldiers beat a servant whom they found in the house.

Clothes, shoes and other items were looted and put into the Land Rover. "F" was then taken to Lubiri Barracks and put in a cell where he remained until the following morning.

He was then taken before an adjutant to explain his case. He pleaded that he did not know what it was all about, so the officer ordered him to be beaten again. He received four strokes of a cane on his buttocks whilst lying on the ground. He was returned to his cell and these events happened twice more. He complained of his head injury and an officer came, but no medical aid was given. The officer said that his case was very serious as he was financing the guerrilla movement.

The next day, he was taken to a first aid centre and treated by an orderly, who shaved his head and put some powder and plaster on the wound, which was re-dressed several times.

He remained alone in his cell for about a month. His family did not know where he was and he was given no further explanations. The barracks were only 200 metres from his shop, but he was not allowed any visitors.

He knew a number of soldiers and succeeded in sending a message to his friends and relatives, who raised a ransom of 500,000 Ugandan shillings. This was unofficial, so he was released secretly at night and taken to his home.

Medical History

He feels generally unwell and has headaches most days. He has had an X-ray which showed fragments of metal "in his skull". These may be from the steel door or the bullet which struck it.

His headaches are relieved if he rests for 20 minutes or so. He has no difficulty with his vision or comprehension. He says there is altered sensation in the right side of the back of his head.

On Examination

On the right side of the midline of the scalp, on a line joining the two ear canals, there is a lumpy scar 2 by 2 cm in size. The scar is mobile over the underlying bone and there is some hair loss. X-rays confirm the presence of tiny metallic fragments.

The fragments were superficial and the bone of his skull had not been damaged. It is possible that some of his headaches are related to what he had seen in Makindye, notably, prisoners dying of brain damage.

Conclusion

A businessman, allegedly arrested twice and ransomed for large sums, who reported that he suffered severe beatings and was wounded in the head from a bullet ricochet during an attack on his home. A residual scalp wound is consistent with his account of a head injury caused by a bullet ricochet.

Case No. 7

Female, aged 23

History

Her account of events was as follows:

On 26 February 1983, uniformed army men came to "G's" village and took away about 20 people, including men, women, youths and young girls. She was included, being taken from her home in the daytime raid. At that time, she was a 21-year-old secretarial student.

They were treated roughly, being kicked and pushed with gun butts into Land Rovers.

They were driven to Mbarara police station and locked in cells, not being informed of the reason why they had been arrested. Next day, an officer told them that they had been rounded up because they were giving aid to armed opponents of the government.

They were given no food or drink that day and were then taken in trucks to Kampala Central Police Station, where they were kept for three days. Here they were not subjected to ill-treatment, but the only food they were given consisted of some rotten beans.

Some of the prisoners, including "G" were moved to a cell situated in an industrial area, which they had heard was a torture centre. The truck which took them was enclosed. The place was like a "go-down" and was in darkness: it had no windows or artificial light. Many people were already there. The soldiers began beating them indiscriminately, with whips and bars. She was dragged across the ground, being asked what she knew about the guerrilla movement.

Women were raped in front of the other prisoners and "G" herself was roughly raped on a number of occasions by different men. She did not become pregnant.

Some prisoners were called out by name at night and did not return. She saw soldiers return from outside with blood on their uniforms after they had called out prisoners.

Screams were heard at night from outside. She saw some prisoners who had hands, toes and fingers cut off by the guards. She saw one old woman of about 70 sitting with the bleeding stump of a wrist which was red and raw, the hand recently having been cut off. It was without any dressing, the old woman crying and still being beaten. She also saw a girl of about 17 who had toes and fingers cut off.

"G" did not see any corpses in the go-down, but saw prisoners burnt with cigarettes and suffered the same herself. Some prisoners had their eyelids penetrated by needles by the soldiers and this happened once to "G's" left eye. There was a lot of blood on the floor of the go-down - the soldiers were mostly drunk and there was often blood on their uniforms. They used to shout a lot and bang the doors. For five days they were given hardly any food, only some posho and bad beans, which were seized by the strongest prisoners. There was no tap in the room, to get water from the tap outside they had to risk asking the guards.

There was a toilet facility in the room.

"G" was told that she would be killed if she did not give information about the guerrillas. She was told that she could be released if she had sex with an officer.

After five days in this cell, she was moved to a police station on the Jinja Road. Her relatives began negotiating with an officer for her release. They paid 50,000 Ugandan shillings and after two weeks, during which time she slept on the floor and had maize meal and beans to eat, she was released at night and collected by her relatives. She had medical treatment from a private doctor, her whole body being bruised.

Medical History

In September 1984, she was diagnosed as having pulmonary tuberculosis, after a chronic cough. She is on treatment which is expected to continue for another 18 months. She is still losing weight and feels dizzy, especially after some hours without food. She has abdominal pain and was told that she may have an ulcer.

On Examination

There were no scars remaining from the cigarette burns - this is not unusual if they were superficial burns.

Right leg :

- Two round scars, each 1 cm diameter, medial to the patella (knee-cap).
- Slightly roughened, hyperpigmented scar 9 by 3 cm over the upper part of the front of the shin below the knee. "G" said that this was due to being dragged across rough ground.

Left leg :

- Above the patella, was a shiny scar 3 by 3 cm in size, attributed to a blow from an iron bar.
- Just below the patella, was a similar scar of the same size.

Conclusion

This woman, a 21-year-old student at the time of her alleged arrest, reported having been beaten, repeatedly raped, and burned by cigarettes, as well as having her eyelid transfixed with a needle. Scars found on the legs are consistent with her report of beatings.

He was taken back to interrogation, which he was told was a "primary interrogation", and asked why he went to Kenya and asked the whereabouts of his "friends". They named students who were supposed to be anti-government guerrillas, but who were unknown to him. Next time he was questioned, his hands were tied behind his back and his legs were tied with sisal string. He was beaten a great deal, then a sisal sack was put over his head and body and tied around his neck. He was then dragged along the ground, possibly to another room.

He was told they were going to give him electric shocks. He felt suffocating in the sack, then felt repeated surges of electricity, mainly on his back.

His body jerked (he implied that wires were poked through the sacking). He was told that this could go on for two hours. He said he knew that if he lied, it would not help as guerrillas were never pardoned. All the same, he felt that he would rather die than continue being tortured. He prayed that he would die.

Then he was taken back to the cell. He had no idea of time, as his watch had been taken from him along with his shoes and shirt.

Others were taken out of the cell for interrogation; he never saw them again. He was told that he would undergo further interrogation at Nile Mansions. After a final questioning, he was tied up and pushed into a Land Rover and driven away at night. He expected to be executed, but in fact he was released, a member of his family having paid a bribe to the soldiers.

Medical History

"H" reported no long term effects of his experiences, apart from a slightly painful area on the centre of his frontal area of scalp within the hairline. This was improving.

On Examination

A slightly irregular, tender lump just behind the hairline in frontal region.

A scar above the left eyebrow, size 3mm.

A scar below and to the right of the right eye on the upper cheek, size 5 mm.

A scar at the outer end of the right eyebrow, size 5 mm.

A scar on the back of the right little finger, size 5 mm, over dorsum of middle phalanx.

Case No. 8

Male, aged 22

History

His account of events was as follows:

"H" was a medical student at Makerere University. His mother worked in Nairobi, so he visited her frequently in the vacations to obtain money. On 16 November 1983, armed men came to the university "looking for guns" and "H" was arrested. Some students were unhappy about the situation in the university and had voiced their opinions. "H" had not been involved in political activity. There was much government intervention at the university, with a system of spies amongst the students. There were many guns there which had been supplied to these spies, who were known to shoot their opponents after a quarrel. Suspect students were those from a particular geographical area or a particular ethnic group.

At the time of his arrest, "H" was questioned about his last visit to Kenya. About 13 male students were pushed into a Land Rover at about 9 pm. on 16 November and taken to Kampala's Central Police Station. They were prodded with gun butts and by the time they arrived, some were bleeding. They were forced into a cell about 2 metres by 2 metres, already holding some prisoners. The cell was dark and all his personal effects including his watch had been taken away from him. Only his trousers were left. The cell was so small that they could not even sit down, so they had to stand leaning against each other. It was very hot and after a time, his legs became swollen from standing. There was only a tiny ventilator and he remembers the smell of blood and excreta. There was no toilet or water and no food for the first two days. At night he could hear screams and others crying in agony.

"H" was the first to be taken out for interrogation, being forced to another room where there were 12 men. He was standing, then was kicked to the floor, where he was beaten. He was asked about anti-government students, but said he did not know anything. He was repeatedly beaten and his fingers trodden upon.

He was also hit repeatedly with the butt of a pistol. He had to crawl back to his cell. His colleagues could hear his interrogation, as the rooms were near each other. After a long interrogation, he was left in the cell for two days, with no food or water. There were random and indiscriminate beatings.

He was taken back to interrogation, which he was told was a "primary interrogation", and asked why he went to Kenya and asked the whereabouts of his "friends". They named students who were supposed to be anti-government guerrillas, but who were unknown to him. Next time he was questioned, his hands were tied behind his back and his legs were tied with sisal string. He was beaten a great deal, then a sisal sack was put over his head and body and tied around his neck. He was then dragged along the ground, possibly to another room.

He was told they were going to give him electric shocks. He felt suffocating in the sack, then felt repeated surges of electricity, mainly on his back.

His body jerked (he implied that wires were poked through the sacking). He was told that this could go on for two hours. He said he knew that if he lied, it would not help as guerrillas were never pardoned. All the same, he felt that he would rather die than continue being tortured. He prayed that he would die.

Then he was taken back to the cell. He had no idea of time, as his watch had been taken from him along with his shoes and shirt.

Others were taken out of the cell for interrogation; he never saw them again. He was told that he would undergo further interrogation at Nile Mansions. After a final questioning, he was tied up and pushed into a Land Rover and driven away at night. He expected to be executed, but in fact he was released, a member of his family having paid a bribe to the soldiers.

Medical History

"H" reported no long term effects of his experiences, apart from a slightly painful area on the centre of his frontal area of scalp within the hairline. This was improving.

On Examination

A slightly irregular, tender lump just behind the hairline in frontal region.

A scar above the left eyebrow, size 3mm.

A scar below and to the right of the right eye on the upper cheek, size 5 mm.

A scar at the outer end of the right eyebrow, size 5 mm.

A scar on the back of the right little finger, size 5 mm, over dorsum of middle phalanx.

The right middle finger painful with limitation of flexion of distal inter-phalangeal joint.

Right leg :

- Depigmented scar 3 by 3 cm above knee.
- Two scars adjacent on front of shin, 1.5 by 3 and 1.5 by 1.5 cm.

Left leg :

- Depigmented glazed scar 4 by 3 cm on inner side of mid-thigh.
- Two depigmented scars 1.5 by 1.5 cm each on front of upper shin.

Conclusion

A medical student, aged 21 at the time of his alleged arrest, who was reportedly kicked, beaten, and shrouded in a sack, when he alleged that he was given electric shocks. A number of scars are consistent with beatings, but no proof of electrocution remained.

Case No. 9

Female, aged 26

History

Her account of events was as follows:

"K" lived at Namugongo, a village near Kampala. In October 1984 when Mpoma Satellite Station was attacked by guerrillas, the army claimed that the attackers had returned through Namugongo. Soldiers came to Namugongo and killed many people and took others away for interrogation. "K" was one of these. She was picked up with one of her children and beaten with gun-butts, being loaded into a Land Rover with about ten other people.

Her two-and-a-half-year-old daughter was arrested with her; her six-year-old son ran away.

They were driven to the satellite station, which was a compound with a wire-fence and a guard box. Inside this were about ten huts which had been used as barracks for the construction workers. The men and women were placed in separate rooms, the small daughter left with her mother. Each adult was beaten with rifle-butts and many stabbed with bayonets. The rooms held about 12 people; there was no window and it was almost dark. They slept on the floor; there was no tap and only a bucket for a toilet.

Two women were already there when "K's" contingent arrived; they had been beaten and raped. Leaving her child behind, "K" was taken out to another room where she was raped repeatedly by several soldiers. She was beaten the first day with gun-butts and stabbed in the leg with a bayonet. She was returned after the rape to a different room, where there were about six women, and was not able to rejoin her child.

She was held for about two weeks, but was not able to see her child again. She asked a soldier where the girl was. He said that he could not interfere with another man's work, although money might help.

Interrogations and beatings continued. She and others were raped several times. She heard crying from outside and some women who were taken out of the room never returned.

Little food was given to them: she had a tomato in the first three days and some posho was provided.

After two weeks' imprisonment, "K" was able to arrange her escape by paying a bribe to a soldier. However, she was not able to locate her daughter and had to leave the satellite station without her. She has never seen her again, nor been able to get any news about what happened to her child.

On leaving the satellite station "K" had a dislocated knee-cap due to ill-treatment and was helped out by a soldier. Later she used a stick to walk. She went to hospital, but was not admitted as an in-patient. However, she was bandaged each day for over two weeks.

Medical History

"K" still has pain in the left knee-cap which was dislocated. She also complains of headaches, nightmares and pain in the centre and right side of the chest. Her young son is living with her and her husband, but she remains distressed and anxious about the fate of her small daughter, whom she believes to be dead.

On Examination

She is obviously distressed. On the left leg, there were three keloid scars on the outer side, just below the knee, 1.5, 1.0 and 1.8 cms in size. These were raised and hyperpigmented and consistent with stab wounds from a knife or bayonet. Below these was an area of soft fat necrosis in the tissues under the skin.

There was full movement of the knee, which was pain-free. The power of the muscles was normal around the knee.

Conclusion

A young woman who reported that she was captured with her infant daughter, who "disappeared" during detention. She reported having been repeatedly raped, beaten, and stabbed with a bayonet, and her knee-cap dislocated. Her present condition shows scars on the leg consistent with stabbing.

Case No. 10

Female, aged 26

History

Her account of events was as follows:

Early in 1983, uniformed soldiers in a Land Rover came to "L's" house in Kampala and arrested her and two of her sisters. It seems that this was a general round-up, because anti-government guerrillas were alleged to be using this area.

Those arrested were taken to Makindye Barracks. They were pushed around and slapped. "L's" sisters were government employees and were released immediately.

"L" was detained for four days, being put into a room about 5 metres by 5 metres, containing many women. It was very cramped and there was not enough room to lie down.

There was no water or food provided and "L" was again slapped and kicked. The soldiers took some of the other women for interrogation - some were assaulted and others never returned. Others were raped in the room in her presence, but "L" was not.

"L" was not further beaten or assaulted and was released on the fourth day without a bribe being paid.

Medical History

"L" had an umbilical hernia at birth. In 1966 she fell down, injuring the front of her abdomen.

She has found it difficult to eat since leaving prison and was treated for a peptic ulcer with tablets from a mission hospital. She has pain in the umbilical area. She says that she collapses if she carries a heavy object or tries to walk quickly and is short of breath if she climbs up stairs.

She was safely delivered of a child per vaginam in 1975, although a Caesarian section was imminent. When she feels unwell, she has to go to bed for a few days.

On Examination

She was obese. No umbilical hernia could be found, even on sitting up. There was no discharge or bleeding from the umbilicus. This had healed with a rather prominent central scar, which may have given the impression that there was still a hernia. She jumped when the skin anywhere near the umbilicus was touched.

Conclusion

We do not believe that there is any physical basis for her distress, but her imprisonment has left her distressed and her symptoms are focussed on the site of a previous hernia.

Case No. 11

Male, aged 36

History

His account of events was as follows:

"M" was arrested at home in April 1984, apparently because he was engaged in political activities, and taken to Mbale Barracks. He was a youth chairman of the DP.

He was held in the barracks for two weeks, in a cell with five others. It was so small that they had to stand up; there was no room to sit or lie down. There was no ventilation; it was hot and humid. There was no water, so they had to drink their urine. The prisoners were given some food about every third day.

There was no lavatory, they had to use the floor. The prisoners were struck with gun butts and hammers - "M" was hit on the chest with a hammer. There was about one soldier to each prisoner when beatings took place. One of his friends in the cell died during the two weeks because of the beatings.

After two weeks, he was transferred by Land Rover to Makindye Barracks, where conditions were worse. There were daily beatings and three of the six men with him died. Again, they were held in a tiny cell, but were taken to a different place for torture. Each prisoner was given to a particular soldier for torture. The soldiers were not drunk and were given orders to use torture in order to get information. He was again beaten with gun butts and hammers and threatened with execution.

He was forced to crawl on his hands and knees on rough concrete. Acid, which he thinks was battery sulphuric acid, was sprinkled on him from a plastic container. This was done over his face and chest whilst he was lying face up on the ground. He was stabbed with a bayonet in many places. He heard screams of other prisoners in different cells: he saw some with their ears cut off.

He saw one of his companions have his finger-nails pulled off and his hands slashed with a bayonet. All the prisoners were men; he saw no women.

He was able to escape on payment of a bribe.

Medical History

"M" complained of pains in his chest if he walks too far or too briskly. sometimes he has a cough. His face itches where the acid fell.

On Examination

Over the front of the upper chest, there were about 20 small elliptical scars, each about 1 cm long, typical of stab wounds.

Over the upper chest, there were 25 - 30 spots of depigmented skin and another on the front of the right upper arm.

On the face, there were extensive areas of partial depigmentation on the cheeks and over the right side of the forehead and sides of the nose. These were consistent with dilute acid burns.

Areas of depigmentation on the shoulders were attributed by him to old ringworm.

On the back of the right hand there was a small scar in the web between the thumb and first finger.

On the back of the left hand, there were about six scars up to 2 cm long over the base of the index finger and thumb.

There were three scars on the front of the left upper arm, the longest being 2 cm long.

On the inner side of the left knee, was a shiny scar 2 cm in diameter: three depigmented scars on the front of the left shin.

The right leg showed three scars about 2 cm long on and just below the outer side of the knee.

Conclusion

Beatings after capture reportedly included being hit with a hammer; he also claims to have suffered burns from battery acid and stabs from bayonets. Numerous scars, about 20 in number, are typical of stab wounds, and there is a shower of depigmented spots consistent with dilute acid marks.

Case No. 12

Male, aged 18

History

His account of events was as follows:

"N's" brother had been a parliamentary candidate for the UPM, but after the elections his brother fled into the bush. Both government and guerrilla groups were engaged in looting and killing. Other villagers told troops and "N" that his family were related to someone who had joined anti-government guerrillas, and their home in Mpigi was attacked with rockets early in 1981, when both his parents and two younger brothers and three sisters were killed.

"N" was living with another teenage brother and sister in a small adjacent house, so they escaped this bazooka attack. They were then taken care of by other relatives. At this time, he was still studying in a college.

In February or March 1981, he was taken from the new home by troops in a Land Rover to Malire Barracks. He was kept there for more than two and a half years, until mid-1983. He was put in a cell with 20 others. The number stayed the same, but the individual prisoners changed. It was very cramped, with only room to sit or stand, but not lie down. There was no toilet and no tap. Sometimes they were given food every few days and occasionally only once a week.

The food was bad and the lack of food forced some prisoners to eat the flesh of the corpses that were left amongst them.

He believes that most of the prisoners died and that he was one of the few to survive. Beatings were commonplace; he was often caned. He saw other prisoners hit on the back of the head or on the back of the neck with a hammer. Most of the deaths were due to this method, or from burns. Most tortures were inflicted in the mornings and evenings, by different soldiers.

Electric shocks were often employed: the guards would hold the bared ends of wires plugged into 240 volt sockets, insulating them from their fingers by paper. The live wires would be touched anywhere on the body. He saw one man die after the wires had been applied near his throat.

Red-hot electric stove coils were also placed against the skin of prisoners, including "N". He was burnt on the left side of the face and neck and left side of the chest and right thigh.

He was also burnt by cloth being wrapped around his left arm and against his chest, then being soaked in paraffin and set alight. He also saw this done to other prisoners. The cloth was sometimes tied in place. No medical treatment was given to anyone after being burned.

His head was shaved with a broken bottle, cutting the scalp.

During all these torture sessions, prisoners were repeatedly interrogated about guerrilla activities.

In mid-1983 he was released after a bribe had been paid.

Medical History

He has been troubled by nightmares, though these have become fewer, but he still feels tense. He has florid keloid reaction to the burns and these become infected and discharge from time to time. He feels embarrassed by his appearance, as young children laugh at him in the street. His legs feel paralysed if he remains in one position for more than 30 minutes.

On Examination

He has florid keloid scarring, distorting parts of his face and neck. This involves the left side of the neck, extending over the lower jaw and up to and including the left ear.

The keloids extend down over the deltoid region of the shoulder, the upper third of the biceps region of the arm and the pectoral region of the left chest, having a vertical extent of 30 cm and being 40 cm across, extending to the medial edge of the right sternomastoid muscle.

There was a sero-sanguinous ooze (thin bloody fluid) in the crevices of the cauliflower-like keloid, on squeezing. There was a separate area of keloid over the angle of the right lower jaw, extending up to a non-hair-bearing scar behind the right ear.

The movement of the head was restricted on account of the extensive scar tissue. There was partial closure of the left eye-lids. There were two small patches of keloid on the right pectoral region. There was a scar from a burn 5 by 5 cm, at the base of the penis.

There was a small keloid and an adjacent area of depigmented skin on the radial side of the left wrist, extending towards the thumb.

Over the front of the right thigh, there were two further keloid areas, the longer strip being 35 cm long and the width of the two combined being 23 cm. These were said to have been from the application of a hot-plate.

On the upper part of the left thigh, there was keloid at the site of donation of a split-skin graft taken in 1975, in an attempt to treat a keloid occurring on the right jaw (unconnected with abuse).

Conclusion

This boy, allegedly arrested at the age of 15, reported that he was severely burned. He now suffers gross facial, neck and arm disfigurement by keloid scars, which are consistent with his account of having been burned with an electric hotplate and ignited rags.

Case No. 13

Male, aged 33

History

His account of events was as follows:

On 7 December 1982, "P" was home at Jinja, when soldiers came in Land Rovers at 8pm and asked for him. They searched the house and arrested him as he was trying to escape. He was beaten with gun-butts and kicked, then taken to Makindye Barracks, the soldiers alleging that he was a member or supporter of an armed opposition group and that he was aware of the sites of guerrilla camps. During the government of President Idi Amin, "P's" father had supported the armed government opponents. He had run a big transport business. A lorry with arms had been captured at Entebbe and his father was captured and killed.

He did not know it at the time, but his wife was also arrested: a neighbour took the children to stay with relatives.

At Makindye, he was put in a small cell about 6 by 7 feet. There were four other people, with just enough room to lie down. He remained in this cell for more than a month, until the end of January 1983. The other men were unhurt when he arrived, but one was later taken out and returned badly beaten.

No water was given to them, they were very thirsty and had to drink their own urine. Food was given every two to four days, but it was smelly and rotten, consisting of beans and posho. There was a latrine bucket, but it was never emptied.

He was taken out once to another room and interrogated. He was beaten on the backs of his legs, using the reeds which the police use for beating. The marks are no longer visible. His left arm became swollen and painful, but he did not remember how it was caused. This arm had a crack in the left wrist (found by X-ray much later), but he was unconscious at the time it was inflicted.

A cattle gelding tongs was used on him to crush his testicles through the skin of his scrotum - he fainted with the pain. Afterwards, there was tremendous swelling, the right side more than the left: he had blood in his urine for two weeks.

On regaining consciousness, he found himself back in his cell. Three of the other men had been replaced, but the badly beaten prisoner was still there. While in the cell, he could hear screams of other prisoners - and shouts, especially at night.

He was released at the end of January 1983 after a member of his family had paid a bribe.

His wife had been taken to Kireka Barracks, but has been released.

Medical History

Prior to his castration, his testicles were normal in position and size and he had fathered three children. He now has intermittent pain and swelling in the left side of the scrotum. It has been explored and a biopsy taken in September 1984: this confirmed atrophy of the testicle.

He has some penile tumescence, but is unable to achieve intercourse. He is distressed that he cannot have more children.

On Examination

The right upper first incisor tooth has been displaced forwards and was cracked: this happened during his ill-treatment, he said.

There were a number of hyperpigmented scars on his back:

- Over the left shoulder-blade, there was a 2 and a 2.5 cm scar.
- Below the left shoulder-blade was an oblique 4.5 cm scar and a 2 by 1 cm scar below this.
- There were two scars on the right side of the back, 2 by 1 and 1 by 1 cm in size.

The skin of the scrotum was thin and atrophic. There was a spermatic cord palpable on the right side, but it appeared to end in strands of scar tissue. On the left side, the cord ended in a small knot of soft tissue. The right testicle seems to have been ruptured and later reabsorbed. The damage on the left side was only slightly less severe, as some atrophic scar tissue remains. His impotence is likely to be the result of psychological trauma and should recover, although of course he will be sterile.

Conclusion

This man reported that, after being beaten and having his arm broken, he was castrated by having his testicles crushed with cattle gelding tongs. The story was consistent with the almost total absence of testicular tissue.

Case No. 14

Female, aged 20

History

Her account of events was as follows:

On 15 November 1983, two soldiers came to "Q's" house at Mpigi, 22 miles from Kampala, while her family were asleep. The soldiers forced them to open the door and beat her husband. She was ordered out and raped by three men. When she went back into the house, she found her husband dead in a pool of blood.

Her child of three-and-a-half years was not harmed physically and went with "Q" when she was forced into a Land Rover along with her husband's dead body. She was beaten with a gun butt and kicked at this time.

They were taken to Makindye Barracks where she and the child were put into a "go-down" which was partly underground. She was beaten again and cut on the chin with a knife or razor blade, as well as being cut on the chest.

There were about 14 people, all females, in the go-down, which was in semi-darkness, having no windows. The youngest present, apart from her child, was a girl of about 15.

The floor was sticky with blood. There was a bucket for a toilet. She did not notice if any of the other women were injured.

No food was given for the first two days. On the third day, food was given that was inadequately cooked. Her child was very sick and no food was given to her. Some of the other prisoners were taken out, some did not return. She remained in the room for about a week until 22 November, then was taken out by a soldier whom she had not seen before. He took her to his quarters in the barracks and forced her to "become his wife", that is, to look after him materially and have sexual intercourse.

She stayed there for five days with her child, until she was helped to escape. Possibly as a result of the rape, she became pregnant, giving birth in September or October 1984.

Medical History

"Q" complains of pain in the chest and in one breast.

On Examination

"Q" has multiple linear scars, mostly over the chest area:

- Two scars, each 1 cm long, above the right breast.
- Two scars, one of 1 cm and another of 0.6 cm above the left breast.
- A 2 cm scar above and inside the right nipple.

A curved scar below the right corner of the mouth, 3 cm long.

Two scars over the deltoid (back of the right shoulder) 9 and 12 cm long.

Two scars, each 1.5 cm long, over the back of the left shoulder.

A 1.2 cm scar on the back of the right hand.

A 2 cm scar on the left side of the forehead above the eyebrow.

Conclusion

A woman aged 19 at the time of her alleged arrest, who reported that she was repeatedly raped after her husband had been beaten to death, and that after beatings and knife cuts she was taken as a concubine by a guard and became pregnant. Numerous scars present are consistent with knife wounds on the chest.

Case No. 15

Female, aged 22

History

Her account of events was as follows:

"R" and her family lived about two miles from Makindye. One evening in July 1983 soldiers came looking for her husband, but he had left that day. When they were unable to arrest him, they took her and her brother to Makindye Barracks, where she was kept for seven months. She was beaten both at her house and on the journey by Land Rover. Her brother is believed to have died in custody.

On arrival at the barracks, she was put in a medium-sized room with other women. Several times over the succeeding months, she was moved to other rooms, but always with women prisoners. Food was given only infrequently, sometimes as little as once a week.

The women were constantly beaten, kicked, struck with canes, sticks and rifle butts and jabbed with bayonets.

Rape was common and "R" was raped a number of times. She also saw many other women raped; it was done publicly, in the presence of the other prisoners. If the women resisted rape, they were stabbed with knives or shot.

She saw other women tortured and some died in the process. The bodies were often left in the cell for up to two days, before being taken away to be hidden in the bush or a river.

Sometimes the women were burned by the soldiers with a "flat-iron", the type heated by charcoal, not an electric iron. This was done to "R", a large area of her stomach being burned. She was tortured during the first five months, but during the last two months of her detention "R" was not subjected to physical abuse.

Sometimes the women were taken out to do work for the soldiers and were able to get medical help if they became friendly with the guards. The treatment of injuries was given by the soldiers, not by doctors or medical orderlies. Those women who did not form friendships with the guards received no medical attention at all and many died from their injuries.

Eventually "R" developed a friendship with a soldier. Word was passed outside to her friends and they collected a bribe which was given to one of the officers. She was smuggled out of the barracks at night at the beginning of 1984.

Medical History

She has frequent pain in the stomach and says she cannot stand up properly. She sometimes cannot sleep, because of the pain.

On Examination

The front of the abdomen and lower chest was covered by a large area of scarring due to burns. This extended on to the lower half of the right breast and down to the upper part of the right thigh. The maximum length was 33 cm and the width 28 cm.

There was the scar of a stab wound 1.0 by 1.5 cm on the right upper arm below the shoulder, in the deltoid region.

There was a scar 3 by 1.5 cm on the outer side of the right upper arm between elbow and shoulder.

There was a depigmented area 3 by 2 cm on the outer side of the back of the right elbow.

There was the scar of a burn 6 by 4 cm on the fold of the right armpit.

Conclusion

A woman, aged 21 at the time of her alleged arrest, who reported having been beaten, stabbed, raped and burned over a large area of her abdomen with a heated flat-iron. Extensive scarring is consistent with her account of how she was burned, and other scars are consistent with stabbing and beating.

Case No. 16

Female, aged 27

History

Her account of events was as follows:

"S" worked in the offices of a state-owned corporation. She joined the UPM and worked for the party during the 1980 election campaign.

She then stayed at home with her sister, but people apparently came looking for her in order to arrest her. A boy staying with neighbours was shot, so "S" tried to remain hidden in the house. Again people came searching for her, so she went to a village about 300 kilometres from Kampala.

"S" stayed at a friend's house for a month, then returned to Kampala and took up her old job. On 20 May 1983, her bus was stopped at a road block on the way to work and everyone was ordered out. A man who she knew was in the Special Branch and who knew her at the office, pointed her out and she was seized by soldiers and beaten. Her blouse was torn. She was taken from the Mbuya road block to Kireka Barracks and continued to be beaten on the way. She was hit with batons and gun-butts, so much that she lost consciousness.

At some stage her right collar-bone was fractured.

She recovered to find herself in a room with seven other people, including boys and girls. Some were crying. The next day, their names were recorded and some were called out - they did not return.

She heard screams and gun shots at this time. The boys climbed up to the ventilators, as there were no windows, and looked out, where they could see a lake. They saw bodies being thrown into a pit outside.

When their names were called, they were expected to salute the guards. They were given no water. Some food was given, but they were obliged to collect it in their bare hands.

Next day, everyone was ordered out of the room. "S" could not walk, so she was dragged, causing abrasions on her shins. A relative in Kampala found out where she was. Money was paid over as a bribe. She was called out of the cell secretly at night and she thought she was to be executed, but she was released.

Medical History

She now has trouble with her right shoulder and cannot carry things. She has pain in her left knee if she sits in one position for long, and pain in her left shin on walking any distance.

On Examination

There was hyperpigmentation over the tip of the right shoulder, the back of the right upper arm and large areas of both buttocks, where the skin was roughened.

Similar changes on the outer side of the right shin and front of left knee, consistent with dragging over a rough surface.

There were old scars on the back of the right elbow and linear scars on the front of the right knee. There was callus (bony outgrowth) on the right clavicle (collar-bone) due to mal-union. There was a vertical scar 3 cm long in the middle of the left eyebrow and two small scars below the centre of the lower lip, possibly due to impact with teeth.

"S" indicated some pain in the left big toe, which may have been fractured, but there is now full movement.

Conclusion

A woman, aged 25 at the time of her alleged arrest, who reported that she was beaten unconscious on arrest, and later dragged across rough concrete. A fractured collar-bone and old scarred abrasions are consistent with her story.