

RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS OF  
14 ARGENTINIAN TORTURE VICTIMS

by

The Danish Medical Group  
Amnesty International



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- It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation.

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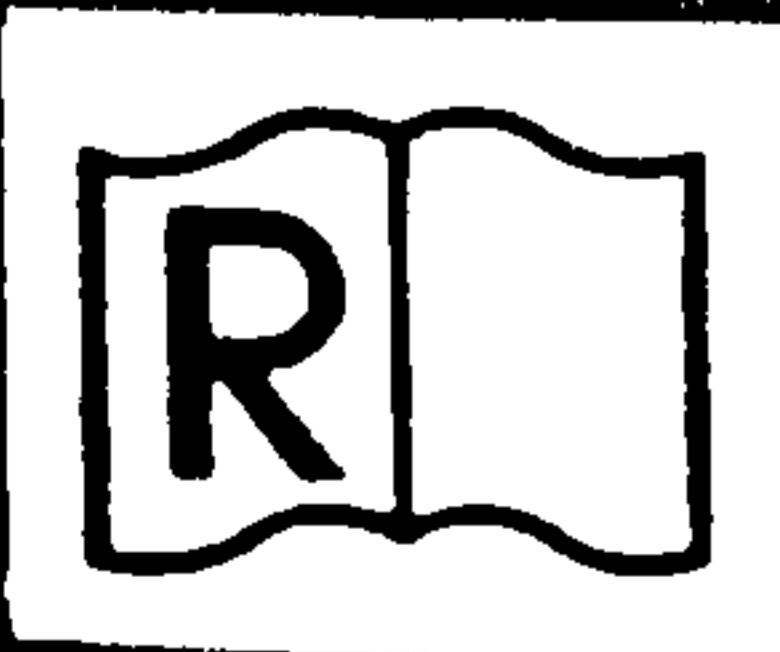




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#### Background

About Argentina, Amnesty International's 1979 Annual Report says:

"There was no significant improvement in human rights in Argentina: thousands of people are in preventive detention without charge or trial and thousands more remain unaccounted for. There were no indications that the military government intends to return the country to constitutional rule or that it will relax the emergency legislation introduced in the last five years, despite calls from politicians and the Argentinian Federation of Bar Associations (Federación Argentina de los Colegios de Abogados) for a return to democratic government and the restoration of the rule of law (estado de derecho). The state of siege, which has now been in force since November 1974, would not appear to be justifiable, for the government itself frequently asserts that it has won a military victory against "subversion". On 20 September 1978, the Minister of the Economy, Sr Martínez de Hoz, declared, "Wars are never fought with kid gloves; we have used the same drastic methods against the terrorists as they themselves have employed." This is one of the most explicit admissions by a high-ranking member of the government that it has itself engaged in acts of terrorism.

"During the 1978 football World Cup, Argentina became the focus of international attention and greater concern was voiced abroad about its violations of human rights. The total absence of left-wing violence during the period of the World Cup tended to confirm the claim of the government that it was so much in control of the country that subversion had been eliminated, but this has only heightened the anomalous fact that right-wing violence--abduction and murder--has continued to flourish unchecked.

"Since the coup d'état of March 1976 the most horrifying aspect of the repression has been the number of los desaparecidos--the disappeared. In February 1979 the Buenos Aires Herald estimated that, over the previous three years, there had been an average of between three and 10 kidnappings a day. The government denies all knowledge of the disappeared or that they have ever been detained. Three times in 1978 the government published lists of people who, it claimed, were thought to be missing but had since been found (12 April--232, 7 August--201, 14 December--159). No names on these lists corresponded with those known to Amnesty International.

"The disappeared fall into four categories: those released after a short time (from one to 30 days)--the largest category; those murdered; those who are transferred to official prisons (in October 1978 a journalist, Enrique Esteban, was said to have been found by the army 69 days after he had been kidnapped in Neuquen; he is now detained "at the disposal of the military authorities" in a local military garrison); those who remain indefinitely fuera de la sociedad ("outside of society") and whose place of detention is unknown.

"During the year there was a growing campaign inside Argentina to press the authorities to give details of the fate of the disappeared. In May 1978 the Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos published in La Prensa a list of 2,500 missing persons whose cases had been presented to the Supreme Court. In November 1978 another petition denouncing the disappearance of 1,542 people signed by 1,221 of their relatives was presented to the Supreme Court. The signatories stated they were appealing to the Court because all other means of establishing the whereabouts of the disappeared had failed. The petition emphasized that the disappeared had been arrested with a great show of uniformed men, firearms and vehicles, and with every appearance of a legal operation carried out by the authorities. This petition, like all previous requests and complaints, elicited no information from the government. On 3 March 1979, the Supreme Court, which not long before had complained that in its attempts to trace missing persons it had received almost no cooperation from the authorities, accepted for the first time an appeal from a relative of a missing person, the father of Alfredo Antonio Giorgi, a 33-year-old scientist who was taken from the National Institute of Industrial Technology on 27 November 1978. The Supreme Court had, until then, declared the problem of the disappeared to be outside its competence. In the Giorgi case, however, it said that even though it had no formal jurisdiction, it would order an appeals court to investigate.

"The 'Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo', who are seeking information about missing relatives, continue to hold a silent vigil every Thursday in the square outside Government House. They are regularly harassed by the authorities. On 18 January 1979, 43 women were detained for several hours and on a number of occasions since the mothers have been prevented by the police from entering the square.

"In April 1979 Amnesty International launched a major action on behalf of

the disappeared. An initial list of 2,500 persons reported missing since the coup was published with a special report about missing children.

"Over the past year Amnesty International has intervened on behalf of 100 persons who have been abducted. But a total of more than 200 such cases has been reported for this period.

"There are approximately 3,000-4,000 held at the disposal of the executive power (PEN), that is to say by a decree signed by the President which does not specify the reason for imprisonment. Most of the PEN prisoners have been held for two to three years, but there are some prisoners who have been in preventive detention for more than four. The government repeatedly denies the existence of any political prisoners, asserting that all 2,700 prisoners it admits to holding have been detained for committing crimes of subversion. It is difficult to accept this, because the great majority of prisoners have not been tried or charged, and some have not even been interrogated.

Prisoners held at the disposal of the executive power are entitled to leave the country under the terms of article 23 of the constitution; this is known as the 'right of option'. Despite the willingness of many foreign governments to offer visas to the 'opcionados', very few applications have been granted since this right was established, with severe limitations, at the end of 1977. In the past year only a hundred or so persons have benefited.

"At the end of 1978, a court of appeal upheld applications of habeas corpus on behalf of 100 persons who had been held at the disposal of the executive power for between 1 and 2 years, and ordered their release on the grounds that the executive's reasons for keeping them in detention were not justified. The court of appeal also stated that prolonged and indefinite detention amounted to a punishment and contravened article 23 of the constitution. This decision was overruled by the Supreme Court.

"Although on 20 April 1979 the Minister of Justice announced that improvements would be made, prison conditions throughout the country are poor. Amnesty International continued to receive reports of beatings of political prisoners and of arbitrary punishments for real or imagined infringements of the severe prison regulations. In many establishments the prisoners are permitted to read only the New Testament. They are forbidden to work. Some detention centres are permanently barred to visitors and in most medical and dental attention is deficient.



"Amnesty International urgently intervened for medical reasons on behalf of Flavio Koutzii, a Brazilian national and adopted prisoner of conscience, who suffers from a serious heart ailment. He had been suddenly transferred to Coronda in Santa Fé, one of the harshest prisons. Although there have been fewer reports of deaths or disappearances of political prisoners, the policy of frequent transfer from one prison to another resulted in great insecurity for the prisoners and their families. During the World Cup about 30 prisoners were transferred to a penitentiary in Córdoba, where it is alleged they were kept as hostages to prevent any outbreak of violence. According to reports from released prisoners some of them were subjected to ill-treatment.

"Since the last months of 1978 there has been a conflict between Argentina and Chile about the Beagle Channel. As a result of this conflict, which almost led to warfare, a number of Chileans living in Argentina have been harassed and placed in detention. On 23 April, more than 20 trade-union leaders of the "Commission of Twenty-Five"--an important trade-union group--were arrested in Buenos Aires after calling for a national strike in protest against low wages and political repression. Eight of them remain in detention.

"Amnesty International learned of comparatively few releases of political prisoners. Of 380 releases reported, only 50 concerned prisoners of conscience who had been adopted, though further releases are expected. A Christmas amnesty affected only 192 prisoners, some of whom were simply moved from prison to arresto domiciliario (house arrest) or libertad vigilada (restricted liberty). In November 1978, King Juan Carlos of Spain visited Argentina and obtained the release of several prisoners of Spanish nationality. Amnesty International has 275 cases of political prisoners under adoption or investigation.

"In September 1978, Argentinian lawyers estimated that there were approximately 800 prosecutions under way for crimes of "subversion"; 500 of these were to be heard before the federal civil courts, and 300 before the special military courts. Many prisoners tried in the federal courts have been acquitted but not released: they remain in prison at the disposal of the executive power. Amnesty International is particularly concerned about trials in the Consejos de Guerra--military courts are always held in camera. In most cases all that is published about the proceedings is the sentence,

which is usually long. Defendants may not choose a lawyer; they are represented by a military officer.

"Although the death penalty was reintroduced in 1976, it was not applied until March 1979, when a court sentenced to death by firing squad a man accused of a double murder (there was no political element). An appeal has been lodged.

"There were a number of political killings of supporters of the present regime which may suggest divisions within the armed forces rather than a resurgence of violence by the Montoneros or the People's Revolutionary Army, both of which have been crushed. In July 1978, the 15-year-old daughter of a new member of the junta, Admiral Armando Lambruschini, was killed by a bomb apparently intended for her father. A few days later the bodies of several alleged terrorists were found near the town of Mar del Plata and it is believed they were killed in reprisal. In August 1978, the right-wing editor of Confirmado, Hector Agulla, was shot and killed in Buenos Aires. On 20 December 1978 a diplomat, Elena Holmberg, was kidnapped. Her corpse was found two weeks later.

"In September 1978 Amnesty International protested about the shooting of a political prisoner, Osvaldo Sigfrido de Benedetti, who had been in detention for several years. On 27 July 1978 his family was informed that he had been "shot while trying to escape" from a prison in Tucumán. According to Amnesty International's information the body had a bullet-wound in the chest and a smaller one in the neck. Sr. de Benedetti is at least the tenth prisoner to have died in these circumstances over the past three years.

"The appearance of 12 bodies which were washed ashore in December 1978 at the seaside resort of Santa Teresita revived fears that many disappeared prisoners are murdered. The prominent lawyer Guillermo Díaz Lestren, detained at the disposal of the executive power in 1976 but later released, was kidnapped in Buenos Aires in October 1978 and his dead body was found a month later. He had filed a writ of preventive habeas corpus after learning that a group of security agents had been looking for him. The authorities are said to be investigating his murder...

"At the beginning of September 1979, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States is to visit Argentina."

#### Introduction

In the autumn of 1978, a member of the Danish CAT Group contacted the Danish Medical Group and informed us that she was in contact with some ex-Argentiniens in Padova who had been tortured. She also had connections with two physicians who were willing to participate in arranging further investigations. Through her, we tried to contact the group, but repeated attempts failed. We then wrote directly to one of the Italian physicians and followed up with repeated phone calls. It all ended up with the Argentiniens in Padova not wanting to be contacted. They changed address frequently, avoided contact with the authorities and didn't want any contact with Amnesty International, either.

The Argentina researcher at Amnesty International's International Secretariat in London, Tricia Feeney, supported the idea of a mission. She informed us that there were large groups of ex-Argentiniens in exile in Spain, and also many in Rome, and we chose to go to Rome.

At the beginning of February 1979, a pilot mission consisting of Drs. Henning Beck and Per Jess from the Danish Medical Group, together with Tricia Feeney, went to Rome. On this pilot mission, they succeeded in establishing contact with a group of ex-Argentiniens who had been tortured, as well as a good contact with the Amnesty office in Rome. It became obvious that there was a basis for a medical mission to Rome, and acceptance from London was obtained.

The mission took place in May 1979. Its purpose was to interview previously tortured ex-Argentiniens to determine whether there were any sequelae to the torture to which they had been subjected and to decide whether there was any basis for treatment of such sequelae. The composition of the mission team was Dr. Henning Beck, dentist Pia Marstrand, Dr. Marianne Wallach (interpreter), Dr. Jørgen Kelstrup (first five days) and Dr. Niels Hyldebrandt (last five days). A local dentist provided facilities for the dental examinations, and the chairman of one of the institutes at the University of Rome offered facilities for the medical examinations.

#### Procedure

A complete medical history and physical examination, including dental examination, was done on all the individuals. We looked especially for skin changes due to electrical torture and examined for cerebral asthenopia (ref.

Manual for Medical Groups, Danish Medical Group, Amnesty International, 1979), as well as looking for psychological signs and symptoms due to torture. We distinguished between immediate signs and symptoms of physical as well as psychological type, signs and symptoms after torture, and signs and symptoms at time of examination. We used open-ended questions and a questionnaire based on our experience from examinations of torture victims from a number of other countries.

#### Results

##### 1. Types of torture

During the pilot mission, we were informed that electrical torture (picana), including electrical torture to the oral cavity, had been used in Argentina. The same applies to teléfono, which is blows to the external ears with cupped hands. We also know that many had been beaten on the head. Some had also been subjected to submarino, in which the head was forced into clean or dirty water and kept there for a long time, so that the victim inevitably had to inhale some of the water and usually feared being drowned. Dry submarino involves placing a plastic bag over the head, so the victim cannot breathe.

A list of the psychological and physical forms of torture is seen in Tables I-A and I-B (following pages).

##### 2. Signs and symptoms before torture, after torture and at time of examination

These findings are summarized in Tables II-A, II-B and II-C (see pp. 10-19).



TABLE I-A  
Psychological Forms of Torture

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sex	M	M	M	F	M	M	F	F	F	F	M	F	F	F
Age at time of examination	47	30	42	31	54	23	23	35	32	28	31	22	25	26
Length of internment	18 M	24 M	19 M	23 M	12 M	10 M	28 M	15 M	10 M	10 M	54 M	6 D	20 M	18 M
Isolation	5 D		9 M	4½ M	5 D		45 D				15 D		16 D	15 D
Blindfolded	5 D	X	1½ D	1 M		2 M	6 D	2 D	X	5 D	transp.	X	transp.	transp.
Threats	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Threats to family			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mock executions			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Humiliations			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Poor prison conditions	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
No trial	X	X	X	X	(X)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kidnapping						2 M		5 D	5 D	5 D	1 D			20 D
Sexual humiliations				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

D = days, M = months

Average age at time of examination: 32.0 years (men, 37.8 years; women, 27.8 years)

TABLE I-B  
Physical Forms of Torture

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Beatings to the head without tools		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Beatings to the head with tools					X			X			X	X	X	
Beatings to the body without tools	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Beatings to the body with tools		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kicking					X						X	X	X	X
Handcuffing or hands tied behind back	X	X	X	X	X	2 M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
General picana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Picana to teeth					X									
Picana to tongue, lips and gums					X									
Picana to neck and face					X				X	X				
Picana to breasts					X				X	X				
Picana to genitals					X				X	X				
Telefono					X									
Wet submarino					X									X
Dry submarino					X									X
Gagging					X					X		X		X
Poor-quality food	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Too little food	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Starvation					X					3 D	5 D	X		8 D
Burns					X									
Spraying with cold water	X									X	X	X		
Shots	X													
Strangling														X
Forced standing														X
Denied access to toilet														X
Too little fluid														X

H = hours, D = days, M = months



TABLE II-A

Signs and Symptoms before Torture	1	2	3	4	5	6
General signs and symptoms			sinusitis	tendency hay fever to anemia		
Gastrointestinal			gastritis		dyapepsia with achylia + constipation	
Urological	orchitis from mumps					
Cardiopulmonary vascular	bronchitis + asthma + pneumonia twice		transitory tachy- cardia once	precordial pain + SOB twice in connection with Caesarian section		
Locomotor	herniotomy dxt.		atrophy of infra- spinatus muscle from unknown cause			
Skin						
Nervous system and sensory organs	decreased hearing + tinnitus, esp. right side	concussion twice, periodic headache				periodic bitemporal headache
Infections and infestations	bronchitis pneumonia orchitis		sinusitis			
Gynecological						
Psychiatric				nightmares 3 times yearly		

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			SLE + thymectomy			fatigue		
			gastritis					
	nephritis	pyelo- nephritis			retentio testes			asthma + bronchitis
					haemop- tysis			
	left-sided mandibular fracture		joint pains incl. TM joints			back pain		
					daily headache after con- cussion, age 6-10			
	tonsil- litis	nephritis	pyelo- nephritis					bronchitis + tonsil- litis
	irregular periods + cramps		oligo- menorrhea					
		depression 1970			rather mild depression at 20 years of age			



TABLE II-B

Signs and Symptoms after Torture	1	2	3	4	5	6
General signs and symptoms: weight changes (kg)	-10	-35	-13	-6	-10	-10
Gastrointestinal		epigastric pain, heartburn, eructations, relief from food	gastritis	nausea, gall-bladder attack	increasing dyspepsia + constipation	nausea, epigastric pain
Urological	atrophy of testes				transitory stranguria	swelling of scrotum, tender testes, dysuria
Cardiopulmonary vascular	precordial pain for 3 days, asthma	tachycardia + SOB		precordial radiation to left arm + SOB	extra-systole + SOB	bronchitis twice
Locomotor	hernia sin. after coughing	neck pain in throat, stiffness of limbs, decreased muscle strength, tender back	joint pain	Tietze's syndrome		chest pain, pain in TM joints
Skin	scar after gunshot wound, nails ridged longitudinally, flat nails	burns on lips, bruises, electrode marks on fingers and neck	bruises, swelling of abdominal walls following blow by rifle butt, blue discoloration under curvature	hair loss	bruises	wounds and bruises all over

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	?	+8	-5	?	-12	0	+4	-6
	heartburn, abdominal pain, diarrhea	pain in epigastrium	gastritis	pain in epigastrium	heartburn + pain in epigastrium	nausea		swelling + burns (8 days) after picara, inability to eat due to swelling (20 days), bloating, constipation, colicky pains
	cough						difficulty in breathing	increasing SOB, worsening of bronchitis
	back pain	swelling of l. side of head, r. ear + l. shoulder with decreased movement + swelling of rib curv.			pain + decreased movement of legs	tender muscles, decreased strength	pains all over + tender muscles	swollen knees + impaired walking
	urticaria	peri-orbital swelling + wounds + bruises, perioral swelling	pain + swelling of nipples, vagina, soles of feet, groin, preauricularly r. side		hematomas + swelling of back, arms, legs + jaw			black pustules after electrode burns on face + in oral cavity, dry, scaly skin

(continued next page)



Signs and Symptoms  
after Torture (cont.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Nervous system and sensory organs	decreased vision + further decreased hearing	fronto-temporal headache, partially unconscious for 3 days, secretion from left ear + tinnitus, discoordination, difficulty in speaking, hoarseness		decreased sensibility of right thumb for 1 month	periodic headache for 1 month, attacks of dizziness, tingling in fingers	headache worse, blinded when no longer folded, decreased reading speed
Infections and infestations			fungus infection of l. foot	bronchitis twice, vaginal discharge	fungus infection of both feet, tooth abscess	lice
Gynecological				amenorrhea for 3 months followed by metrorrhagia for 1 month, vaginal discharge for 2 months		
Psychiatric	insecure, scared, sweating, feeling of impotence, lost will to live	moodiness, restlessness, sleep disturbances, withdrawn, sensitivity to noise, nightmares	passive death wish, fear, loss of orientation	attacks of rage, moodiness, tendency to depression, impaired memory, decreased survival wish, nightmares, loss of orientation	visual and auditory hallucinations, depression, death wish, suicide attempt, impaired memory, decreased ability to concentrate, anxiety	

7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
tires easily when reading, disturbed sensitivity in both hands	headache	headache	decreased hearing on r. side for days	paraesthesia of thighs	dizziness	headache, pressure behind eyes, photophobia	headache
amenorrhea for 13 months, later irregular periods		amenorrhea for 10 months	amenorrhea for 2 months			amenorrhea for 6 months	menorrhagia, then amenorrhea for 3 months + vulvitis
difficulty in concentrating, fear, low mood, insecure, nightmares	sleep disturbances, nightmares	felt it happened to somebody else, reduced ability to concentrate, in different sleep disturbances, nightmares	sleep disturbances, night-mares, contact problems, fear, feeling of being mentally "thick," restlessness, inability to concentrate, anxiety	tension, depression, sleep disturbances, night-mares, a feeling of being mentally "thick," restlessness, inability to concentrate, anxiety	loss of orientation, anxiety	difficulty in sleeping, nightmares, anxiety attacks, felt emotionally "flat," hallucinations	



TABLE II-C

Signs and Symptoms  
at Time of  
Examination

	1	2	3	4	5	6
General	fatigue				fatigue	
Gastrointestinal		heartburn, eructations, epigastric pain, relief from food			dyspepsia, gastritis constipation	
Urological	atrophy of testes			recurrent cystitis		
Cardiopulmonary vascular	enlarged lungs + rhonchi	attacks of tachycardia		tachycardia + SOB on exertion	extra-systoly + sensations in both calves and feet on walking	extra-systoly
Locomotor	hernia sin.		hernia	Tietze		
Skin	scar after gunshot wound, nails and ridged longitudinally	scaly skin, brittle flat nails, onycholysis, perlèche, diffuse hair loss		hair loss, onycholysis of toenails		
Nervous system and sensory organs	still decreased vision + decrease in hearing	fronto-temporal headache, vision problems, greatly decreased hearing			attacks of dizziness, headaches	worse headache, decreased reading speed, cerebral asthenopia

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	fatigue							
		pain in epigastrium	gastritis					constipation, bloatedness, colicky pain
		tenderness left renal region			retention testes			
						productive cough once a month with SOB + pressure in chest	difficulty breathing	asthma
	sinistro-convex scoliosis in lumbar spine	tender neck muscles + decreased movement of left shoulder	pain in r. shoulder joint + in joints + muscles, tenderness of thoracic spine + fixed thoracic spine on side motion			cramp pain in both legs with decreased strength		back pain + pain in left knee, sometimes with swelling
	depigmentation of back (acne?)	bilateral external otitis, abdominal edema of both legs with hyperpigmentation	depigmentation of lower eyelid corresponding to electrode site, typical SLE, changes in face					
	tires easily when reading, cerebral asthenopia, paraesthesias both hands	headache		slightly decreased hearing + tinnitus, headache	paraesthesias both thighs	dizziness worse when changing posture	cerebral asthenopia	daily bilateral fronto-temporal headache

(continued next page)

Signs and Symptoms  
at Time of  
Examination (cont.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Infections and infestations	bronchitis			recurring cystitis		
Gynecological				pregnant		
Psychiatric	tires easily	difficulty in concentrating, impaired memory, disturbed sleep, night-mares, depression, fears, anxiety, restlessness	night-mares, withdrawn, moodiness	night-mares 3 times a year, irritable, shouting, erectatic, nailbiting	lost faith in future, feels old, severely depressed, in periods with specific suicidal thoughts, sleep disturbances, night-mares, poor contact with surroundings, loss of spare-time activities, restlessness, anxiety upon contact with sirens or police	poor affect control (street fighting), irritable, less confident, transitory ejaculatory, impaired memory, impaired ability to concentrate

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		bilateral external otitis						
			irregular periods					
	moody, distrustful, difficulty in concentrating, dysphoria	sleep disturbances, nightmares	attacks of night-mares, sleep disturbances, nightmares	periodic fear, anxiety, depression	anxiety attacks, nightmares	nightmares	depression, anxiety attacks	





TABLE III-C

Dental Signs and Symptoms at Time of Examination	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Headache (spontaneous)		X			X	X		X	X	X				X
Headache (provoked)		X			X	X		X	X	X				X
Pain in temporo-mandibular joints									X	X				
Pain on opening the mouth wide									X	X				
Restricted range of motion									X	X				
Caries requiring treatment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Toothache					X					X				
Need for root treatment (subjective)				X		X				X				X
Discharge of pus									X					
Lost teeth		X		X	X	X								X
Loosened teeth					X			X						
Gingivitis (subjective)				X	X									
Gingivitis (objective)	X					X		X						
Pouches exceeding 3 mm	X	X			X	X		X						
Negative papillae		X						X						
Broken teeth:														
Enamel fracture		X								X				
Dentin fracture		X								X				
Complex fracture														
Root left behind										X				

In an attempt to condense Tables IIA, IIB and IIC, we have looked at the number of complaints from the different organ systems before torture, after torture and at time of examination. The results are summarized in Table IV (see following page).

TABLE IV  
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS  
FROM DIFFERENT ORGAN SYSTEMS

	Before Torture	After Torture	At Time of Examination
Gastrointestinal	3	12	6
Urological	4	3	4
Cardiovascular	5	7	8
Locomotor	5	11	8
Skin	0	11	6
Nervous system and sensory organs	4	14	11
Infections	6	4	3
Gynecological (8 women)	2	6	1
Psychiatric	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>
TOTAL	32	80	61

To further illustrate complaints from different organ systems, we have also looked at the gastrointestinal system, the skin and psychiatric signs and symptoms before and after torture and at time of examination. The results are summarized in Tables V-A, V-B and V-C.

TABLE V-A  
NUMBER OF GASTROINTESTINAL SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

	Before Torture	After Torture	At Time of Examination
Pain in epigastrium, heartburn	3	9	5
Nausea	0	3	0
Constipation	1	2	1
Diarrhea	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	4	15	6



TABLE V-B  
NUMBER OF SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF THE SKIN

	Before Torture	After Torture	At Time of Examination
Bruises	0	7	0
Wounds (trauma)	0	3	0
Swelling, haemata	0	5	0
Scars	0	1	1
Hair loss	0	1	2
Depigmentation	0	0	2
Burns (electrode)	0	?	0
TOTAL	0	17	5

Comment: Eight individuals were subjected to picana. Six of them were blindfolded during and after the picana and were therefore unable to determine whether they had any electrode burns or not. Among the two persons not blindfolded, one stated that there were no burns, while the second had extensive burns following the picana.

TABLE V-C  
NUMBER OF PSYCHIATRIC SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

	Before Torture	After Torture	At Time of Examination
Inability to concentrate	0	5	4
Impaired memory	0	2	2
Sleep disturbances	0	7	4
Nightmares	1	8	9
Hallucinations	0	2	0
Loss of orientation	0	3	0
Fear, anxiety	0	7	6
Depression	2	3	5
Death wish	0	4	1
TOTAL	3	41	31

3. Sequelae which should be further investigated and possibly treated

These findings are summarized in Tables VI-A and VI-B (see following pages).

TABLE VI-A  
SEQUELAE WHICH SHOULD BE FURTHER INVESTIGATED AND POSSIBLY TREATED

Number of Interviewees	Symptom(s)
1	Markedly decreased hearing in both ears Bronchitis Decreased vision Hernia
2	Bilateral severe hearing loss Gastritis Headache
3	Hernia
4	Tachycardia and shortness of breath on exertion Tietze syndrome Repeated infections of the urinary tract
5	Extrasystoly Claudication Dizziness Headache Dyspepsia and constipation
6	Bitemporal headache Extrasystoly Muscle spasms Gastritis
7	Scoliosis
8	Gastritis Tender neck muscles and decreased movement of the left shoulder Bilateral external otitis Edema of both legs with hyperpigmentation Headache
9	Gastritis Pain in right shoulder joint, other joints and muscles, tenderness of thoracic spine and fixed thoracic spine on side motion Irregular periods SLE
10	Decreased hearing and tinnitus Headache
11	Hemoptysis and shortness of breath on exertion Cryptorcism
12	Bronchitis Low hemoglobin, high blood pressure Crampy pain in both legs with reduced strength Dizziness
13	Respiratory system
14	Constipation, bloatedness, colicky pain Asthma Back pain Pain in left knee, sometimes with swelling Daily frontotemporal headache

TABLE VI-B  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DENTAL TREATMENT

Number of Interviewee	Symptom(s)
1	Depuration and ordinary treatment of caries
2	Depuration and ordinary treatment of caries
3	Depuration and ordinary treatment of caries
4	Depuration and ordinary treatment of caries as well as root treatment of 12
5	New dentures with balanced occlusion and articulation
6	Treatment of serious odontogenic headaches
7	Root treatment of 37
8	Treatment of odontogenic headaches and caries
9	Removal of a root left behind after extraction, region 12. Treatment of pain in temporo-mandibular joints and of the restricted range of movement in these joints, as well as of myositis in the masticatory muscles. Ordinary treatment of caries.
10	Treatment of the dysfunction in the temporo-mandibular joints and of myositis in the masticatory muscles. Root treatment of 37 and ordinary treatment of caries.
11	Depuration and ordinary treatment of caries
12	No abnormalities
13	No abnormalities
14	Treatment of odontogenic headaches. Depuration and ordinary treatment of caries, as well as root treatment of 12.

4. Legal problems

None of the 14 individuals examined had received a written arrest warrant, and most arrests took place in a violent fashion and were carried out by plainclothesmen or uniformed members of the military or police. Five out of the 14 were kidnapped (i.e., their arrests were unofficial and kept secret from the public) for a period of time varying between a few days and two months, following which they were transferred to police stations and recognized as political prisoners. Few of the 14 had, during their imprisonment, been tried in court. One had participated in a mock trial without a lawyer, and one was tried with access to a lawyer 28 months after her arrest, after which she was released. One was found not guilty in a trial 14 months after his arrest but was not released until he had spent an additional 40 months in prison.

Two out of the 14 had been released and then had voluntarily left for Italy. the rest had their imprisonment converted to exile according to the new and stricter decree of right of option of September 1977. Frequently, several applications were made, at six-month intervals.

Many of the prisoners were transferred on very short notice from one prison to another, and, in spite of overlapping--particularly for the women in Villa Devoto--the 14 persons examined had been in a total of more than 50 prisons.

5. Social problems in exile

Table VII lists the previous occupations in Argentina before arrest and the present occupations after exile to Italy. It is characteristic that the majority of the individuals examined were at a definitely lower socio-economic level in Italy than they had been in Argentina. Those without Italian citizenship had residency permits but not work permits and were therefore forced to take illegal jobs, which were frequently poorly paid.

TABLE VII  
PREVIOUS AND PRESENT OCCUPATIONS

Code no.	Sex	Age	Italian Citizenship	Previous Occupation	Present Occupation
1	M	47	-	Mechanic	Mechanic
2	M	30	+	Teacher of literature	Bookbinding work
3	M	42	+	Degree in economics	Warehouse work
4	F	31	-	Housewife	Charwoman
5	M	54	-	Parson	Priest
6	M	23	+	Student of economics	Student of economics
7	F	23	-	Student of economics	Charwoman
8	F	35	-	Factory worker	Charwoman
9	F	32	+	Degree in literature	Printshop work
10	F	28	+	Psychologist	Technical assistant at a theater
11	M	31	+	Physician	Unemployed
12	F	22	-	Finished high school	Street vendor (artisan)
13	F	25	-	University degree in mathematics	Casual worker
14	F	26	-	Secretary	Secretary



#### 6. Discussion

When discussing the findings from the examinations of these 14 individuals, it should be remembered that those who were examined by us were all survivors. It should also be remembered that severely tortured persons, to our knowledge, were not allowed to leave Argentina. It was characteristic that the initial phase of the torture took place during interrogation, most commonly in police stations. This was followed by imprisonment under poor conditions, conditions which were generally much worse than those of criminal prisoners.

It should be noted that, besides the specific types of psychological torture listed in Table I-A, some very basic things were common to all the individuals. They were all very afraid and feared for their lives, as well as for their families. The future was--and is--extremely uncertain, and they all wondered whether they would survive, when they would get out of prison, and what was happening to their families in the meantime. These factors, of course, all constitute major psychological pressure on the individual.

Among the psychological forms of torture, threats, blindfolding, humiliations and isolation were common to most of the individuals examined. They all were exposed to poor prison conditions. Among the physical forms of torture, beatings to the head and body without tools, handcuffing--often for prolonged periods of time--and too little and poor-quality food were common to most of them. Seven of them had been subjected to some form of electrical torture (picana). Three of them had been subjected to teléfono, one of them to a severe degree, leaving him with a severe hearing loss.

When looking at the signs and symptoms in Table IV, it is obvious that the frequency of complaints regarding different organ systems rose significantly after torture, as compared with before torture. This is even more marked when the length of time over which the individuals might have had complaints from different organ systems prior to torture is compared with the relatively short time span after torture. Furthermore, even at the time of examination, months after release, there was a much higher incidence of complaints from different organ systems than had been the case before torture.

Immediately after torture, the complaints were most marked from the gastrointestinal system, the locomotor system, the skin, the nervous system, including the sensory apparatus, and the gynecological system in the women,

as well as mental symptoms. It can be seen in Table IV that the psychiatric symptoms in particular remained and increased during the time following torture. These symptoms are detailed in Tables II-A, II-B and II-C.

At the time of examination, all the individual examined had psychiatric symptoms which warranted further examination and possibly treatment. These symptoms most frequently were difficulty in concentrating, nightmares, emotional withdrawal, irritability, lack of control of affect, sleeping disturbances, anxiety and changing moods. Many of the patients with odontogenic headaches should have therapy directed at their psychiatric symptoms as well.

The signs and symptoms were similar to what we have found in our examinations of torture victims from other countries. On the basis of our examinations, we are convinced that the individuals examined were tortured as described.

#### Treatment

Our earlier studies have predominantly been descriptive. We feel we now have a clear picture of the sequelae to torture and can begin to organize treatment of these. The psychiatric symptoms are the most important but the most difficult to treat; they should have priority, if possible.

Concerning the treatment of these persons, we have established contact with physicians at the University of Rome, who have offered their help in treatment. Victims Nos. 9 and 10 have already received dental treatment and physiotherapy in Denmark.

We would like to encourage other medical groups to do the same kind of study, and hope that this study will help to improve the quality of life for the individuals examined.

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INDIVIDUAL REPORTS ON  
14 ARGENTINIAN TORTURE VICTIMS



Name: ARG 1

Age: 47

Nationality: Argentinian

Sex: M

Occupation: Toolmaker

Marital status: Married

Date and place of examination: 5 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome

Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Jørgen Kelstrup, dentist Pia Marstrand

Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach

Report by: Jørgen Kelstrup

Short Presentation

After the authorities had tried to arrest him once, this man went underground for 10 months. After the military coup, he turned himself in, thinking he would be safe, but instead he was arrested and imprisoned in four different prisons for a total of a year and a half, after which he was deported to Italy.

Background

His parents died when he was 4 years old, and he was brought up by a very strict aunt until the age of 14, when he began to look after himself. He has one brother. He worked as a farm hand until he was 17, during which time he was given enough food but meals were often far between. He went to public school for nine years and later continued at night school, where he obtained his technical training.

Due to illness, he was given disability compensation by the government (see below), but this was taken away when he was arrested. At present, it is difficult for him to manage financially, and he therefore works weekends. While still in Argentina, he was active in his union and in politics (communist), but he is not particularly involved in these things now.

He was married in 1962 and has a 10-year-old daughter. His family has just arrived in Italy, where he has been living for the past year and a half. They have just acquired a house and are to move there soon.

Previous State of Health and Illnesses

Between the ages of 4 and 14, he contracted pneumonia twice. Since that

time, he has had bronchitis and recurring asthma, but he does not take any medication for these. He has never had a trauma to the head. In 1965, he had an operation for a hernia on the right side, which was repeated a month later.

He had worked at the Renault factory in Córdoba, but when his hearing began to deteriorate, with accompanying tinnitus, he was declared unfit for work and in 1973 was retired on a disability pension. The diagnosis was made by an ENT specialist, and he was not hospitalized.

In 1974, he had mumps with orchitis.

Present medications: Occasional use of a bronchodilator

Alcohol intake: Small

Use of tobacco: 0

#### Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

One night, 15 plainclothes policemen came to his house. He fled, and they fired after him. One bullet hit him near the base of the right thumb. The police took all the money in the house and threatened his wife, in addition to which they stole his car, which he only got back two years later. He lived underground for 10 months, far from home. In April 1976, after the military coup, he turned himself in so as to clear his record, but he was unexpectedly arrested and taken to a secret camp, Campo de Rivera. During his five-day stay there, he was blindfolded, and occasionally his hands were bound, but not tightly. He was kept in solitary confinement and fed almost nothing but was not subjected to any particular physical violence. Interrogation sessions, which took place in another office, lasted about 10 minutes each. In the beginning, he was threatened with execution, but he feels on the whole he was well-treated.

After this, he was jailed in four different prisons for a total of about a year and a half, in conditions which were very poor. During that time, he was punished by being hosed down with ice-cold water and having the ventilation turned on him afterwards, as well as by repeated beatings. The prisoner himself, however, does not regard this as torture. Under detailed questioning, he stated he did not feel he had been treated particularly badly, and he felt he had been helped spiritually by being with the other prisoners. This feeling was no doubt bolstered by his intense religiosity, which in turn was encouraged by the circumstances in which he

found himself. During his stay in prison, he missed his daughter, but this feeling gradually subsided, and he did not miss his wife very much at any point. As he felt strong in his religion, he was not afraid to die. On the whole, he views his entire period of imprisonment, together with the forms of torture mentioned above, as a positive experience.

#### The Individual Prisons

Córdoba Prison (April-December 1976): In April 1976, he was transferred from the police headquarters to Córdoba Prison, the old local jail, where he remained until December 1976. There were about 250 prisoners per cell block, divided into 10 to 15 prisoners each in cells measuring about 4 x 4 m. It was very cold. There were no beds, but each prisoner had a blanket. There was a single overhead light bulb, which was turned off at 10 p.m. The sanitary facilities consisted of one sink per 250 prisoners, and very often there was no water. There were no opportunities to work. The prisoners were given little food and almost no meat, and all the food was of very poor quality. During this time, this man lost 10 kg. On the whole, the prison personnel behaved decently towards the prisoners. No visitors were allowed, but a doctor could be seen on request. This individual's asthma became worse while he was in prison, but he was not treated for it.

Sierra Chica Prison (December 1976-August 1977): In December 1976, he was transferred to Sierra Chica Prison in Buenos Aires Province, where he remained until August 1977. This prison was better: prisoners could have money sent to them and buy extra food. They were also allowed outdoors for an hour each day. There were approximately 1000 prisoners in all, but only two prisoners to a cell. Each cell was equipped with only one bed, which the prisoners took turns using, but there were three blankets per prisoner. The block this prisoner was in contained only political prisoners. It was very cold, and light was provided by a light bulb which was turned off at night. Each cell was equipped with a sink. The food was not particularly good, but, as previously mentioned, it was possible to buy extra.

La Plata Penitentiary (August-September 1977): This prison, which holds about 1000 prisoners, is in the lowest category of prisons. Talking was not allowed during recreation periods and was punished by beatings. This prisoner was put into a punishment cell many times for similar minor



offenses. Here he was hosed down with ice-cold water, after which the ventilation system was turned on. His bronchitis, however, did not become worse. There were two men in each cell and a bed for each of them. It was very cold, and the food was poor. The prison personnel were unpleasant and arbitrary, and the ground rules changed almost daily.

Caseros Penitentiary (September-October 1977): This camp, which was a sort of transfer camp, was run very loosely. The prisoners lived in a single large room and were allowed visitors. This man remained there until his exile to Italy in September 1977.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

The first three days after he was tortured, he had periodic precordial pain, especially at night, but this disappeared spontaneously and there was no radiation of the pain. While in prison, he suffered from violent coughing fits, which caused a hernia in the left groin. This has never been incarcerated and has never bothered him so much that he has seen a doctor for it.

At one point, his right arm was twisted hard, and his right elbow hurt for a while, but the pain later disappeared.

#### General State of Health in Prison

As previously mentioned, this prisoner had bronchitis, but it did not become much worse during his stay in prison. His hearing, as mentioned, deteriorated noticeably while he was in prison.

#### Family Situation

His wife and daughter have just arrived in Italy, having been separated from him for a year and a half on top of his year and a half in prison. The family has just bought a house and will move in soon.

#### Charge and Trial

He was never formally charged and never brought before a judge.

#### Present Symptoms

There is still a hernia in his left groin. He is tired after work and

goes to bed about 10 p.m. He feels his sight became worse during his stay in prison, and he now has to wear reading glasses. He becomes tired after reading for about half an hour, but there are no symptoms which might indicate cerebral asthenopia. His hearing has also become worse, but there has been no discharge from the ears. He feels his memory is better than it was before. He has not noticed any personality changes in himself either just after arrest, while in prison, or at any later time.

#### Physical Examination

Height: 178 cm    Weight: 80 kg    BP: 130/85    P: 68

General physical condition: Good. Nutritional state average.

General mental condition: This individual cooperated well, and his attitude towards our examination was positive. He is well-oriented and has a good memory, and there is no reason to suspect intellectual reduction. His ability to understand and concentrate is good, but he is somewhat narrow-minded, especially about his religious experiences. His voice modulation is normal, and there are no indications of hallucinations or paranoia. His facial expressions and gestures are normal, as was his communication with the interviewer, and there were no indications of anxiety or phobias. One wonders how much his religious attitudes are attributable to obsessive thoughts. He revealed no tendency to hypochondria.

Skin: There is a 1½-x-1½-cm scar near the base of the right thumb and a 3-cm-long scar running along the thenar.

Cranium: Normal.

Eyes: There is slight conjunctivitis.

Ears: Normal.

Otoscapy: Normal.

Spine: Normal.

Thorax: Normal.

Auscultation of the heart and lungs: Enlarged lungs and sibilant rhonchi were found. There was, however, no crepitation, and no pleuritic sounds.

Abdomen: There is a scar resulting from a herniotomy on the right side and an inguino-scrotal hernia on the left side.

Genitalia: The left testicle is normal, but the right one is atrophied.

Extremities: We found hypertrophy of bone and skin, especially at the proximal inner and outer phalangeal joints. The nails are flat and ridged longitudinally. There are no lunula and no onycholysis. There was no pulse in the dorsal arteries of the feet, but there was a pulse in the posterior tibial arteries. There is a loss of the auxiliary structures of both legs, but no change in temperature. Both feet are flat, especially towards the front, and there is relatively hyperemia of both feet with delayed filling of the capillaries, especially of the right foot.

Neurology: The triceps reflex on both sides is slightly weak, and there is slight dyscoordination. Otherwise normal.

Examination for cerebral asthenopia: Nothing abnormal.

Audiometry: There is a distinct loss of hearing in both ears with air conduction worse than bone conduction, probably indicating a primarily conductive hearing loss.

Dental examination: See attached report.

#### Summary and Conclusion

This is a 47-year-old man who was arrested and interned in four different prisons for a total of 1½ years, following which he was exiled to Italy. He was isolated for five days--blindfolded the entire time--threatened, beaten on the body and handcuffed. He was not tried. Prison conditions were poor, and the food in the prison was sparse and of poor quality. While in prison, he was punished by being sprayed with cold water.

During imprisonment, he lost 12 kg and developed a hernia from coughing. He had three days of precordial pains and felt that his already impaired hearing had become worse. In addition, he had difficulties reading. He now complains of fatigue, decreased hearing, and decreased vision, as well as bronchitis.

This man was unusual in that, in spite of the fact that he clearly had been tortured, he himself did not feel that he had been, and he saw his stay in the various prisons and his sufferings in prison as an altogether positive experience.

We will arrange for this man to be examined at the university hearing clinic and possibly treated there for his hearing loss.

#### DENTAL REPORT--ARG 1

##### History Taken for Dental Record

Prior to his arrest, the subject had consulted a dentist to have aching teeth extracted. Had regularly, but not daily, brushed his teeth all his life. Periodically, he had "brushed" with salt on a finger.

##### Symptoms before Arrest

Pain in temporo-mandibular joints, possibly derived from the ear.

##### Torture

Beaten on the head with the flat of the hand, rubber truncheons and pieces of wood. No blows to the mouth.

##### Stay in Prison

The food was very poor and lacking in vitamins. This man developed fissures in the lips and corners of the mouth, as well as loose, "floppy" gingiva. His tongue became smooth because of the poor diet, but when the diet improved the symptoms subsided in the course of a month or so.

##### Present Condition

There are no symptoms in the teeth, gingiva, temporo-mandibular joints or masticatory muscles.

##### Physical Examination

Extraorally: Nothing abnormal.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: No signs. He could open his mouth normally.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: Nothing abnormal. Gingiva: Inflamed, plaque, dental calculus, pouches 3-5mm deep. No loosened teeth.

Teeth: Some rather acute caries. Some teeth are filled, and some are missing.

Pulp: Not vitality-tested.

X-rays: Not done.



Conclusions

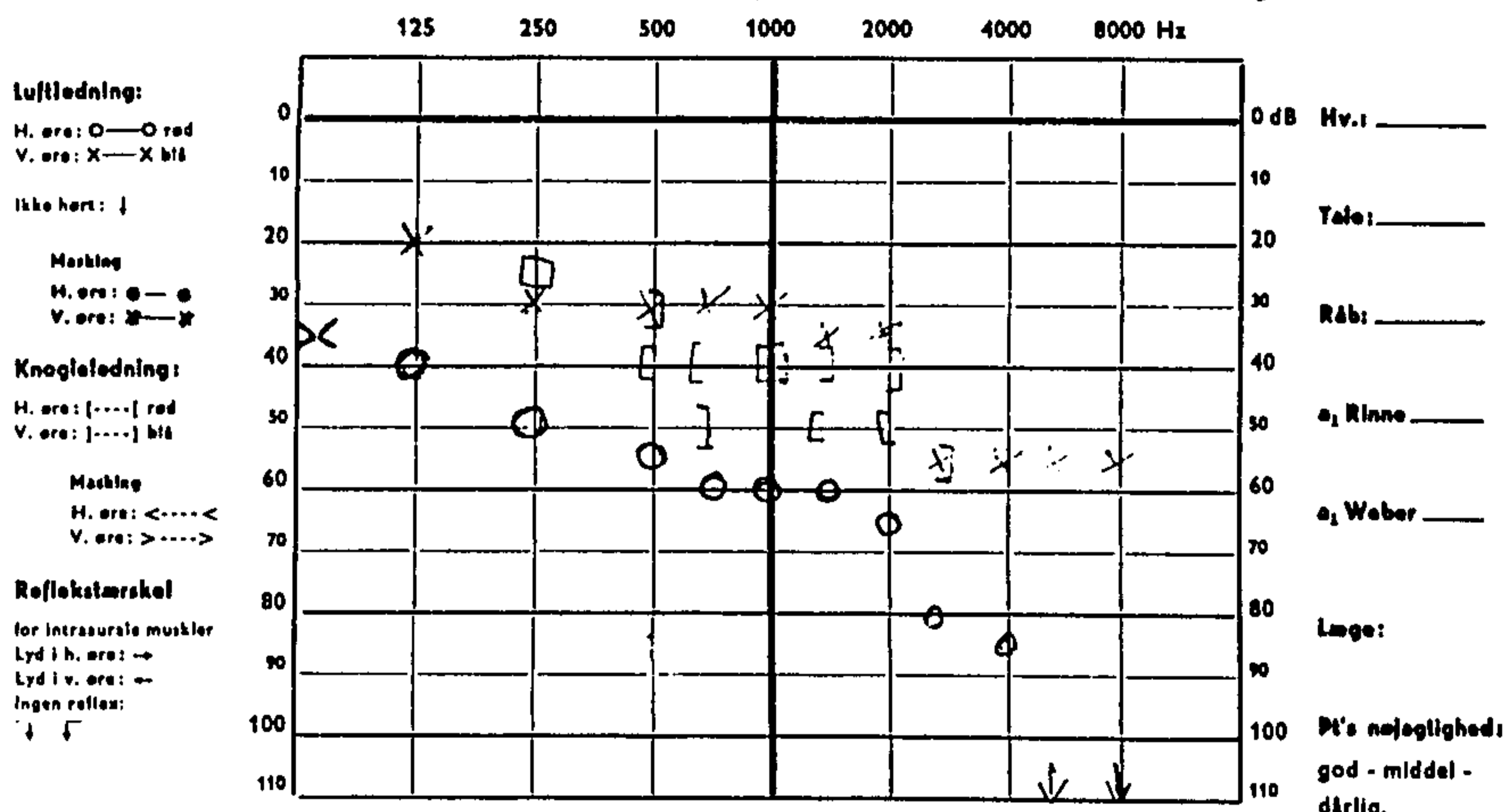
This man's dental state is characterized by sporadic cleaning and sporadic treatment. As the patient is feeling well and felt well while in prison, there is no muscular tension, subjectively or objectively. The rhagades, papillary atrophy and gingivitis which the patient reported are believed to be due to vitamin deficiency combined with iron deficiency.

Recommended Treatment

Ordinary depuration and treatment of the caries.

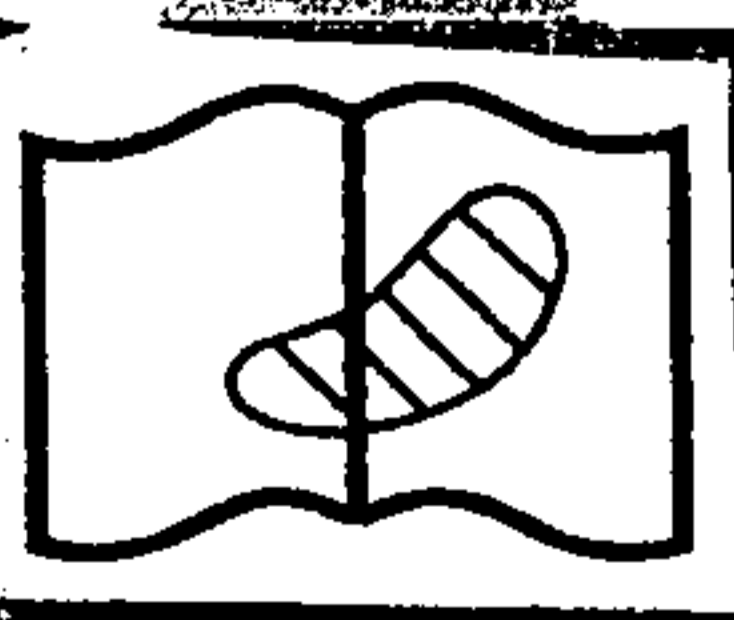
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Toneaudiometri d. Lydrum: Undersøger:



**Taleaudiometri**

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Tone decay	h	dB	sek.						
2000 Hz	v	dB	sek.						
Bemærkninger									



Name: ARG 2

Age: 30

Nationality: Argentinian

Sex: M

Occupation: Bookbinder

Marital status: Unmarried

Date and place of examination: 5 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome

Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Jørgen Kelstrup, dentist Pia Marstrand

Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach

Report by: Henning Beck

Short Presentation

This is a 30-year-old unmarried man who has a university degree in literature and who worked in Argentina as an adult education teacher. He was arrested in the town of Neuquen one evening in March 1976, just before the military coup. He was subjected to torture at the Neuquen police station and subsequently held prisoner in Neuquen, Rawson and Caseros prisons. He was released from Caseros Prison in February 1978. He now lives in Italy and, owing to the fact that his grandfather was Italian, has become an Italian citizen. He works as a bookbinder at the Vatican press. He is not involved in any political activities and has no political affiliation.

Background

He grew up in Neuquen, Argentina, the eldest of three children. His parents are farm workers and very poor, and his father is functionally illiterate. This man also worked on the land from the time he was quite small, until he left home at the age of 17 and began to work as a teacher. He started at university in 1971.

Previous State of Health and Illnesses

While still quite young, he was involved in several minor accidents while working in the fields. He lost consciousness twice, which could be ascribed to a concussion occurring when he was involved in a work accident at 10 years of age. Since that time, he has had occasional head pains and periodic headaches.

Present medications: 0

Alcohol intake: Small

Use of tobacco: Moderate

Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

He was visiting some friends who were wanted by the police. The door of the apartment was forced open, and everyone present was beaten, then forced at gunpoint to lie on the floor. They were driven in a closed car to the local federal police station. During the interrogation at the police station, this man was asked for the names of politically active persons and was subjected to blows with the fists to his face, back and hips. He was also beaten on the feet, but not on the soles of the feet, subjected to teléfono and punched with brass knuckles. He was subjected to wet submarino, during which his head was dunked into a pail of clean water, and dry submarino, a plastic bag pulled over his head. During the latter, he felt as though he were suffocating and nearly lost consciousness. His torturers could not get the bag off his head, so they burnt an air hole in it with a cigarette. He recognized several of his torturers.

After the first day, he was transferred to Neuquen Prison, where he was examined by the prison doctor. This doctor wrote a statement to the effect that the prisoner's torture sequelae had not been caused by torture in prison. This prisoner was allowed to make a statement to a judge, but after that the case was closed.

Thirteen days later, he was taken back to the federal police station. Here he was beaten for a couple of hours, and electric current was applied to his handcuffs. After this, he was interrogated for several hours. The police tried to force him to sign a false statement that he was a member of Montenegros, a forbidden Peronist organization. He was subjected to electrical torture with electrodes placed on his temples, throat, back of the neck, fingers and a number of other places on his body. As the personnel administering the shocks were unfamiliar with the particular apparatus being used, the current was frequently set too high, and he lost consciousness several times. At one point, he fell forward in a spasm and hit his forehead on the floor. The electrical torture to the throat was very painful and was followed by hoarseness and difficulty in speaking, as well as pain. In addition, he was subjected to torture with metal electrodes on his tongue, teeth and gums, especially in the lower jaw. During this torture, he involuntarily bit down on the electrode a number of times, so



that several teeth were damaged. The electrode broke, and the torture was continued with the bare electric cable. In addition, this prisoner was subjected to electrical torture to the auditory canals, which produced a screeching sound, like a dental drill, in his ears. He was transferred to Neuquen Prison in very poor condition, half-unconscious, his mouth swollen and bruised all over from the blows he had received. After this, he was not subjected to any more physical torture.

After six months in Neuquen Prison, he was transferred to Rawson Prison by plane. The prisoners were handcuffed to the floor and forced to bend forward over the airplane seats. During the flight, they were hit on the back, and a number of them lost consciousness. Also during this flight, this prisoner was wounded on the left knee.

#### The Individual Prisons

Neuquen Prison (March-September 1976): This is a very old prison divided into six cell blocks, which are used for both criminal and political prisoners, the political prisoners being kept in a special cell block containing approximately 40 persons. The cells measured approximately 6 x 4 m and contained four to five prisoners each. The cells were always cold. The furniture consisted solely of wooden cots. There was a single electric light bulb in the wall, which was turned off at 10 p.m. The food was acceptable, and the prisoners' relationships with the prison guards, who were known by most of them, were good. Prisoners were allowed visitors, in this prisoner's case five times in 60 days. It was possible to consult the prison doctor.

Rawson Prison (September 1976-January 1978): Rawson is a high-security prison on the Atlantic coast of southern Argentina. As mentioned above, the prisoners were flown there and beaten on their backs with rubber truncheons during the flight.

The security arrangements in the prison were tightened after a major breakout in 1972. The prison consisted of six cell blocks, each with 42 low-ceilinged one-man cells. Each cell was equipped with an iron cot with a mattress, a cupboard and a small iron table bolted to the wall. There were no toilets in the cells. There was one window, which was seldom opened, measuring approximately 30 x 30 cm. In this cell block, there were only political prisoners. The prisoners spent 15 hours of each day

alone in their cells; they were allowed to spend eight hours in a common room with the other prisoners, and one hour was allocated to outdoor recreation in a courtyard measuring 4 x 40 m.

Medical help was available, but very few prisoners took advantage of it, as it was most unsatisfactory and several prisoners had died while under the doctor's care.

The food was meager and unsatisfactory with regard to nutritional quality, largely consisting of rice, spachetti, lentils and beans. The only time the prisoners were given meat was when the Red Cross came to inspect the prison.

There was no organized torture of the prisoners, but they were frequently punished for pretended infringements of the rules. The prison guards insulted and ridiculed the prisoners, who were never sure what the rules of the day actually were, as they changed constantly. Occasionally, the prisoners were subjected to medical and nutritional experimentation, such as feeding them nothing but rice for an entire month to see if this would break down their resistance.

At the end of 1977, the Argentinian navy carried out a mock attack on the prison, probably a navy maneuver, which considerably heightened the prisoners' level of anxiety.

The prisoners were allowed to write letters, but these often were not sent out, and they were always censored. In addition, the prison authorities often obstructed visits by the prisoners' families. The families were questioned closely and insulted by the prison personnel, and prisoners' conversations with their families were conducted through glass panes about 30 x 30 cm in size. This individual was allowed a total of five visits, separated by about six weeks each. Prisoners' relatives were often misled by the prison authorities as to the whereabouts of the prisoners, sometimes being told they had been released or transferred to other prisons.

Caseros Prison (January-February 1978): At the time, this was a transfer prison where political prisoners were prepared for release and exile. Prison conditions are generally good, as the goal is to improve the prisoners' state of health and erase all traces of torture.

When the prisoners were transferred to Caseros, they were bound and hooded, then rolled in blankets. At Caseros, the prisoners were given more food

than before, and their families, who were free to visit them whenever they liked, could also bring them food. This prisoner gained 10 kg in one month. A military hospital was affiliated with the prison.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

During both the wet and dry submarino, this prisoner felt as though he were about to lose consciousness and also as though his head was growing larger. He thinks he was burned on the lip when the prison guard made an airhole in the plastic bag with a cigarette, and he bit both his tongue and cheek during torture. His back was bruised and tender after being beaten. There was also some secretion from the left ear after the teléfono.

After the electrical torture, he had difficulty in coordinating his movements and states he spent several days in a state somewhere between sleep and waking. He had severe pains in his throat, as well as hoarseness and difficulty in talking, but no definite stridor. Later on, he had some difficulties in breathing. He thinks the electrodes left marks, possibly red, on his fingers and neck, but no blisters (he was hooded). These left no scars.

After the teléfono, he did not immediately notice any hearing loss, but a low-frequency, pulsating tinnitus developed. He experienced no balance disturbances, and no dizziness.

Immediately after the torture sessions, he had periodic episodes of strong, but regular, tachycardia. There was no polyuria and no dyspnea. During the next few days, he had heartburn, eructations, and epigastric pain, which were relieved by eating. His stools were light-colored and of changing consistency.

He had severe neck pains and stiffness in his arms and legs, and he felt his muscles were weaker than they had been before.

After being tortured, he developed a continuous frontotemporal headache which varied in intensity for no apparent reason and was accompanied by vision problems and difficulty in reading. When he tried to read, the letters on the page appeared to be of different sizes, and he was often forced to stop reading after a short time. In addition, his ability to concentrate and his memory were not as good as before, especially when he had a headache. After being tortured, he was in a stupor, which was broken by periods of restlessness. He slept fitfully and during periods had

nightmares every night, as well as fears for his future. He did not have any hallucinations.

#### Knowledge of Other Forms of Torture

Two other methods he is aware of are being hung up with the hands tied behind the back and parilla, a form of torture in which a prisoner is bound in a stretched-out position to an iron bed and subjected to torture. There is often a doctor present at the latter.

In addition, he says the prisoners were divided into three groups: the "whites," who told all, the "greys," who broke down and talked under torture, and the "blacks," who wouldn't give any information at all and who frequently died under torture. He has also talked to prisoners who were able to escape and who have told him about torture in which arms and legs were cut off and eyes gouged out.

He also knows of two prisoners who died in prison: Jorge Vallenberg and a prisoner called Amaya, who was reportedly killed at Bahia Bianca Prison.

(This case was previously described in Report of an Amnesty International Mission to Argentina, 6-15 November 1976.)

#### General State of Health in Prison

During his stay in prison, especially while in Rawson, this prisoner, like most of the others, developed dry, flaky skin. His nails were brittle with a tendency to onycholysis and split easily. In addition, cracks formed at the corners of his mouth, and his hair began to fall out. His weight fell from 80 to 45 kg. When he was transferred to Caseros, he weighed only 48 kg, and while at Caseros he gained 10 kg in one month. After his release, his weight increased to 90 kg.

#### Family Situation

His family has not been subjected to reprisals, imprisonment or torture. They did, however, find it difficult to locate him and were often interrogated by prison personnel and misinformed as to his whereabouts. His family applied for his exile to Italy, as he was eligible for this. However, first they had to get him a visa for another country, and even after this was acquired, permission for him to leave Argentina could still have been refused. When this is the case, permission to leave the country can be requested again after six months.



Charge and Trial

There was no formal charge raised against this prisoner, and he was not tried. He was not allowed to consult a lawyer.

Present Symptoms

His tachycardia recurs when he is anxious or finds himself in a stress situation, and he occasionally has upper epigastric pain with heartburn of the tardive gastritis type. He also has periodic frontotemporal headaches. He speaks in a low voice, and he has periods of anxiety and fear. He does not suffer from any sexual disturbances. (As he has no permanent sexual partner, we did not ask him to elaborate on this topic.) He feels his communication with other people is good, but he has always had some difficulty in establishing friendships, and he does not feel he has changed significantly in this respect.

His hearing, especially in the left ear, has become increasingly worse after the teléfono. He was examined in prison and found to have an inflamed eardrum but was not treated for it. Since then, his hearing has continued to deteriorate. He also suffers from increased sensitivity to noise.

He also suffers from periodic heartburn, ructus and tardive dyspeptic pains in the epigastrium, of varying intensity. He feels his muscle strength has diminished even further. In addition, his headaches are accompanied by vision problems, and he has difficulty in concentrating and impaired memory.

Physical Examination

Height: 180 cm    Weight: 80 kg    BP: 180/85    P: 68

General physical condition: Good.

General mental condition: This individual cooperated well during our examination. His memory and voice modulation are normal, and there are no indications either of psychosis or of intellectual reduction.

Skin: There is a bit of reddish pigmentation, located especially on the left side over the parotid gland. We could not determine how much of this was due to the electrical torture. Over the right knee, there is a 2-cm-long, L-shaped scar. Otherwise, there are no cutaneous changes.

Cranium: Normal.

Eyes: Equal reaction of pupils to light and convergency. Normal consensualism. Rapid horizontal lateral nystagmus bilaterally.

Ears: Outer ears normal.

Otoscopy: Meatus externus normal bilaterally. There is a healed atrophic scar in the pars flaccida on the left side and temporoparietal capillaries. There are no retractions on either side, and no perforations. Reflexes are normal.

Spine: There is no lumbar lordosis. There is a somewhat developed thoracic kyphosis but no scoliosis. There is normal movement to the sides and normal bending to back and front.

Thorax: The left scapula is prominent with weak serratus anterior. The left shoulder is somewhat higher than the right, and the left trapezius is rather prominent. At the right clavicle, there is a prominent medial bone relief corresponding to the sternocleidal tendon insertion.

Auscultation of heart and lungs: Normal.

Abdomen: Normal.

Extremities: The hands are normal, and there is normal sensitivity and muscle strength. There is osseous widening of the third right proximal ingerphalangeal joint. There are no abnormalities in extension or flexion.

Neurology: Normal. The Achilles and plantar reflexes are rapid but equal. There is no dysdiadochokinesis.

Examination for cerebral asthenopia: The red-and-white rhombus held on the left side, within the right field of vision, was seen as being lengthened. Otherwise normal.

Audiometry: There is a marked bilateral hearing loss in the high-frequency field over 1000 Hz. This is most pronounced on the left side, where sensitivity decreases rapidly above 500 Hz. Hearing is better in the low-frequency field, with 35 dB masking.

Dental examination: See attached report.

Summary and Conclusion

This is a 30-year-old man who was arrested in March 1976 in Neuquen,

Argentina, and held prisoner at Neuquen police station, Neuquen Prison, Rawson Prison and Caseros Prison. While in prison, he was subjected to severe physical torture, including blows to the entire body, teléfono and submarino, as well as picana and torture with a bare electric cable to the temples, hearing canals, throat, back of the neck, fingers and other areas. In addition, he was subjected to severe mental torture, including threats of execution, isolation, arbitrary punishments and starvation.

After being tortured, he suffered from tachycardia, gastrointestinal pains and various mental problems. He also suffered a loss of hearing, which has gradually become worse. Our physical examination revealed no scars which could definitely be ascribed to electrical torture, but our dental examination (see attached) shows severe sequelae to electrical torture of the teeth. The examination for cerebral asthenopia showed altered perception of the red-and-white rhombus on the nasal side of the right field of vision. Audiometry showed a severe perceptive hearing loss in both ears, especially the left one.

DENTAL REPORT--ARG 2

History Taken for Dental Record

Prior to his arrest, this man had consulted a dentist to have fillings and extractions done. He had brushed his teeth regularly, but not daily. Before his arrest, he had gingival complaints and pain from the temporo-mandibular joints, head and face.

Torture

He was subjected to dry and wet submarino with a plastic bag over his head. During the first period of torture, his head was beaten with the flat of the hand. After the torture, his lips, tongue and cheeks were severely injured, allegedly as a consequence of biting during the torture. During the second period of torture, he was subjected to picana and lost consciousness several times but did not injure his teeth. He reports that the picana to the lower lip caused excruciating pain. The electrode was also held against his teeth and gingiva, which caused a hard biting reflex. He was also subjected to picana to the tongue, around the mouth and to the temporo-mandibular joints.

Immediate symptoms after torture: Violent swelling and wounds in his mouth and on his face. His teeth became highly hypersensitive. He could not open his mouth properly and had great difficulty eating due to pain in the temporo-mandibular joints and tongue. The maxillary teeth had become loosened slightly (from biting on the electrode). He also suffered from a burning sensation in the gingiva and fissures at the corners of his mouth.

Stay in Prison

The food was very poor. He was allowed to brush his teeth regularly, but not every day, and instead of toothpaste, which was periodically unavailable, he used soap.

He suffered from headaches in the frontal region, temporal region and around the ears. When he developed toothache in a tooth after the filling had fallen out (due to electrical torture?), it was extracted by a dentist, without anaesthesia.



Present Condition

He still has pain in the temporo-mandibular joints, temporal region and frontal region. There is swelling and a burning sensation in the area of 43.

Physical Examination

Extraorally: This man claimed to have a scar on the left side of the lower lip when it was dry. At the time of examination, this scar could not be seen or palpated.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: He could open his mouth fully, and there were no muscles which were tender to palpation.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: Nothing abnormal. Gingiva: At some sites, there are somewhat negative papillae. Plaque, dental calculus and 3-5 mm pouches. No loose teeth.

Teeth: Some rather acute caries. 36 and 46 are absent, allegedly extracted, one in prison and the other before imprisonment. Enamel-dentin fractures orally on 31 and 41, which the patient attributes to the picana. The pieces fell off three weeks to three months after the torture.

Pulp: Vitality test on all teeth showed that all were vital.

X-ray: Normal skeletal pattern, slightly widened periodontal spaces between several teeth. Pulp relatively large.

Conclusions

This man was severely tortured around the masticatory organ, chiefly by electrical torture. Today, he does not have any pain or other symptoms which could be ascribed to this torture. The pain from the temporo-mandibular joints, temporal region and frontal region is not believed to be odontogenic, as there was no myosis in the area. Factors of interest as evidence of torture were the enamel fractures on the mandibular incisors which, according to the prisoner, took place during the time after the torture. Attention should be called also to the tooth which lost a filling after the torture and was extracted because of pain.

Whether the widened periodontal spaces seen on the X-rays were caused by the electrical torture cannot be definitely stated at present, as we still lack experience to conclude this.

Recommended Treatment

Treatment of the caries and depuration of the teeth.





which he has taken antihistamine tablets. He also suffers occasionally from gastritis with pain in the epigastrium and pyrosis. He has had recurring muscle pain around the left shoulder for the last 30 years, and the infraspinatus muscle has atrophied. A muscle biopsy was done. He has now had partial restoration.

Present medications: Antihistamine tablets for hay fever  
Alcohol intake: 0  
Use of tobacco: 0

Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

He was arrested about 4:30 p.m. one day in March 1976, at his home in Resistencia, Chiacco Province. While taking his afternoon nap, he heard somebody enter the house, and the children began to cry, so he went to investigate and found two plainclothes policemen waiting for him. They aimed their pistols at him and told him to raise his hands over his head and lie down on the floor. The children, who were looking on, were pushed to one side. Outside the house, approximately 30 policemen were waiting in automobiles. His family was upset and afraid he would be executed. He himself was too afraid to move. The house was ransacked, and he and his wife were taken into custody. (His wife was later allowed to phone for a babysitter, and, as her legs began to swell, she was freed 12 hours after she had been arrested.)

Together with about 20 other prisoners, among them three doctors, he was driven to the local police station. At 9:00 p.m., all of them were handcuffed and driven to the military headquarters in Resistencia. The prisoners were lined up in a row and beaten, then taken to a cell block where, still handcuffed, they were made to stand with their hands over their heads for 36 hours. They were punched all over their bodies and hit in the stomach with rifle butts, but they were not hit in the face. After 12 hours, they were lined up and blindfolded, and the police pretended to execute them, firing off blanks in their rifles. There were a number of women and children present, including his own wife, and several of them were kicked and punched quite hard. After 36 hours, the prisoners' blindfolds were removed, and they were allowed to sit on the floor and given tea to drink. Still handcuffed, this prisoner signed a statement as to his name, address and political and religious affiliations. He feels the

arrest of himself and the others was part of the general repression of the politically active population of Argentina.

After five days had passed, he was transferred to Resistencia Prison. The prisoners were not subjected to torture on the way, but they were pushed roughly onto the floor of the police van, and several of them ended up with broken teeth and ribs. The prisoners were not interrogated again, but they were occasionally asked questions and simultaneously beaten or otherwise punished. This man was subjected to teléfono on both ears two or three times. Some of the other prisoners were kicked hard while they lay on the floor.

In March 1976, he was transferred to Unidad 7 Prison in Resistencia. During transport, his glasses were broken, and these were never replaced. When he arrived at Unidad 7 Prison, a doctor asked him how he was feeling, but he was too afraid of the possible consequences to say anything more than that he was fine. During the first three months, conditions there were not too bad, but after that he spent nine months in solitary confinement. Subsequently, he was allowed visitors for approximately one hour each month.

In September 1977, he was flown to Caseros Prison in Buenos Aires Province in an Argentinian air force plane. He and the other prisoners were handcuffed together and forced to sit bent forward. They were constantly hit by the guards, and one prisoner had two ribs broken. Conditions in Caseros, which is a transfer prison for those prisoners going into exile, were reasonably good, and the prisoners were not subjected to torture or other violence. He was released in October 1977 to exile in Italy.

The Individual Prisons

Unidad 7 Prison, Resistencia (March 1976-September 1977): This is a local town jail built about 1940. The prison consists of several cell blocks, each containing about 70 prisoners; on occasion, however, the number of prisoners was as high as 120. There was a total of 520 political prisoners, who were kept separately from the criminal prisoners. There were two prisoners in each cell, and each had a cot with a mattress and a blanket. Light was provided by a 25-watt bulb. The cells were hot and damp. The toilet and sink, which were in very poor condition, were outside the cells. During the summer, there were several occasions when water was unavailable for up to a week and a half. The food was sparse, and its protein content

was low. The prison guards were domineering and treated the prisoners in a condescending manner but did not use physical violence. A doctor was on call three days a week, but the standard of medical care was very low. A dentist came once a week and saw approximately five people each time. About 60% of the prisoners had caries.

During the last three months he was there, he was allowed outside 45 minutes per day. Things later became stricter as a result of orders from above. Legal advice was not available, and letter writing was not allowed.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

At one point, this prisoner was hit in the stomach with a rifle butt and developed bruises together with a swelling which lasted for two or three months. He also had a bluish discoloration under both rib curvatures. There was no hematuria.

After being tortured, this individual became moody and alternated between elation and depression. He became especially depressed when he thought about his family's situation. He was also anxious and tense. His sleep was disturbed, and he had nightmares in which he escaped from prison. He did not suffer from delusions. While in prison and/or being tortured, he was easily upset by loud noises.

#### Knowledge of Other Forms of Torture

He states that some of the prisoners--not including himself, however--were taken to a so-called torture room to be interrogated, and while being interrogated were beaten and tortured with picana, submarino and other tortures.

Thirteen prisoners, including two from his own cell block named Patricio Salas and Luis Barcos, were taken from the prison on 13 December 1977 and presumably murdered by the police during torture. According to what later appeared in the newspapers, these 13 prisoners were killed in a clash with guerrillas who had tried to free the prisoners while they were being transported to another prison.

He was also witness to an incident in which a fellow prisoner named Miguel Angel Sánchez, blindfolded and handcuffed, was put into the trunk of a car by a police officer named Casco. A few days later, the newspapers wrote that Sanchez had died of a heart attack.

#### General State of Health in Prison

While in solitary confinement, this prisoner developed gastritis and was given antacids twice a week. The dampness in his cell caused joint pains, which lasted for quite a while afterwards. He continued to have stomach problems and lost 13 kg. In addition, he began to suffer from fungal infections, especially on the left foot. Many of the prisoners developed scabies, for which they were given an antiseptic salve.

#### Family Situation

His wife was released after 12 hours in detention and has not been subjected to further persecution. She had previously been a teacher at the university but was fired after her arrest and later found work as a primary school teacher in a small town rather far away. She was given permission to emigrate to Italy five months after her husband. The whole family now has Italian citizenship, as the husband's father is Italian. The family presently works as night watch in a large warehouse, and the husband also works in a warehouse during the day. They live in a two-room apartment with inadequate sanitary facilities.

This man says his relationship with his children is good and that they were happy to see him again when they arrived in Italy. He feels his marriage is a good one but could be better if the family had a little more living space. He has not suffered from any sexual disturbances.

#### Charge and Trial

There was no formal charge raised against him, and he was not allowed to consult a lawyer.

#### Present Symptoms

He feels he is more moody and introspective than before he went to prison and not as free with his family and other people. According to his wife, he sleeps well, although he still occasionally has nightmares.

#### Physical Examination

Height: 182 cm    Weight: 86 kg    BP: 145/90    P: 72

General physical condition: He is of medium build, and his nutritional state is good.



General mental condition: He cooperated well and had a positive attitude towards our examination. There are no apparent changes of affect, and his emotional response to the things that have happened to him is normal.

Skin: Normal.

Cranium: There are no signs of previous lesions, no scars and no abnormal pigmentation.

Eyes: The pupils are round and equal in size, and reaction to light and convergence are normal. Ophthalmoscopy showed normal blood vessels, no crossing, no extra variations, no papillary atrophy.

Mouth and tongue: No glands, symmetrical pulsation in carotid arteries. See also attached dental report.

Ears: Outer ears normal.

Otoscopy: There are no sequelae to the teléfono and no tenderness of the tragus or mastoid process.

Spine: There is no curvature or restricted movements.

Thorax: There is a vertical scar left by a muscle biopsy over the left infraspinatus muscle.

Auscultation of heart and lungs: Normal.

Abdomen: Soft, indolent, no scars. There are no lumps or thickening of the abdominal wall in the umbilical region or at either rib curvature. When standing, pressure or coughing reveals a 3-x-2-cm indirect inguinal hernia on the right side. There is a rupture 2½ fingers wide near the annulus abdominis. The hernia is completely reducible.

Genitalia: Normal.

Extremities: Normal.

Neurology: Muscle trophy and tone are normal. Reflexes are extremely weak but equal, nearly areflexia of the Achilles tendons. No Babinski.

Examination for cerebral asthenopia: Nothing abnormal.

Audiometry: Audiometry is normal, indicating neither perceptive nor conductive hearing loss.

Dental examination: See attached report.

#### Summary and Conclusion

This is a 42-year-old man who was imprisoned for a total of 19 months. He was isolated for nine months, but blindfolded for only the first 1½ days. He was threatened and subjected to mock execution and humiliations. He was never tried. During torture, he was beaten on the body with and without instruments and was handcuffed. He was subjected to teléfono and forced standing for a total of 36 hours. Prison conditions were poor, and the prison food was sparse and of poor quality.

He suffered a weight loss of 13 kg during imprisonment and suffered from gastritis, joint pains, bruises and swellings following beatings. During imprisonment, he developed a fungal infection of his left foot. He was very restless, suffering from sleep disturbances, and felt withdrawn. moody. His sensitivity to noise increased, and he began to have nightmares. At the time of examination, we found an inguinal hernia and he complained of nightmares, moodiness and a feeling of being withdrawn.

DENTAL REPORT--ARG 3

History Taken for Dental Record

Prior to his arrest, this man had consulted a dentist to have fillings done and one tooth extracted. He had always brushed his teeth once a day.

Symptoms before Arrest

Before his arrest, he suffered from headaches, toothache and gingivitis.

Torture

This man was not subjected to torture of the head or face. However, he knew of fellow prisoners whose teeth became loosened during torture.

Stay in Prison

The food in prison was sparse and of poor quality. There was no opportunity to brush the teeth on a daily basis. The prison dentist came once a week but never treated more than five prisoners at a time, even though, out of the 120 prisoners in this man's block, more than half suffered from constant dental problems. The only treatment offered was extraction. This man did not have any particular problems concerning his teeth, gingiva or headaches.

Present Condition

No complaints.

Physical Examination

Extraorally: Nothing abnormal.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: Nothing abnormal.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: Nothing abnormal. Gingiva: Normal. Pouches about 3 mm.

Teeth: One tooth had acute caries, several chronic caries. There were several Class 1 fillings. 36 had been extracted. Otherwise, nothing abnormal.

Pulp: Not vitality-tested.

X-rays: Not done.

Conclusions

This man had not been exposed to torture to the head or face. His teeth are in an uncommonly good state, and the same applies to the gingiva. As he is feeling mentally well and seems robust, it is not surprising that he does not have symptoms from the temporo-mandibular joints or masticatory muscles.

Recommended Treatment

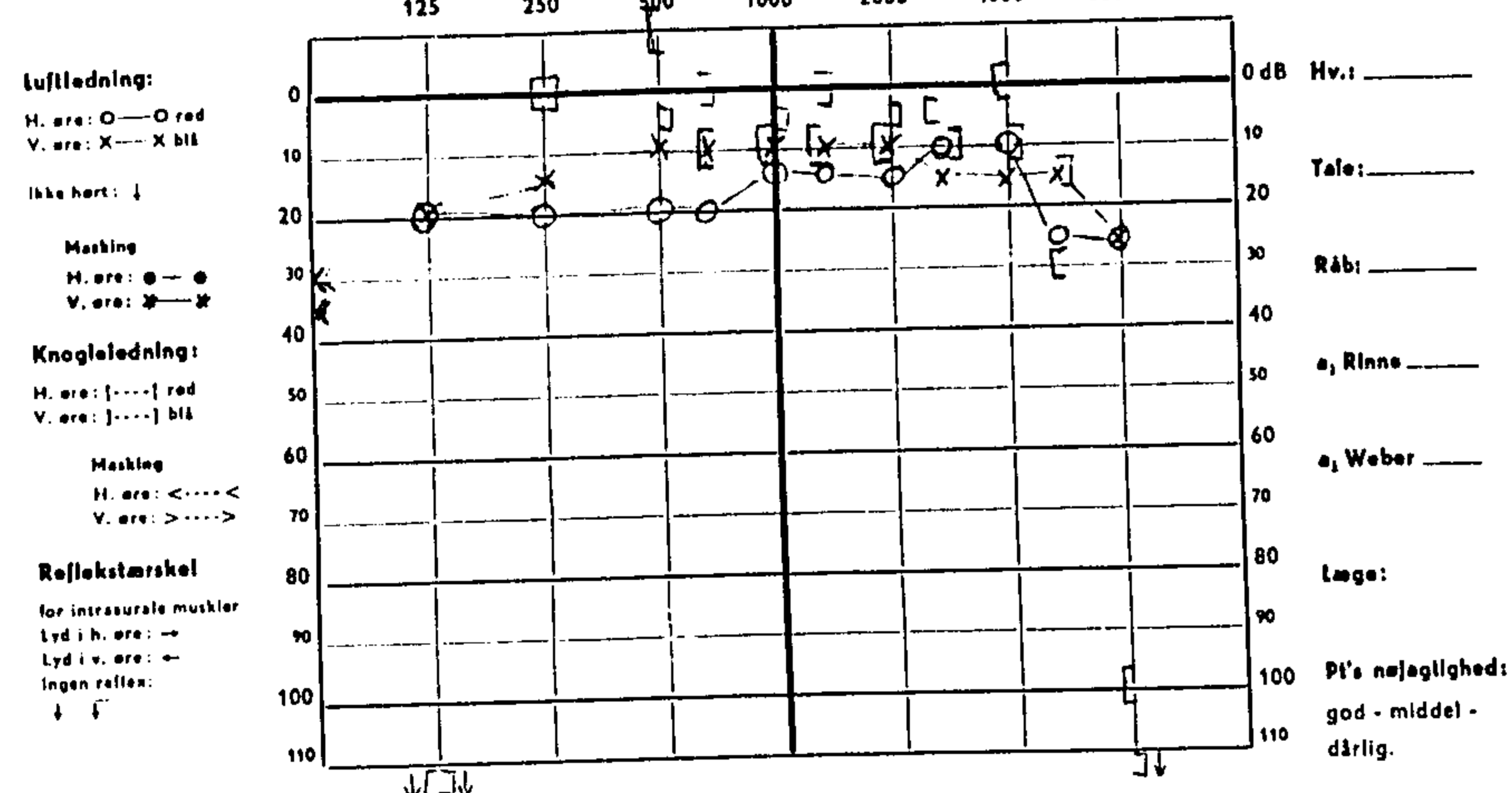
Depuration and ordinary treatment of caries.



Audiologisk Laboratorium  
Rigshospitalet

Efternavn		Fornavn		Blad 2a . . . . .		Nr.	
Journ. nr. . . . .		Undersøger: <i>Henning Beck</i>					

Toneaudiometri d. *6/5 1979* Lydrum: Undersøger: *Henning Beck*



## Taleaudiometri

HA . . . . .									
Tlf. type . . . . .									
Tone . . . . .									
Vol. kontr. . . . .									
Øre/ff . . . . .									
TI dB . . . . .									
Tol. dB . . . . .									
DL % . . . . .									
DL+MA . . . . .									
Tone decay	h	dB	sek.						
2000 Hz	v	dB	sek.						

Bemærkninger

Blank space for notes.

Name: ARG 4

Age: 31

Nationality: Argentinian

Sex: F

Occupation: Secretary

Marital status: Widow, remarried

Date and place of examination: 7 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome

Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Jørgen Kelstrup, dentist Pia Marstrand

Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach

Report by: Jørgen Kelstrup

## Short Presentation

This woman was denounced by her sister and arrested two days after her husband had been killed by the police. She was in prison for just under two years, during which time she was subjected to picana, beatings, blind-folding, solitary confinement and threats.

## Background

She comes from a well-to-do Buenos Aires family who own a great deal of land and a sugar mill. She is the sixth of 11 children. She and a second sister, who disappeared in 1976, had severed their relationship with their conservative family in 1973. She has had no real education apart from some music, singing, etc. In 1970, she was married to a man from a similar background who shared her political attitudes. They had two children, born in 1972 and 1975. Her husband was killed two days before she was arrested. After her arrival in Italy, she married another Argentinian, who works as a carpenter. She herself works as a domestic to help the family survive economically. Her ex-mother-in-law occasionally sends money to them. She now lives in a reasonably good two-room apartment and is four months pregnant.

## Previous State of Health and Illnesses

She has had no serious illnesses. She has a tendency to anemia, which has been treated with iron, but no serious menstrual problems. She had severe precordial pains during both births (both of which were performed by Caesarian section), but her EKG was said to be normal. These attacks,

which were accompanied by shortness of breath and tachycardia, recurred while she was being tortured. She has also suffered from nightmares approximately three times a year.

Present medications: 0

Alcohol intake: Wine with meals

Use of tobacco: 0

#### Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

Her husband had been killed by the police two days before she was arrested in May 1976, but she herself had not been present at the time. One of her sisters, whom she did not see very often, asked her to come over because something was wrong with one of her children. When she arrived at her sister's house, the military police were waiting for her. Her sister had informed on her with the understanding that she would not be maltreated. Her own children did not see her arrested. She was taken to the police station under protest and was beaten on the way. She was interrogated the entire first night, but it was not until the next day that they began to torture her with picana and beat her violently. The police threatened that her children would be imprisoned while she looked on, and they also threatened to kill her. They did not, however, threaten to rape her. They promised to release her if she would give them the information they wanted. A doctor, who was present while she was being tortured, took her pulse. While she was in prison, her mother-in-law, who lives in Buenos Aires, took care of her children.

While at the police station in Tucumán, she was subjected to picana. She was blindfolded and strapped in a spread-eagle position to a metal cot, and the police fastened two electrodes to her temples under her blindfold, one on each side. A third electrode was touched to different parts of her body. This type of electric torture, with two electrodes fastened to the temples, fixes the mouth in a half-open position, and the prisoner has no voice to scream with. She felt that she couldn't breathe and that she was about to suffocate. The third electrode did not cause much pain, but one thumb was numb afterwards. Although her arms and legs were bound to the bed, she was not tortured on the genitals, although her dress was lifted up. She was also hit with rubber truncheons while the picana was going on. The electrode was applied to her tongue and her nipples, but only briefly. There were 10 to 12 men involved in torturing her, and the torture went on

between one and three hours the first morning after she was arrested. In the afternoon, she was subjected to picana and beatings again, but, as she developed chest pain, the police stopped the torture. However, she was not given food or water for three days, and later on she was not allowed to use the toilet for a day and a half. She wanted to die, but her suicidal thoughts were primarily passive. Her desire to die lasted the entire time she was at the police station, about a month.

#### The Individual Prisons

Tucumán Police Station (May-June 1976): She is not sure how many other people were arrested around the same time she was. She was placed in a solitary confinement cell measuring 1 x 2 m, where she remained for the first three days. She was then moved to a slightly larger cell with a window, but was still in solitary. She was not allowed to wash, and a mattress was not given to her until she had already been there several days. Mealtimes were irregular, and the principal food was hard cornbread. At one point, when she was suffering severely from the effects of torture, she was given hot soup for a few days. The guards fondled her sexually, and a doctor was present during the torture sessions. Another doctor, who saw her after she was tortured, recommended she eat a lot so that she could regain her strength, after which she would be transferred to a prison. She was blindfolded the entire time she was at the police station.

Tucumán Prison (June-October 1976): In June 1976, she was transferred to Tucumán Prison. She was beaten on the way there. After she arrived, her blindfold was removed, but, because she was considered politically dangerous, she was still held in solitary confinement, unlike the other female prisoners. There were 25 prisoners in her block. Her cell measured approximately 2 x 2 m. There were no windows and no ventilation, and the electric light was turned off at 9:00 p.m. There were two cement cots mounted on the wall, one above the other, but she had no mattress and there was no running water in the cell. She was allowed to wash every day and take a shower twice a week. She was not allowed any books. The food was of extremely poor quality, consisting of thin soups and a large amount of carbohydrates. A friendly guard smuggled some extra food to her, but she was not allowed outside her cell, and the other guards were not so friendly. During the 3½ months she spent in this prison, her mother was allowed to visit her twice. She was not subjected to interrogation or physical torture. When



the prison doctor said he would take no responsibility for her due to her extremely poor state of health, medical help ceased entirely. Just before she was transferred again, she was interrogated but not physically tortured.

Villa Devoto (October 1976-April 1978): In October 1976, she was transferred to Villa Devoto in Buenos Aires. She was not told she was to be transferred until an hour before, and again she was blindfolded. The reason for the transfer was given as administrative. She was transferred in a plane with a number of other prisoners. They were handcuffed together two by two, their free hands handcuffed to the floor, so that they were forced to sit bent forward during the six hours the flight lasted. They were beaten during the journey. This prison was better than Tucumán. There were 24 prisoners in one large room in a cell block. Each person had a bed and, in the beginning, two blankets, although this was later reduced to one when more prisoners arrived. At the beginning, the food was quite good and included small sausages, fruit and salad, but, as the prison became more crowded, the quality of the food fell. The prisoners were allowed outside for one hour several times a week. The prison held 600, all political prisoners. After eight months there, this woman was moved to a four-person cell, and, about the same time, prison discipline became harsher. Arbitrary punishments began to be dealt out on a general basis; for example, if a policeman were killed in town, all the prisoners were put into solitary for two weeks. The quality of the medical care was very poor, and we heard once again about how the woman doctor, Dr. González, had contributed to the death of Alicia País by giving her a Valium injection, even though she knew she had asthma. This woman's first application for exile was turned down, but the next one went through, largely because of influence on the part of her family. Her children were sent to Italy two months after she arrived.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

As previously mentioned, during torture she had precordial pains, with radiation to the left arm lasting a few minutes. She could not breathe for the pain and was given insufficient artificial respiration. She did not initially notice any electrode marks, and she doesn't know if she had any bruises or not (she was blindfolded). She began to lose her hair, and her weight decreased from 46 to 40 kg.

#### Symptoms in the Following Period

She had acute bronchitis twice with accompanying fever, cough and expectoration and was treated with an injection for this. Several times, she had gallstones, but no abnormal coloration of her stools. In Villa Devoto, she was nauseous every night but did not throw up. While in prison, she was diagnosed as having Tietze syndrome and had pains lasting several minutes. However, it is unclear how much the earlier described precordial pains contributed to this syndrome. The hair she lost has never grown back, and her general condition did not begin to improve until about five months after she was released from prison. The loss of sensitivity in the right thumb lasted about a month.

#### General State of Health in Prison

She had given birth eight months previously and had begun to menstruate again. Previously, her periods had been quite regular, but long. The first month in prison, she did not menstruate at all, and then, during her third month in prison, she had three periods lasting four days each, after which her menstrual cycle became normal again. During her last two months in Tucumán Prison, she suffered from white, odorless, itching fluor vaginalis, which remitted spontaneously.

Immediately after the picana, she noticed a numbness of the right thumb, and, as previously mentioned, she wished she could die. She slept very little the first month. She was extremely afraid of being tortured, but she did not begin to cry until she had been transferred to Tucuman Prison. Although her eyes were covered for an entire month, she did not have any hallucinations. She totally lost her sense of time and space the first week but slept well after the first month.

#### Family Situation

At present, she is irritable and excitable, and she is impatient with her children, who complain that they would rather be back in Buenos Aires with their rich grandmother. This creates some problems with her husband, but there are apparently no sexual problems. There is no violence in the home.

#### Charge and Trial

No charges were ever brought against her, and she was never brought before a judge.

Present Symptoms

As mentioned above, she is irritable and excitable and impatient with her children. She has always had nightmares approximately three times a year, and these have continued, but they do not involve torture. She has not had any attacks of panic. On exertion, her heart races and she has difficulty in breathing, but this goes away if she lies down for about 20 minutes. She has had to stop working at two different places because the work was too strenuous. She is occasionally nauseous at night, but she does not throw up. At the beginning of November 1978, she was troubled by recurrent cystitis, which was treated with two different medications.

Physical Examination

Height: 157 cm    Weight: 46 kg    BP: 110/70    P: 76

General physical condition: This woman looks older than her age, and her nutritional state is under average.

General mental condition: She was a bit reserved during our interview but cooperated well. Her thought processes and memory are good, and there is no reason to suspect intellectual reduction. She appears a bit shy, almost over-careful in her speech and actions. She bites her nails a great deal but shows no abnormal mental characteristics. Her facial expression and gestures were normal, and her communication with the interviewer was good.

Skin: There is slight hyperpigmentation in the first interstice on the dorsal side of the right proximal phalanx. Her nails are bitten to the quick. Otherwise, her skin is completely normal, with no scars or other markings.

Cranium: No changes in the skin and no noticeable hair loss.

Eyes: Normal. Ophthalmoscopy normal.

Ears: Normal.

Otoscopy: Normal.

Spine: Normal.

Thorax: By the second left costochondral junction, there is a swelling and change in contour which apparently are the results of Tietze's syndrome.

Breasts: As for a normal pregnant woman, with superficial dilation of the veins. Pigmentation of the areolae normal for a pregnant woman.

Auscultation of heart and lungs: Normal.

Abdomen: Appropriate cicatrices left by two Caesarian sections. The uterus is halfway between the umbilicus and the symphysis.

Extremities: There is a scar from a smallpox vaccination on her right thigh.

Neurology: Reflexes and sensitivity are normal in both the upper and lower extremities.

Examination for cerebral asthenopia: Nothing abnormal.

Audiometry: Normal.

Dental examination: See attached report.

Summary and Conclusion

This is a 31-year-old woman who was severely tortured only a few days after her husband had been killed by the police. While under torture, her anxiety was increased by the fact that she did not know what would happen to her children. At present, she has some cardiac problems which should be looked into more carefully, for example, by testing with a work ECG. While in prison, she suffered from typical menstrual disturbances. At present, there is still some subjective hair loss. She also suffers from mental and familial problems, in particular a general lack of self-control.



DENTAL REPORT--ARG 4

History Taken for Dental Record

This woman had regularly visited a dentist once a year. Treatment had consisted of one extraction and a couple of amalgam fillings, in addition to one root canal filling. She had always brushed her teeth once a day. As she suffered from anemia as a child, she was treated with calcium and iron.

Symptoms before Arrest

Prior to her arrest, she suffered from toothache, for which she had been treated.

Torture

She was beaten all over the body and subjected to picana. While blindfolded, one electrode was attached to each of her temples and a third electrode was passed all over her body, including the tongue and lips but not the teeth. The electrodes in the temporal region made her feel paralyzed, so that she was unable to scream and could hardly breathe, so that she almost fainted.

Stay in Prison

She was deprived of food and drink for short periods during her stay in prison. The food was very poor in both of the first two prisons, a little better in the third. During her first imprisonment, for a period of a month, she was not allowed to wash or brush her teeth. However, she was allowed to do this during the stays in the second and third prisons, which lasted a total of about two years.

During her first period in prison, she suffered from severe burning and smarting in the mouth. The prison doctor told her this was due to a serious infection, but she received no treatment for this. The only time she saw a dentist was in the third prison, where the dentist came sporadically on request. However, some of her fellow prisoners with extensive inflammation had to wait up to a week for him to come. She herself had an extraction done in Villa Devoto, and, as a special favor, two fillings. These were done in the prison, the dentist having some very primitive,

portable equipment. However, these fillings were of very poor quality and had to be redone later. One of these teeth now requires root treatment.

Present Condition

This woman is now being treated by a private dentist. She has no other complaints apart from slight gingivitis.

Physical Examination

Extraorally: Nothing abnormal.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: There is a snapping sound in the left temporo-mandibular joint on opening the mouth wide, but no other abnormalities.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: Normal. Gingiva: Slightly inflamed, plaque, dental calculus. 3-5mm pouches.

Teeth: Two minor and one extensive attack of acute caries. Also several fillings. 37 had been extracted before the imprisonment, 16 in prison. There is a large bony defect at 16.

Pulp: Not vitality-tested.

X-rays: Failed to turn up for the X-rays.

Conclusions

The subject is a 31-year-old woman who was tortured for an entire day, then imprisoned and kept blindfolded in isolation for a long period of time. The torture to which she was exposed consisted of blows all over the body, picana, mental torture through isolation, deprivation of food and being blindfolded. However, these forms of torture have not left her with headaches or facial pain, which might indicate violent grinding or clenching of the teeth. She has a relatively well-tended set of teeth. It must be assumed that this woman's great strength of character has contributed to her coming through the violent torture so unscathed.

Recommended Treatment

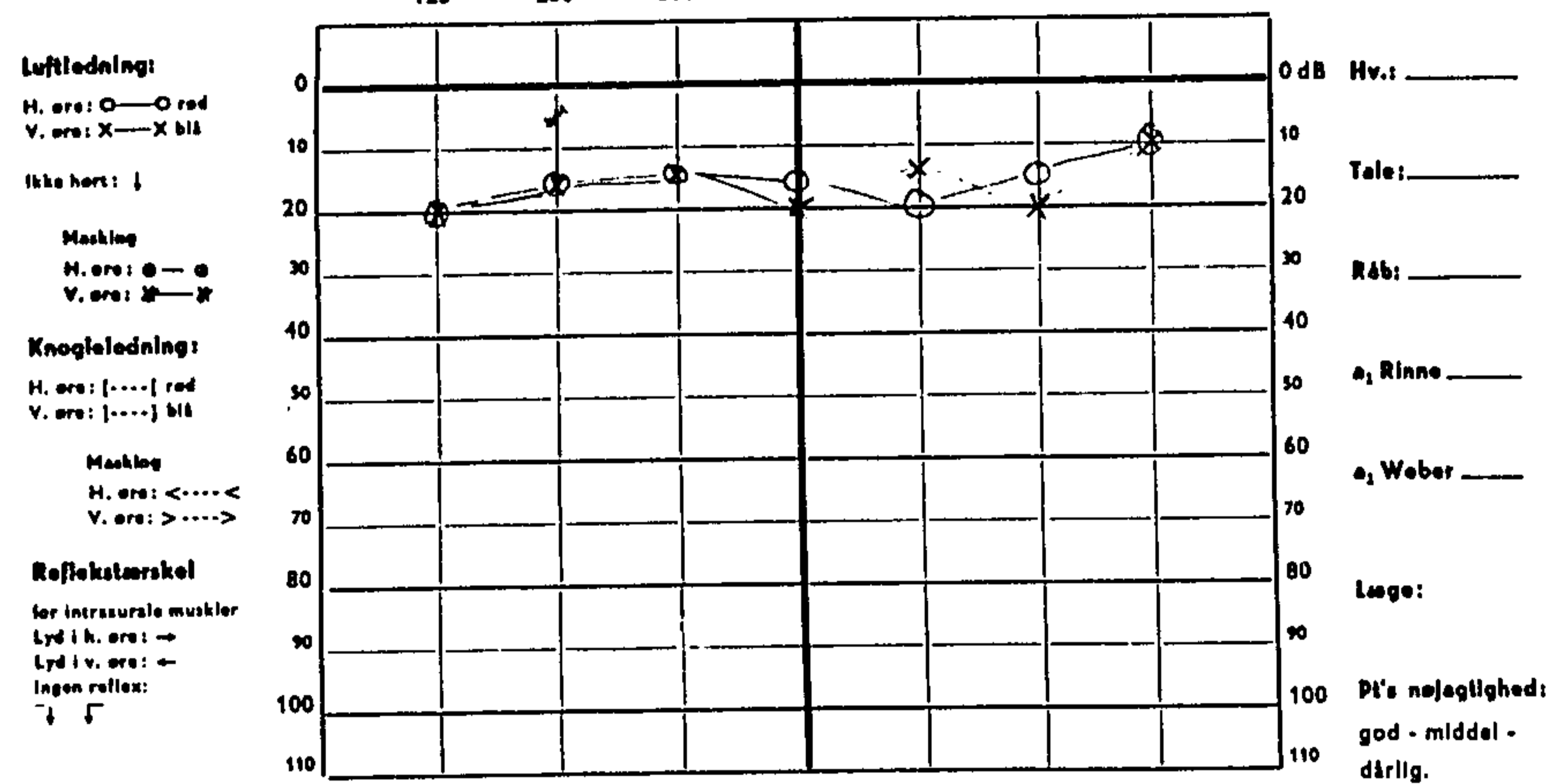
Treatment of the caries, root treatment of 12 and depuration.

Audiologisk Laboratorium  
Rigshospitalet

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Toneaudiometri d. 7/5-79 Lydrum: \_\_\_\_\_ Undersøger: MB



## Taleaudiometri

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Bemærkninger

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So 17-181a

Audiologisk Laboratorium D 1366

Name: ARG 5

Age: 54

Nationality: Argentinian

Sex: M

Occupation: Priest, university lecturer

Marital status: Unmarried

Date and place of examination: 7 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome

Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Jørgen Kelstrup, dentist Pia Marstrand

Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach

Report by: Henning Beck

## Short Presentation

This is a 54-year-old Catholic man who was trained as a clergyman and later ordained a priest. He worked as a lecturer at the University of Santa Fé and had a parish which was composed primarily of mineworkers. He was arrested, interrogated and charged at police headquarters in San Nicolás and San Nicolás Prison. Just before his transfer to La Plata Prison in October 1976, he was subjected to torture in the form of blows to the ears and most of the body, kicks to the kidney region and blows to the back of the head with a truncheon. He was interrogated again at La Plata, where he was kicked in the testicles and punched, and his hair was pulled. He was then put into a solitary punishment cell. In June 1977, he was exiled to Italy, where he now works as a priest.

## Background

He grew up in a well-kept, but poor, middle-class home. His father was an accountant. His mother died when he was 14. He had three brothers and one sister. When he was 15, he entered the seminary and was later ordained a priest in Italy. He went back to the University of Santa Fé, where he taught prospective clergymen and himself had a parish consisting mainly of mineworkers, who were suppressed by the military. He thinks the reason he was imprisoned was that he taught the mineworkers and kept them politically informed.

## Previous State of Health and Illnesses

He previously suffered from dyspepsia and something which was probably



achylia. His digestion was bad, and he was often constipated. He has never had any traumas to the head and has never been hospitalized.

Present medications: Pancreatic enzyme preparation and androgens, as well as Vitamin E and an antidepressant

Alcohol intake: 0

Use of tobacco: 0

#### Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

In June 1976, he was called into police headquarters, where the military police were waiting for him. He was handcuffed and held at police headquarters for two hours.

After this, he was taken to San Nicolás Prison, where he was interrogated in the military headquarters for several hours. He was not allowed to see a lawyer. He asked the local bishop if he wanted to act as his lawyer, but was informed that there was nobody who would be interested in handling his case. He was not subjected to physical torture but was threatened. At the beginning of his stay in San Nicolás, he was treated reasonably well, but this later changed for the worse, as he was presumed to have been responsible for the murders of four policemen.

In October 1976, he was transferred to La Plata Prison. Just before he was to be transferred, he was pulled out of his cell and beaten. While on the way to the new prison, he was punched on the ears, and, also on the way, he was temporarily housed in a third prison to which some other prisoners were being transferred. Upon arrival at La Plata Prison, he was searched, and at the same time he was insulted and threatened. He was punched on the ears and in the face, presumably as punishment for a fabricated charge. In addition, he was beaten in the kidney region and stomach and hit on the neck and the back of the head with a truncheon. This lasted about an hour and a half. His hands were bound behind his back for several hours. At La Plata, he was interrogated again on the day after his arrival and was kicked in the testicles and pulled by the hair. He was put into a solitary punishment cell because his face was swollen and the police didn't want the other prisoners to see him. He was in the punishment cell for five days and was not allowed anything to drink for the first three. He was constantly subjected to threats and insults, his hair was cut very short, and he was made to go nude among the other prisoners. It was not uncommon to see the other prisoners being hit and kicked; sometimes they were

punished with up to 120 punches. He felt extremely demoralized, mentally broken and depressed because of what was going on around him.

#### The Individual Prisons

San Nicolás Prison (June-October 1976): This is a relatively new prison containing 120 political prisoners and 400 criminal prisoners, the two groups being kept separately from each other. This prisoner was put into a solitary confinement cell measuring 2 x 3 m which was lit by an electric light and a high, rather large window. The prisoners were permitted outdoors for an hour or two each day. This individual knew many of the other prisoners, and there was a generally good relationship among the prisoners. Regular use of a toilet and sink were allowed. The food was acceptable and included meat and fruit. The prison guards were for the most part reasonable, but some were better than others. At the beginning, visitors were permitted, but later the regulations were straitened and it became more difficult to have visitors. Medical help was hard to come by, but it was easier to get dental assistance. The prisoners were not allowed to read books or newspapers; this man was, however, allowed to keep his Bible.

La Plata Prison (October 1976-June 1977): He was put into a solitary punishment cell for the first five days but later shared a two-man cell in which there was only one bed but several blankets. The prison was old, badly constructed and damp, and there was often water on the floors of the cells. The prison held 1600 prisoners in all. It was possible to use the toilet, but it was filthy. This man was made to go to the toilet in the nude, and he fell several times, as the floor was wet. It was possible to shower two or three times a week. The prison environment was harsh and the rules stiff. The prison guards were brutal and yelled at and threatened the prisoners, who often could be heard screaming. From time to time, the prison administration decided to count the prisoners, who were sometimes forced to stand in line for hours, occasionally in the middle of the night. Minor offenses were punished by a term in a punishment cell. Spies were always present during exercise periods, and the prisoners were thus constantly afraid of doing or saying something wrong.

This man's Bible was taken from on his transfer to La Plata but was later returned to him marked with an official stamp. Visitors were allowed twice a month, but the prisoners were often searched before and after such visits.

Immediate Symptoms after Torture

After he was beaten, there were bruises over his entire body, which lasted for more than 10 days. He was also bothered by extrasystoly, which has recurred from time to time ever since. He had intracostal pains in the right side of his chest, but no cough. While he was in prison, his digestion became worse due to the fact that he could not move around very much and the food was so bad, and he was often constipated. There was no melena. After being tortured, he had feelings of heat and pain in his knees, ankles and feet, especially while he was being transferred to La Plata. After he was beaten, he developed a headache which lasted for approximately a month. His hearing was not affected. He had occasional tingling sensations in the fingers and a creeping sensation in both calves which continued down to the feet, especially when he walked.

His mental state of health was good while he was in San Nicolás, due to the facts that he was allowed a number of visitors and that he knew many of the other prisoners. At that point, he also hoped to be set free soon. He had no illusions about this but often daydreamed that he was out of jail. While in San Nicolás, he often felt disoriented as to the date and day of the week. His sleep was for the most part normal, and he seldom dreamed or had nightmares. During and after being tortured, he often fell into fits of rage, especially when another prisoner was humiliated or hit or locked up for a long period. His moods fluctuated, but in the beginning, when he still thought he would shortly be set free, he was generally hopeful. While he was in La Plata, especially after he had been tortured, he was often depressed.

Symptoms in the Following Period

While in La Plata Prison, his extrasystoly returned whenever he was in a stress situation or excited. Since his release, his extrasystoly and tachycardia have periodically recurred. In addition, he suffers especially from shortness of breath, which could be explained by the fact that he is not in very good shape.

After being tortured, he experienced dizziness as if on a ship, as well as loss of memory, particularly in stress situations. His loss of memory was particularly acute with regard to names.

Also in La Plata Prison, he became increasingly depressed, and his will to

survive diminished, particularly during the first month and a half after he was tortured. After that, his state of mind became more positive. He slept well, however, apart from frequent nightmares about the military and being tortured. He did not hallucinate. During that time, he spent a lot of time thinking about the situation of Argentina's people.

Knowledge of Other Forms of Torture

He reports that electric shock, picana, submarino and sensory deprivation were all used.

General State of Health in Prison

While he was in La Plata Prison, he developed difficulties in urinating, including difficulty in starting and stranguria. He feels this happened because he was nervous. Occasionally, he had pain on urination, but this has ceased. There was no hematuria. He also developed a fungal infection between his toes, and after he arrived in Italy he was treated with a fungicide for this. He had no pains in joints or muscles.

While in San Nicolás, he developed a boil on the upper right gum with accompanying fever, and he could blow pus out of his nose.

During imprisonment, this prisoner lost about 10 kg, but he has since regained it all.

Charge and Trial

This individual was thought by the government to be a guerrilla leader and was charged in writing with collaboration with guerrilla forces. Later, he was brought before a judge and charged with being a guerrilla backer and collaborator. A mock trial was held in February 1977.

Present Symptoms

His cardiopulmonary difficulties have decreased, but he still has occasional problems with extrasystoly and shortness of breath. His dyspepsia has continued, and he is taking a pancreatic enzyme preparation for this. This treatment has apparently had no effect on the appearance of his stools. His urological problems are not as serious as before.

He still has occasional tension headaches and thinks these are due to tense



neck muscles, as the headaches respond to neck massage. Since his arrival in Italy, he has had occasional attacks of dizziness, for which he has been treated by a doctor in Rome with androgens. This has helped somewhat.

He has lost his faith in the future. He would return to Argentina if the political situation permitted and therefore has restricted his friendships and other personal relationships in Rome in order to avoid creating personal bonds there. He feels old and has at times been very depressed. He has also had suicidal thoughts, and has thought of shooting himself with a revolver. He does not feel his suicidal thoughts conflict with his religion, as his personal religion is based more on helping people to improve their standard of living and social conditions than on ordinary Christian dogma. He has asked a doctor to treat him for depression and has received an antidepressant as well as Erovital and androgens. He feels his depression is about to lift. He still sleeps badly and occasionally has nightmares, in which he dreams that military personnel are torturing him.

He feels more tired than he did before. He has a limited social life, and he no longer takes part in leisure-time activities. In unexpected situations, such as on seeing a military parade or hearing sirens, he reacts with anxiety and fear.

#### Physical Examination

Height: 172 cm    Weight: 80 kg    BP: 165/100

General physical condition: Good; nutritional state above average. There is no secondary pain.

General mental condition: He had a positive attitude towards our examination and cooperated well. He is normally oriented with adequate reactions and normal emotional contact. His ability to concentrate, thought processes and voice modulation are all normal. There are no indications of psychosis and no noticeable phobic or other neurotic indications.

Skin: There are no scars or lesions.

Cranium: There are no scars or indications of previous traumatic lesions.

Eyes: Pupils and eye movements are normal. Ophthalmoscopy showed slight dimensional changes.

Ears: The outer ear is normal and free of lesions.

Otoscopy: Bilaterally normal.

Spine: There is a sinistroconvex scoliosis in the thoracic area.

Thorax: There is dyskinesia in a 4-x-8-cm area on the right trapezius.

Auscultation of heart and lungs: Normal.

Rectal exploration: Normal.

Extremities: There is a 4-x-6-cm pigmented area 12 cm above the medial malleolus on the right leg, a sequela to an injury. On the left leg, there is a 4-x-4-cm pigmented area 20 cm above the medial malleolus. There are onycholytical changes of the first to fifth toes of the left foot.

Neurology: Coordination (finger-nose, kneecap-heel) tests normal, reflexes normal, slightly reduced biceps reflex on the left side. No dysdiadochokinesis. Normal sensitivity all over.

Examination for cerebral asthenopia: Nothing abnormal.

Audiometry: There is a bilateral loss in the area between 4,000 and 8,000 Hz, most marked on the left side. This is due to age-determined perceptive changes.

Dental examination: See attached report.

#### Summary and Conclusion

This is a 54-year-old priest who was imprisoned for a total of 12 months, of which he was isolated the first five days. He was threatened, humiliated and beaten on the head and body with and without instruments. He was also kicked and handcuffed and was given very little food for three days. Prison conditions were poor, and the food there was generally sparse and of poor quality.

During imprisonment, he suffered a weight loss of 10 kg. He also suffered from increasing dyspepsia and constipation and transitory stranguria, as well as extrasystoly and shortness of breath. He had a number of bruises and developed a fungal infection of both feet, as well as a tooth abscess. He also had a headache which lasted a month, as well as attacks of dizziness and tingling in the fingers. He felt moody, tended to depression and suffered from attacks of rage, impaired memory, decrease of the survival instinct, attacks of rage, impaired memory, decrease of the survival instinct, nightmares and loss of orientation.

At the time of examination, he complained of fatigue, dyspepsia, constipation, extrasystoly and sensations in both calves and feet on walking. He continued to have attacks of dizziness and headaches. He felt old and had periods of severe depression and suicidal thoughts, as well as restlessness and anxiety. He also felt his contact with his surroundings was impaired.

DENTAL REPORT--ARG 5

History Taken for Dental Record

He had been to a dentist many times before his arrest. He had had several teeth extracted. He had a partial upper denture and his own teeth in the mandible.

Symptoms before Arrest

Prior to his arrest, he had a number of loose teeth.

Torture

Primarily, he was punched in his face and the back of his neck, and afterwards his face was all swollen. He was unable to tell whether any teeth had been loosened as a result of being beaten, as several had been loose previously. Indeed, his general condition was so poor he did not note anything special as to his teeth. In addition to the swelling and pain in his face, he had violent pain at the back of his neck.

Stay in Prison

During his stay in prison, he had a gumboil in the right maxille, presumably on 17, as this tooth was later extracted. The food in La Plata Prison was acceptable, and during some periods he was even given a glass of milk each day. While he was in San Nicolás Prison, dental treatment-- i.e., extraction, was available, but the dentist's visits were highly sporadic. In both prisons, he was allowed to brush his teeth daily. While in prison, he developed gingivitis. He had suffered from headaches before his arrest; these increased drastically after his imprisonment and torture, and he still suffers from them.

Present Condition

He has frontal and temporal headaches, as well as pain in the neck and occipital region, which is being treated with massage. In Rome, he has had partial upper and lower dentures made.

Physical Examination

Extraorally: Nothing abnormal.



Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: A number of muscles are tender upon palpation, including the masticatory muscles (especially the sterno-cleidomastoid on both sides), the temporal muscle on both sides, the temporal tendon on both sides, the internal pteregoid muscle on both sides, the external pteregoid muscle on both sides, and the posterior belly of the digastric muscle on both sides.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: Normal. Gingiva: Plaque, dental calculus, and pouches of 7-10 mm, so that the four remaining teeth are second-degree loosened and extremely tender to touch with the pouch probe.

Teeth: Acute caries of 46.

Pulp: Not vitality-tested.

X-rays: Did not turn up for the X-rays.

Conclusions

This man was not exposed to actual dental torture, but, owing to his mental state, he has myosis of practically all masticatory muscles. His periodontal condition was presumably not good prior to his arrest, as he reports having gingivitis and loose teeth already before arrest. Nevertheless, it must be presumed that the chronic periodontitis was accelerated during his stay in prison.

Recommended Treatment

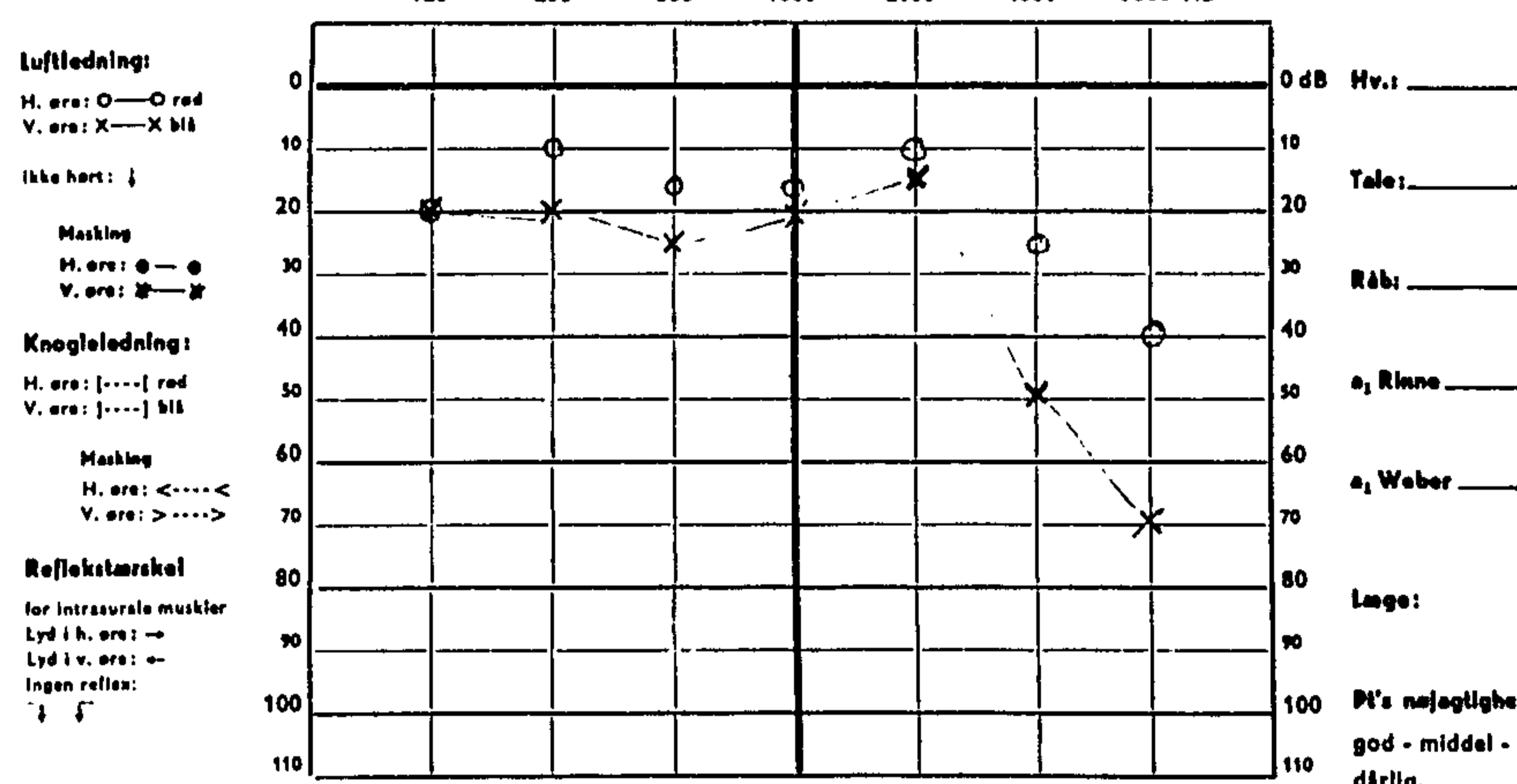
The main emphasis should be on eliminating his headaches, partly by making adequate dentures and partly by treating his state of tension.

Audiologisk Laboratorium  
Rigshospitalet

AUDIOMETRY--ARG 5

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				Journ. nr. . . . .	

Toneaudiometri d. 7/5 19 Lydrum: Undersøger:



Taleaudiometri

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Bemærkninger

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So 17-1518

Name: ARG 6

Age: 23

Nationality: Argentinian/Italian

Sex: M

Occupation: Student of economics at the University of Rome

Marital status: Unmarried

Date and place of examination: 5 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome

Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Jørgen Kelstrup, dentist Pia Marstrand

Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach

Report by: Jørgen Kelstrup

#### Short Presentation

This man was arrested in August 1976, a typical case of "kidnapping," and subjected to general rough treatment, picana and submarino. After this, he was transferred to a prison camp and exiled after a total of about 10 months in prison.

#### Background

He is the youngest of three children. His father worked as an accountant until his death of a cerebral aneurysm in 1972 at the age of 66. His mother is a housewife. Of his two siblings, who also are well-educated, the one lives in Argentina and the other in Italy, although for reasons relating to work and not politics. This individual is unmarried and lives alone in a small apartment on a United Nations grant. He is politically active in Italy. As his father was Italian, he holds double citizenship (Argentinian and Italian).

#### Previous State of Health and Illnesses

Due to a suspected ulcer, he was previously examined by gastroscopy. This, however, was negative, and his symptoms were therefore ascribed to gastritis. Since 1972, he has periodically been treated with medications, including a month on cimetidin (Tagamet®) four times daily, without effect. He continues to be bothered by ventricular problems. There are no hereditary illnesses in the family, and no hospital admissions. He occasionally suffers from bitemporal headaches, related to a certain degree to his stomach problems.

Present medications: Antacids as necessary, Tagamet®.

Alcohol intake: Occasional

Use of tobacco: Smokes 10 cigarettes a day

#### Arrest, Interrogation and Torture.

He was arrested and held for one day in November 1974 in connection with a raid on his apartment after he had participated in a demonstration. At that time, he was slapped on the head and subjected to teléfono several times, but there have been no late sequelae to this.

He was then arrested again at 8:00 one evening in August 1976 during a raid on a bar where he was talking with a friend. As he was in possession of papers on the political situation in Argentina, he was arrested.

He was taken to police headquarters in a jeep. No violence was exercised on the way. When it was learned that he had previously been arrested, he was taken to a 2-x-3-m cell, completely undressed and made to stand with his hands against the wall and his feet spread. The police then began to punch him. It was cold in the cell and he was punched a lot, especially on the lower half of his thorax, but he did not suffer any trauma to the head. While this went on, he was interrogated. He was given a little water but no food, and he was not allowed to use the toilet. That same day, his mother went all over Buenos Aires, from one police station to the next, but when she came to the station where he was being held, the authorities denied he was there. At this point, he was very afraid for both his own life and his family. He was subjected to one mock execution. He was allowed to rest for a couple of minutes, after which he was interrogated for another 10 minutes. This pattern continued from 9:00 p.m. until 6:00 the next morning. He was slapped in the face several times, and, when the police learned that he was not a member of an important or well-known family, they began to slap him even more.

This continued for three days, after which he was driven, his hands and feet bound, in a jeep to Coordinación General, a five-minute drive. During the two months he was in Coordinación General, he was continually hooded, and his hands were tied behind his back. It was dangerous to try to peek, as the torturers did not want to be recognized. Four days after his arrival, they bound him to a bed with a thin mattress and tortured him with picana from noon to 4:00 p.m. He was tortured with picana to the teeth, eyes and genitals. It was worse on the teeth, as it caused his mandible and the area between the medial corner of his eye and his nostrils to vibrate.



Finally, he was tortured with picana various places on his face, as well as on his palms and in his armpits. If he screamed, the electrode was put into his mouth. During the picana to the teeth, his torturers went around his entire mouth, and when they found a carious spot, where it is especially painful, they stayed there. He was not tortured on the front of his thorax or the abdomen, where it doesn't hurt as much. He lost consciousness a number of times, and each time he did they threw water in his face and slapped him until he woke up. Once they burned his armpit with a lighter to wake him up. The electrical voltage was varied, and he was burned in many places.

He is not sure if there was a doctor present or not. From under his blindfold, he could see blisters and a reddish tinge where the electrodes had been. After the picana, he tried to stand up, but he fell over and was unconscious for half an hour. Four to five days after the picana, he was again interrogated. The police threatened both him and his family and punched him on the body and head. He also was subjected to submarino in clean water several times. He was also hit in the chest with a rifle butt. After about 50 days in that prison, he was driven out in a car and told he would be released. However, he was only driven back to prison, mentally broken.

#### The Individual Prisons

Coordinación General (August-October 1976): After being tortured the first time, he was taken to a room measuring 4 x 5 m, in which there already were 25 other prisoners. They were wearing only shirts and trousers, because their watches, shoes and other accessories had been stolen. They were supposed to sit down all the time they weren't on their way to or from the toilet, and talking was forbidden. However, they whispered to each other anyway. They constantly heard screaming. While this man was in this prison, three of the other prisoners became psychotic: one of them tried to commit suicide and was taken away, one began to hallucinate and the third also tried to commit suicide. One prisoner became severely depressed and was taken away in October after having been there three months, and no one has heard anything from him since. All the prisoners there were political prisoners.

The cell was cold. There was a sink but he had no opportunity to brush his

teeth. The food, which consisted of polenta (cornmeal mush) twice a day, was terrible. It was thrown in the prisoners' faces, and they had to eat it as it trickled down their masks. Each time a prisoner left, the remaining ones got more food. Once a doctor came and examined a boy who had been tortured for three months and was bleeding quite a lot. Otherwise, medical care was unavailable. He lost 10 kg while in this prison. One day, 30 prisoners were driven out of the prison camp and shot and then blown up with dynamite as revenge for the assassination of a general outside the camp. Out of the 25 prisoners in this man's cell, only six were transferred alive to other prison camps. The rest disappeared without a trace. All of them had lice, and they were deloused. The prison guards terrorized the prisoners. They would, for example, direct the prisoners to dance together and kiss each other. Two of them were made to lie down and have sex. They were also made to play blind man's bluff with a policeman, and, if they found him, they were beaten.

Villa Devoto (October 1976): After 65 days in Coordinación General, he was transferred to Villa Devoto, which is normally a woman's prison. He was there for only a week. He was told he had been placed under executive order of the state and was therefore legally a prisoner. He was bound while he was in this prison, but he was not beaten. There were four prisoners in each cell, but only two beds, so two of the prisoners had to sleep on mattresses on the floor. All of them had blankets. There was a total of 32 cells in his block. The food was of low quality, but visitors were allowed, and his mother brought him extra food.

La Plata Prison (October 1976-June 1977): After a week in Villa Devoto, he was transferred to La Plata Prison in a transport truck divided into cells, three prisoners in each cell. When he arrived at La Plata, he was beaten on both the head and the body. Sergeant Rivarolli, who was mentioned in Amnesty International's 1976 Annual Report, was still the head of the internal security forces, and he ensured that discipline was extremely tight. The prisoners' hair was cut short. They could go out twice a day, two hours at a time. There were two prisoners in each cell measuring 3 x 1.70 m, one who slept on the bed and one who slept on the floor. There were 120 in this individual's block, 1100 in the prison as a whole. They were given meat twice a week and a great deal of rice, but very few vegetables. The food was decent. They were allowed a bath twice a week. There was a sink in the cell, but the prisoners were not allowed to use it, and, if they did so, they

were tossed into a punishment cell. This individual was never, however, put into a punishment cell. They were allowed visitors for an hour each week. He tried to see a doctor for his stomach problems but was treated very badly. It was possible to see a dentist, but there was a long waiting list. In June 1977, he was released from prison and exiled to Italy.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

For several days, he was nauseous a good deal of the time. After the picana, he suffered from dysuria for a week, and his testes were sensitive and his scrotum swollen for several days. Due to the fact that he was hooded, he could not determine whether he had hematuria or not. He did not notice any special pains in his teeth, but he did have pain in his jaw joint (see also attached dental report). He had sores and bruises all over. After the picana, he wished he was dead and tried to take his own life by drinking water, as he had heard that it was extremely dangerous to drink water after undergoing picana. However, nothing happened.

#### Symptoms in the Following Period

Several times, after being involved in violent scenes, he relived his torture sessions, but this has not happened since his arrival in Italy.

#### Knowledge of Other Forms of Torture

Individuals are transferred to prisons on the basis of geography or which branch of the armed forces makes the arrest. This individual stated that the Navy was the worst. They frequently torture children while their parents were looking on or parents while their children were looking on. They also chop off fingers joint by joint, and prisoners who have had this done to them frequently end up being executed because of the telltale signs of torture. The Army uses vicious dogs which bite as a form of torture.

He also stated that if you begin "talking" during picana, the torturers usually continue using more and more cruel forms of torture. This results in permanent and more or less obvious signs and symptoms of torture, leading to execution of the prisoner to avoid publicity.

#### General State of Health in Prison

During his first 10 days in Coordinación General, he felt generally awful.

He was depressed and afraid of being executed. While in prison, he lost 10 kg, and during the two months he was hooded he had visual and olfactory hallucinations of food, which gradually decreased after his hood was removed. He kept track of the days on the basis of what happened around him. He was depressed, but he did not cry.

While he was in La Plata, his ventricular problems became worse, with pressure on the sternum, a burning sensation and smarting. This condition has improved since he arrived in Italy but has not completely disappeared. The pains in his chest resulting from the blow with the rifle butt lasted approximately two months. While in La Plata, he regained 5 kg, as the food there was much better. The bitemporal headaches from which he'd sporadically suffered before his imprisonment became much worse, but there were no accompanying disturbances. He felt his reading speed, memory and ability to concentrate were all reduced. For an entire week after his hood was removed, the light of a normally lit room was enough to blind him, and for a long time afterwards he involuntarily checked to see whether his hood was on properly or not. This happened especially when he unexpectedly saw a prison guard, because of course he wasn't supposed to see him! While in prison, he was fearful, but he forced himself to think about the present, and his situation in prison, rather than about the future. If he lost his temper, he was punished.

On the whole, his relationship with the other prisoners was good, apart from some problems which arose in Coordinación General due to the fact that the prisoners themselves had to divide up the food, which was always insufficient in quantity.

#### Charge and Trial

He was never charged and never brought before a judge.

#### Present Symptoms

Previously, he did not have any mental problems, but now he is nervous and tends to lack self-control. It is difficult for him to control himself, and he often yells at other people. He has also gotten into a street fight once on a slight pretext. He becomes easily irritated when discussing politics, but this has always been true. He is less self-confident than before, and the rustle of a bunch of keys can make him relive his prison experience all



over again. When he meets police, especially armed, on the street, he turns around and walks in the other direction. He is required to serve in the Italian military forces, but he will try to get himself exempted, as he doesn't feel he can take it mentally.

Since his arrival in Italy, his extrasystoly has recurred sporadically, most recently 20 days before our examination. He suffered from premature ejaculation during the first few weeks after his release, but at this point he has had a steady relationship with a woman for several months and describes their sexual relationship as normal.

He often starts the day with a bilateral headache but does not take anything for it. It often gets better during the course of the morning, but during the first hours of the day it often bothers him so much he cannot read. His ability to concentrate has not yet fully returned to normal, and his reading speed and memory have not improved much, either. If he reads for a long time, a couple of hours or more, the paper often appears to turn yellow and the letters on the page change size, becoming larger and smaller.

#### Physical Examination

Height: 178 cm    Weight: 65 kg    BP: 125/75    P: 92

General physical condition: He is slender and his build is wiry. His nutritional state is under average.

General mental condition: His gestures are normal, and he had a positive attitude towards our examination. He cooperated well, was responsive and well-oriented and has a good memory. There are no indications of intellectual reduction. His ability to concentrate is good, but there are indications of an over-controlled affect. His voice modulation is normal, and his tone play is also normal. He did not become irritable during the examination. His facial expressions are normal, and his communication with the interviewer was excellent. He is not fearful and does not exhibit phobic, obsessive-compulsive or hypochondriachical characteristics.

Skin: There are no sores or bruises, but there is a 1-cm-long scar of unknown age over the right eyebrow. There are round scars on the right temple, in the right mental region, and on both cheeks above the ramus mandibulae, the latter of which are slightly hyperpigmented. There are no characteristic electrode marks, no hair loss and no other abnormal

pigmentation of the head. The skin of the body is normal, with no discoloration of the extremities. There is, however, peripheral onycholysis on both big toes.

Cranium: Normal.

Eyes: Normal. Ophthalmoscopy normal.

Ears: Normal.

Otoscopy: Normal.

Spine: Normal.

Thorax: No indication of fracture of either the clavicle or rib cage.

Auscultation of heart and lungs: Normal, but slight gynecomasty on both sides.

Abdomen: Normal.

Genitalia: Normal. No electrode marks.

Extremities: Normal. Reflexes and pulse normal.

Neurology: Normal.

Audiometry: Normal.

Examination for cerebral asthenopia: On the right side, the short rod becomes thicker when held at midpoint. On the left side, the red-and-white rhombus becomes smaller in the outside position. The left eye and both eyes together show normal.

Dental examination: See attached report.

#### Summary and Conclusion

This is a 23-year-old man who has been severely tortured, both physically and mentally. The test for cerebral asthenopia was positive, and the case history also supports this diagnosis. There are unmistakable sequelae in the form of problems with self-control.

DENTAL REPORT--ARG 6

History Taken for Dental Record

Before his arrest, this man had visited the dentist several times and had fillings, orthodontic treatment and one extraction done. He brushed his teeth daily.

Symptoms before Arrest

He had occasional headaches, about twice weekly in the morning.

Torture

During the first week after his arrest, he was subjected to slaps and punches, picana of a severe degree to the face, teeth, lips and tongue, and submarino in clean water. The picana to the side of his face and in the region of the temporo-mandibular joint caused a reflex movement of the entire mandible which was extremely violent and very distressing. He felt as if his entire skull was vibrating. The picana was particularly painful when the electrode was placed on a tooth in which there was an extensive attack of caries. During the course of this torture, this man lost consciousness several times. The voltage varied continuously. After the picana, he had wounds and vesicles all over his mouth and lips. At a later stage of his imprisonment, and while being transported from one prison to another, he was punched in the face and hit in the face with a rifle butt, which created a gash on his lip.

Stay in Prison

While in prison, he had violent headaches which were especially severe in the morning and lasted close to noon. These headaches have persisted and are often so severe he is unable to read. During his first two months in prison, he was not allowed to brush his teeth, but later on he was allowed to. The prison food was very poor until he came to La Plata Prison, where the diet was a little better. In addition to the vesicles and wounds in his mouth and on his lips immediately after the picana, he also had headaches, difficulty in opening his mouth and pain in the temporo-mandibular joints. At La Plata, a dentist was occasionally available. He did not require a dentist, but for payment it was possible to have teeth filled

and extractions performed, dentures made and even orthodontic treatment.

Present Condition

As mentioned, he still suffers from headaches. Since his arrival in Rome, he has had root treatment of one tooth. He brushed his teeth daily and has no particular problems apart from the headaches.

Physical Examination

Extraorally: Nothing abnormal.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: The temporal muscles on both sides are tender to palpation.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: Normal. Gingiva: Inflamed, plaque, dental calculus, pouches 3-5 mm.

Teeth: Several minor fillings.

Pulp: A pulp vitality test showed all teeth vital except 37.

X-rays: Did not turn up for the X-rays.

Conclusions

This young man was subjected to severe torture. The picana and stay in prison were an enormous strain. It must therefore be considered likely that the patient's headaches, which he refers to the temporal region, are due to myositis of the temporal muscles due to clenching and/or grinding of the teeth.

The lacking vitality of 37 is very probably due to the picana, as there is no caries present.

Recommended Treatment

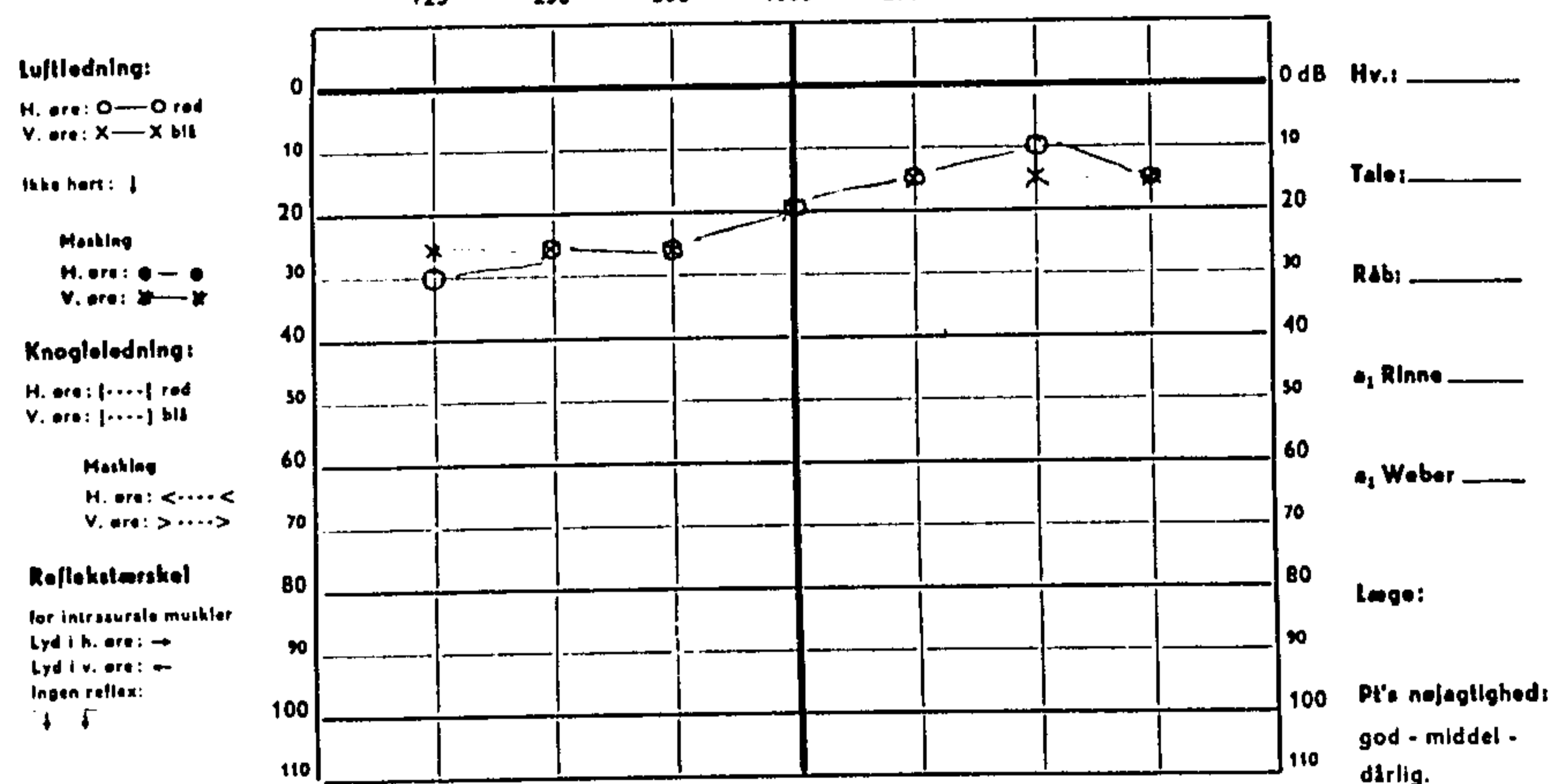
A soft acrylic splint to relieve his headaches and root treatment of 37.



Audiologisk Laboratorium  
Rigshospitalet

Efternavn	Fødselsnr.	Blad 2a . . . . .	Nr.
		Journ. nr. . . . .	

Toneaudiometri d. 1/5-79 Lydrum: Undersøger: JK



## Taleaudiometri

HA . . . . .							
Til. type . . .							
Tone . . . . .							
Vol. kontr.							
Øre/H . . . . .							
TI dB . . . . .							
Tol. dB . . . . .							
DL % . . . . .							
DL+MA . . . . .							

Tone decay	h	dB	sek.
2000 Hz	v	dB	sek.

Bemærkninger

Otitis i a. Glat

Name: ARG 7

Age: 23

Nationality: Argentinian

Sex: F

Occupation: Previously student of economics, on first arrival in Italy  
cleaning woman, now housewife

Marital status: Married

Date and place of examination: 8 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome

Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Jørgen Kelstrup, dentist Pia Marstrand

Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach

Report by: Henning Beck

## Short Presentation

This is a woman from Córdoba who studied economics at Córdoba University. She was married four months before her arrest, and her husband was also arrested. She was detained and tortured at Córdoba police headquarters, Córdoba Prison, and Villa Devoto in Buenos Aires. She was released in August 1978 after having been tried and found not guilty and left Argentina for Italy in January 1979.

## Background

She is the second child of four. Her father works in a bank. Her mother, who has a grammar-school education, is a housewife. Her eldest sister has a university education. None of the other members of the family have been imprisoned or subjected to repressive measures. While at university, this woman worked to pay her way. According to her, her family is apolitical but democratic in their leanings. Her relationship with her parents is good. While she was in prison, her mother visited her a number of times, but her father first visited her while she was in Villa Devoto, as he was so upset about what had happened to her. She describes herself as quiet and sensitive but subject to occasional temper tantrums and in general a bit touchy.

## Previous State of Health and Illnesses

At the age of 16, she was involved in an automobile accident and broke the left side of her jaw. This was corrected with a steel ligature attached to her teeth. Otherwise, she has never been hospitalized. She began to

menstruate when she was 12 years old, and her periods have always been quite irregular. She often suffered from menstrual cramps, and on taking an analgesic preparation for these pains, she had an allergic reaction with a rash and difficulty in breathing. While still a child, she developed tonsillitis and her tonsils were removed. In connection with this, she developed a liver affection and nausea.

Present medications: 0

Alcohol intake: 0

Use of tobacco: 0

Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

She was arrested in her home one morning in April 1976 and driven to her previous place of residence with her husband. The arrest was carried out by four plainclothes policemen who came in, asked for their names and searched their house. The policemen were not violent, however. They were then taken to the police information center in Córdoba, where she was blindfolded and handcuffed, and after two hours she was driven to an office and separated from her husband, whom, however, she saw again the following day. At this office, she was told she was to be identified by certain persons, and she was interrogated about her earlier activities. (In 1974, she had been detained by the police for 24 hours but had not been subjected to torture.)

After being questioned in the office, she was taken to a courtyard in the building and undressed down to her underpants. At first, she was directed to stand against a wall; later, her hands were tied behind her back and she was told to lie on a bench, where some of the policemen sat on her thighs. She was interrogated for a short time, threatened and humiliated. They forced her to drink a large amount of water, and they put a wet towel over her mouth and nose and pulled a plastic bag down over her head (semi-wet submarino). She felt as though she were suffocating. At the same time, they hit her, although not particularly hard, especially on her upper back and in the kidney region. However, she did not lose consciousness. After about an hour of torture, she was told to stand up, although they continued to hit her, and she was taken to a cell. She remained there for six days, blindfolded the entire time. After that, she was not tortured, but the prison guards threatened and humiliated her, and they tried to remove her clothes and rape her.

After the first six days, she was subjected to another session of punches and slaps in the face--not, however, on the ears or mouth--and was then transferred to Córdoba Prison in a police car. While on the way, her hands were bound, but not behind her back. Her husband was also in the group of prisoners being transferred. There was no violence exercised against the prisoners.

After arrival at Córdoba Prison, all the prisoners were examined by a doctor. Afterwards, this woman was taken to a women's cell block by a female prison guard. She had the impression that both her legs were swollen as a result of sitting down for such a long time. She was put into solitary confinement cell but was able to communicate with some of the other prisoners. Immediately after arrival, she was interrogated by the prison doctor, a military officer. She was not subjected to physical torture, but she was forced to watch when a man and a woman were taken out into the courtyard and drenched with cold water. Both of these prisoners later died.

While at Córdoba Prison, she was not allowed to communicate with her husband, but she knew he was there as well. Discipline was strict, and the prisoners were often made to do exercises. All their clothes were taken from them at night by male military personnel, who molested several of them sexually. She did not personally see any rape attempts.

After this, she was transferred to Villa Devoto, in Buenos Aires Province. Here she was not subjected to mental torture, but she felt the constant humiliations and threats to be mentally wearing. Discipline was strict, and a prisoner could be put into a solitary punishment cell for up to 15 days for minor offenses, such as refusing to undress in front of the prison guards. The guards occasionally tried to touch the prisoners' genitals.

While she was in Villa Devoto, she was told she would be released. She was driven to an administrative office in Buenos Aires and then to Córdoba Prison. The transport consisted of 65 women, and the trip took 24 hours due to long stopovers. They were transported in a regular passenger plane, but all the prisoners were blindfolded, and this individual, like the other prisoners, was beaten on the back and in the kidney region.

She was afraid to return to Córdoba, as she knew she was likely to be tortured there. She was transferred from Córdoba Prison to the city police headquarters, where she was subjected to torture similar to that which she previously had undergone, but for a longer period of time. The brutality



she suffered from and the general prison conditions were much worse than previously. Her ankles and wrists were cuffed together, and she was forced to lie on a mattress in a bathroom. While there, she was told she would be handed over to the military, which she knew was the same as saying she would be killed. She was beaten all over, including on the cheeks and lips, and she developed a number of bruises which took a long time to go away. None of her teeth came loose, however, and she did not bleed from the mouth. She could chew and yawn normally. She was also subjected to dry submarino with a plastic bag over her head. She passed out several times and remained unconscious for quite a while. While the bag was over her head, the guards also tried to strangle her. They did this between 10 and 50 times in two days.

After this, she was driven from the police station to Buen Pastor Prison, where normally only criminal prisoners are held. There she was not subjected to violence. She was released in August 1978 and left for Italy in January 1979.

#### The Individual Prisons

Córdoba Prison: This prison was divided into cell blocks comprised wholly of isolation cells, with about 40 prisoners in each cell block. All of them were political prisoners. Each room was furnished with a cot, which could be folded up against the wall. There was a very small, openable window reinforced with wire mesh and further secured by bars on the outside. The prisoners were allowed to wash and brush their teeth once a day. The cell doors were open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., but the prisoners were not allowed to leave their cells, and they were not allowed outdoors. However, they managed to communicate with each other, anyway. From July 1976 on, it was more difficult for the prisoners to communicate with each other, as the cell doors were kept closed the entire day, except for a couple of hours in the afternoon. Medical assistance was not available. Among other things, this woman requested an orthopedic shoe, as one of her legs is one centimeter longer than the other, but she was not given one. Dental assistance was available, but the dentist was so bad that most of the prisoners did not take advantage of this service.

Villa Devoto: This is a women's prison in Buenos Aires Province. There were 90 prisoners in each cell block and four in each cell measuring  $3\frac{1}{2}$  x 4 m. Each cell contained two metal bunk beds and a barred window measuring

1 x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. There was a sink, and washing and toothbrushing were allowed. In this prison, this individual often suffered from a sore throat, and the doctor in charge gave her vitamins. The food was better than in Córdoba Prison; there was a lot of it, and the quality was not too bad. This individual had a carious tooth filled, but the filling had to be replaced after she arrived in Italy.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

She had no cardiopulmonary problems and no cough, but she did have stomach pains after being tortured, which were accompanied by heartburn and diarrhea. After being tortured the first time, her legs were swollen for several days, but there were no sensations of hot or cold and no paralysis. She also suffered from back pains, as her shoes had disappeared and she was unable to procure the special high shoe she needed.

During and after being tortured, she noticed skin changes consisting of irregularly shaped, reddish, raised patches which itched but went away of themselves. This was undoubtedly a case of urticaria.

After being tortured, she was fearful and depressed, as well as anxious and worried about what would happen next, especially whether the torture would be repeated or not. She was shocked at being tortured and felt the torture to be very violent. She did not undergo any changes in her thought processes or suffer from hallucinations. Immediately after being tortured, she had nightmares in which she was pursued. She was very afraid but did not panic or lose her self-control. She also felt very discouraged and depressed but did not wish to kill herself, nor did she try to do so.

#### Symptoms in the Following Period

While in prison, she often suffered from a sore throat, and the prison doctor gave her vitamins, which helped. Her gastritis abated somewhat. While in Villa Devoto, she felt reasonably healthy. However, she felt rather weak at the last, which she ascribes to minor mental disturbances. She continued to tire easily when reading and had difficulty in concentrating.

#### Knowledge of Other Forms of Torture

While she was at Córdoba Prison, a number of prisoners were shot, including six women she personally knew who were taken away and killed. This incident was later described as death during an escape attempt.

Family Situation

After she was released, she returned to her family in Córdoba, but she was uneasy at the thought of remaining in Argentina, as life outside prison seemed as insecure as life inside. She describes her communication with and relationship to her family at this time as being good. Her husband was released from prison in November 1978 and exiled to Italy, where she joined him in January 1979. Her husband presently works as a brass turner, and they live in a rented house. They have no children. It is, however, difficult for her to find work, and the family finances are strained.

Charge and Trial

In August 1978, she was tried before a civil court for membership in an illegal organization, with a lawyer appointed by the state. The verdict was not guilty and she was released, but she was not able to get compensation for the time she had spent in prison.

Present Symptoms

Her stomach does not bother her any more, and she feels basically healthy. Because she is pregnant, her breasts are enlarged and she occasionally suffers from morning sickness. She has not been examined by a doctor since she became pregnant but plans to be in the very near future.

She regards herself as somewhat changed psychologically from the time before she was arrested and imprisoned. She feels her good communication with the other prisoners made her more capable of expressing her feelings. One can read between the lines and say that this was due to the camaraderie in prison, where all had a common background and an unknown future. When she and her husband met again after being released from prison, they felt very strange and distant with each other, but now she describes her relationship with her husband as being good, due to the fact that she is more open and can express herself better. She still becomes depressed and withdrawn at times and on the whole is more introverted than before. She tends not to have temper tantrums so often and in general acts in a much less violent manner. She also says she is less trustful of the people around her than she was previously.

She still has difficulties concentrating and tires quickly when reading. She also has occasional attacks of parasthesia in her fingers, but without accompanying changes in color or temperature. She does not suffer from

accompanying changes in color or temperature. She does not suffer from choking sensations.

She does not suffer from any sexual disturbances.

Physical Examination

Height: 157 cm    Weight: 50 kg    BP: 110/60    P: 88

General physical condition: She is thin and pale, in good general condition and medium nutritional condition.

General mental condition: She seems rather asthenic and is very reserved. She spoke hesitantly, and she seemed rather unhappy and uneasy at being examined. At the beginning of the interview, she answered our questions in monosyllables, but, as it progressed, she began to open up and express herself better. However, whenever we began to question her about things which affected her emotionally, the contact suffered. Her communication with us was generally poor, but she cooperated well on the physical and technical levels. One is left with the impression that she did not reveal the most emotion-laden material. Our attempts to get more detailed information on this level met with little success.

Her memory and perception are normal, and there are no indications of dementia. She speaks in a monotone and, although her eye contact is good, her emotional contact is generally superficial.

She denies having any sexual problems. There are no indications of neurosis or psychosis, and there do not seem to be any deep personality changes.

Skin: There is depigmentation of the upper back resulting from acne. There are no sequelae to blows.

Cranium: There are no scars of sequelae to lesions. The skull is normal.

Eyes: The pupils are round and normal, with normal reactions. Ophthalmoscopy is normal.

Ears: The outer ear is normal, and there are no signs of previous lesions.

Otoscopy: Normal.

Spine: In a standing position, there is a left convex scoliosis in the lumbar spine with a certain element of rotation which partially disappears on bending forward. The left leg is 2 cm shorter than the right, and, on



standing, the pelvis tilts in compensation. There is no tenderness of the paravertebral musculature.

Thorax: Nothing abnormal.

Auscultation of heart and lungs: Normal.

Breasts: Normal for a pregnant woman.

Abdomen: Soft, no lumps or enlarged organs.

Extremities: No edema or deformation, skin normal.

Neurology: Normal.

Audiometry: Nothing abnormal.

Dental examination: See attached report.

#### Summary and Conclusion

This is a 23-year-old female economics student from Córdoba who was married four months previous to her arrest as a suspected member of an underground organization. She was subjected to physical torture in the form of blows and submarino, as well as mental torture in the form of threats and attempted rape. She was held at Córdoba police headquarters (twice), Córdoba Prison, Villa Devoto and Buen Pastor Prison in Córdoba. She was tried and found not guilty of the charges against her and released 2½ years after she was arrested. She shows no physical sequelae to torture, but there are moderate personality changes in this already sensitive and easily upset individual.

#### DENTAL REPORT--ARG 7

##### History Taken for Dental Record

Before her arrest, this woman had visited a dentist regularly, and she had brushed her teeth daily. She had had several amalgam fillings done in Argentina. At the age of 16, she was in a motorcycle accident in which she sustained a mandibular fracture on the left side, which was reduced by ligation.

##### Torture

As far as torture to the head is concerned, she was slapped in the face and had received a violent blow which left haematomas on both sides of her nose. These haematomas were very large and lasted for 10-15 days.

##### Stay in Prison

The food was very poor and there was too little of it. This woman developed rhagades at the corners of the mouth, but she believes they disappeared spontaneously. Except for in the first prison, she was allowed to brush her teeth and wash. In Córdoba Prison, there was access to a dentist, but she did not want to visit him, as she knew the only treatment he offered was extraction. On the other hand, she went to the dentist in Villa Devoto, where she had one tooth filled free. After her release from prison, the filling was redone by a private dentist as it was inadequate.

##### Present Condition

No complaints.

##### Physical Examination

Extraorally: Nothing abnormal.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: Nothing abnormal.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: Normal. Gingiva: Normal, pouches less than 3 mm.

Teeth: A number of fillings, one broken tooth and one acute attack of caries.

Pulp: Vitality testing was done in the maxilla, and all teeth proved vital.

X-rays: Did not turn up for the X-rays.

Conclusions

This 23-year-old woman was exposed to torture consisting of slaps in the face and one blow with a fist. She has a nice, well-tended and very clean set of teeth. There are apparently no direct sequelae to the torture in the masticatory apparatus.

Recommended Treatment

Root treatment of 37.

AUDIOMETRY--ARG 7

- 107 -

Audiologisk Laboratorium  
Rigshospitalet

Efternavn	Fornavn	Blad 2a .....	Nr.
		Journ. nr. ....	

Toneaudiometri d. 8/9-79 Lydrum: \_\_\_\_\_ Undersøgt: FK

	125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	8000 Hz						
<p><b>Lufledning:</b> H. øre: ○—○ rød V. øre: X—X blå</p> <p>Ikke hørt: ↓</p> <p><b>Masking</b> H. øre: ⊙—⊙ V. øre: ⊗—⊗</p> <p><b>Knogleledning:</b> H. øre: [----] rød V. øre: [----] blå</p> <p><b>Masking</b> H. øre: &lt;----&lt; V. øre: &gt;----&gt;</p> <p><b>Refleksstærkel</b> for intrasurale muskler Lyd i h. øre: → Lyd i v. øre: ← ingen refleks: — ↓ f</p>	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	<p>0 dB Hv. i _____</p> <p>10 Tale: _____</p> <p>20 Råb: _____</p> <p>30 a, Rinne _____</p> <p>40 e, Weber _____</p> <p>50 Løge: _____</p> <p>60 Pt's nøjagtighed: _____</p> <p>70 god - middel - _____</p> <p>80 dårlig.</p>

**Taleaudiometri**

HA.....							
Til. type...							
Tone .....							
Vol. kontr.							
Øre/ll .....							
TI dB.....							
Tol. dB.....							
DL %.....							
DL+MA...							
Tone decay	h	dB	sek.				
2000 Hz	v	dB	sek.				

Bemærkninger

*Coticeps - mat.*

Sø 17-1518

ANALYSEBILAG 1 BILAG 1366



Name: ARG 8

Age: 35

Nationality: Argentinian

Sex: F

Occupation: Charwoman

Marital status: Widow

Date and place of examination: 9 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome

Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Niels Hyldebrandt, dentist Pia Marstrand

Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach

Report by: Niels Hyldebrandt

Short Presentation

This is a 35-year-old Argentinian widow with one child, who was arrested on the street in March 1976. After a preliminary interrogation, which lasted two days, she was imprisoned in two different prisons, where she was beaten several times but was not subjected to any special torture methods. She was released in July 1977 without charge or trial and since that time has lived in Rome with her 19-year-old son, one of her sisters and a women friend.

Background

She grew up in a working-class family of four children. She attended school until the age of 14, then earned her living as a babysitter until age 17, when she was married. Her husband, who was also from a working-class background, died in 1969 after a work-related accident. They had one child. After her husband died, she began to work in a factory, where she became union delegate for 240 workers. Her son was taken care of by her parents or a friend.

Previous State of Health and Illnesses

At 13 years of age, she contracted nephritis. Her entire body swelled up, and she had to stay in bed for three months, but there was apparently no increase in blood pressure. Since that time, she has had no relapses, and in particular there were no complications during her pregnancy in 1957.

For several years in the early '70s, she suffered periodically from depression and general feelings of fear, beginning when one of her brothers-

law suddenly disappeared. She did not consult a doctor for these problems, and they have not recurred since her release from prison.

Present medications: 0

Alcohol intake: 0

Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

Twice in the time before she was arrested, her parents' apartment was visited by the military police, and once they punched her father in the face. At that time, this woman was living with a woman friend.

One day in March 1976, as she was riding a bus to her parents', she was arrested. The bus was stopped by military personnel, and a number of people whose names were on a list were told to get off the bus. They were lined up by the side of the road, surrounded by armed military police. They were then blindfolded, and their heads were covered with bags. This woman resisted being hooded, but she was punched and hit with rifle butts in the neck, back of the head and breasts. At one point, she was practically thrown between two military policemen, who began simultaneously to beat her. She did not lose consciousness, but in the end was so worn out she let them blindfold her.

After they were blindfolded, they were driven in a truck to the naval base at Rio Santiago, where she was taken to a room where several uniformed personnel were waiting and ordered to take off all her clothes. She took off all her clothes apart from her brassiere, but was again punched until she agreed to take off her brassiere as well. After about an hour in this room, she was allowed to put her clothes on again and was taken into an interrogation room. Here she was asked about the working conditions at the factory and about her work as union representative. This interrogation lasted about an hour, during which time she was made to sit with her arms clasped behind her neck. Some person--probably a doctor--took her pulse several times and asked her why it was so rapid.

The interrogation started in a friendly fashion, but when she refused to give the names of the other union members, the police began to hit her with a sort of boxing glove and pulled at her breasts and pubic hair. Once they held a pistol to her head and pulled the trigger. After this, she was taken to another room and told she would be given two hours to think things

over, and she was given a pill, presumably to calm her down. She tried to vomit the pill up but was told she would be killed if she did. In the course of two days, she was interrogated four times, and in between interrogation sessions she shared a cell with a woman who was six months pregnant. Apart from information on union members, she was asked for information about her husband, and several times the police threatened to kill her child and her sister.

#### The Individual Prisons

Olmos Prison (March-September 1976): After the interrogations at the naval base, she was transferred to Olmos Prison. On the way there, she was hooded and her hands were cuffed behind her back, and she was hit a number of times both in the head and on the body. She did not, however, lose consciousness. Her block at Olmos Prison contained 96 prisoners, presumably all political prisoners, divided up among eight cells. The cells measured 5 x 5 m, and there were some beds and some mattresses on the floor. There was a single small window and an electric light which was turned off at 9:00 p.m. As it was winter and there was no heat, it was very cold and damp. The toilets were outside the cells, and the prisoners were allowed to wash themselves once every few days. The food was decent, and visitors were allowed to bring fruit and other food to the prisoners, who were allowed two visitors weekly for 20 minutes at a time. As this individual had trouble with an incisor, she was examined by a dentist, who, however, did not have the materials necessary to fix the tooth. Until May 1976, newspapers and some books were allowed, and the prisoners were also allowed to do needlework. At that time, however, all the prisoners were suddenly ordered outside their cells one day and made to stand facing the wall for four hours while the cells were searched. Various items, including their needlework, were confiscated, and from that day on the only permissible form of recreation was exercising.

Villa Devoto (September 1976-July 1977): In September 1976, she was transferred to Villa Devoto, where she was put into a 5-x-6-m cell together with 26 other prisoners. The rules here were much stricter, and, apart from one hour of outside recreation per week, all the prisoners had to remain in their cells 24 hours a day. There were three toilets in the cell, separated by partitions. There was one window in the cell, as well as an electric light, which was turned off at 9:00 p.m. Once, a

priest came and tried to get them to confess in the name of God, but was unsuccessful.

After applying for exile, she was released in July 1977 and immediately left for Italy.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

After being punched and hit with a rifle butt and boxing gloves on the head, breasts and abdomen during interrogation and transfer to Olmos Prison, the left side of her head, the area around her right ear, her left shoulder, and the area under her left rib curvature were all swollen and painful. The pain and swelling of her head and ear went away after a few days, but she still has pain in her left shoulder, together with some difficulty in movement. During her entire stay in prison, she had pains of varying intensity in the diaphragm region, especially on the left side. A month before her release, she was examined by a doctor, who took an X-ray and told her that she did not have an ulcer, but that she very easily could develop one.

During her first three months in prison, she gained 8 kg, and, according to her, most of her fellow prisoners also gained weight. Her menstruation was regular during her whole time in prison. She did not have any particular mental disturbances, hallucinations or suicidal thoughts.

#### Symptoms in the Following Period

During the first days after her release, she was able to sleep almost uninterruptedly and felt enormously relieved at being able to do so. After that, her sleep became increasingly disturbed, and she periodically had nightmares. She does not feel she has had any particular difficulties in her relationships with other people, and that in fact her relationship to the people closest to her, especially her sister, has become better. She describes herself as being an open person and feels this was true of her before she was arrested.

#### Family Situation

At present, she lives in Rome with her son, unmarried sister and a woman friend, with whom her relationship is good. Her son is at school, and she herself works as a cleaning woman and babysitter. She has not been



absent from work due to illness for the last year. She has not yet acquired Italian citizenship, but her work permit has been renewed. For the last two months, she has had a relationship with a male acquaintance, but at present she is not very interested in romantic relationship as she feels she has more important things to think about.

Charge and Trial

She was never charged nor tried, nor was she offered legal assistance.

Present Symptoms

There is decreased mobility of the left shoulder, as well as pain on lifting and movement. She has epigastric pain at the diaphragm and left rib curvature which is unrelated to food intake or movement. She recently had an ECG done which, however, did not clarify these pains.

Periodically, she has a feeling of pressure in her neck, but no real pain. This feeling is eased if she presses on the affected muscles or takes an aspirin. Her daily activities proceed normally, however, and she feels generally healthy. In particular, she feels mentally stable and can talk about her experiences in prison without becoming distressed.

Physical Examination

Height: 163 cm    Weight: 67 kg    BP: 130 systolic    F: 84

General physical condition: Good.

General mental condition: She is open and had a positive attitude toward our examination. She is well-oriented, has a good memory and expresses herself well. Her voice modulation is normal.

Skin: No remarks.

Cranium and neck: There is tenderness in the ligaments of the paravertebral musculature.

Eyes: Ophthalmoscopy showed nothing abnormal.

Ears: Normal.

Otoscopy: There is a slight external otitis. The membranes are clear, and there are no abnormal changes.

Spine: There are marked myoses in the trapezius, particularly on the left side.

Thorax: Normal.

Auscultation of heart and lungs: Normal.

Abdomen: There is tenderness in the left kidney region but no abnormal swelling. On the lower abdomen, there are a number of pronounced striae, plus a scar on the right side from an appendectomy performed at the age of 15.

Extremities: There is 25° limitation of movement in the left shoulder on outward rotation and some tenderness of the capsule of the shoulder joint, but no swelling. There is chronic edema of both ankles, plus slight hyperpigmentation of the ankles. There are no varicose veins.

Neurology: Nothing abnormal.

Examination for cerebral asthenopia: Nothing abnormal.

Audiometry: Nothing abnormal.

Dental examination: See attached report.

Summary and Conclusion

This is a 35-year-old Argentinian woman who was incarcerated for 15 months on political charges. During arrest and in the four days following, she was subjected to blows to the head, breasts and abdomen with fists and a rifle butt, but she was not subjected to any special torture methods. There were no charges raised against her, and she was not brought to trial. Since her stay in prison, she has suffered from pains in the left shoulder and has periodically suffered from pressure in the back of the head and neck, as well as pains in the upper left abdomen, none of which has hampered her daily activities. She describes her present social situation and state of health as being satisfactory.

DENTAL REPORT--ARG 8

History Taken for Dental Record

Had regularly been to a dentist, who had done extractions and amalgam fillings. Had brushed her teeth regularly.

Torture

During her stay in prison, she received blows to the head, mainly the back of the neck, with fists and rifle butts. As immediate sequelae to the torture, she had pain in the back of the neck and behind the ears.

Stay in Prison

During her stay in prison, she was given enough, but very poor-quality, food. In Olmos Prison, where she spent six months, she was able to brush her teeth--that is, when water was available. In Villa Devoto, she brushed her teeth daily. There was access to a dentist in both prisons, but she did not visit them as the only treatment they offered was extraction of teeth.

Present Condition

At present, she suffers from frontal headaches behind the eyes and minor headaches in the temporal region.

Physical Examination

Extraorally: Nothing abnormal.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: The temporal and masseter muscles were tender to palpation on both sides, the internal pterygoid on the right.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: Nothing abnormal. Gingiva: Severely inflamed, neg. papillae, plaque, dental calculus, pouches deeper than 5 mm, teeth loosened 1st-2nd degree.

Teeth: Several attacks of acute and chronic caries. Fillings and several missing teeth.

Pulp: Vitality testing not done.

X-rays: Not obtained.

Conclusions

This woman had not been exposed to torture which directly involved the teeth in any way. However, as a secondary sequel to torture and imprisonment, she is suffering from a state of tension which is, very probably, the cause of her myosis and thereby of the headaches of which she complains.

Recommended Treatment

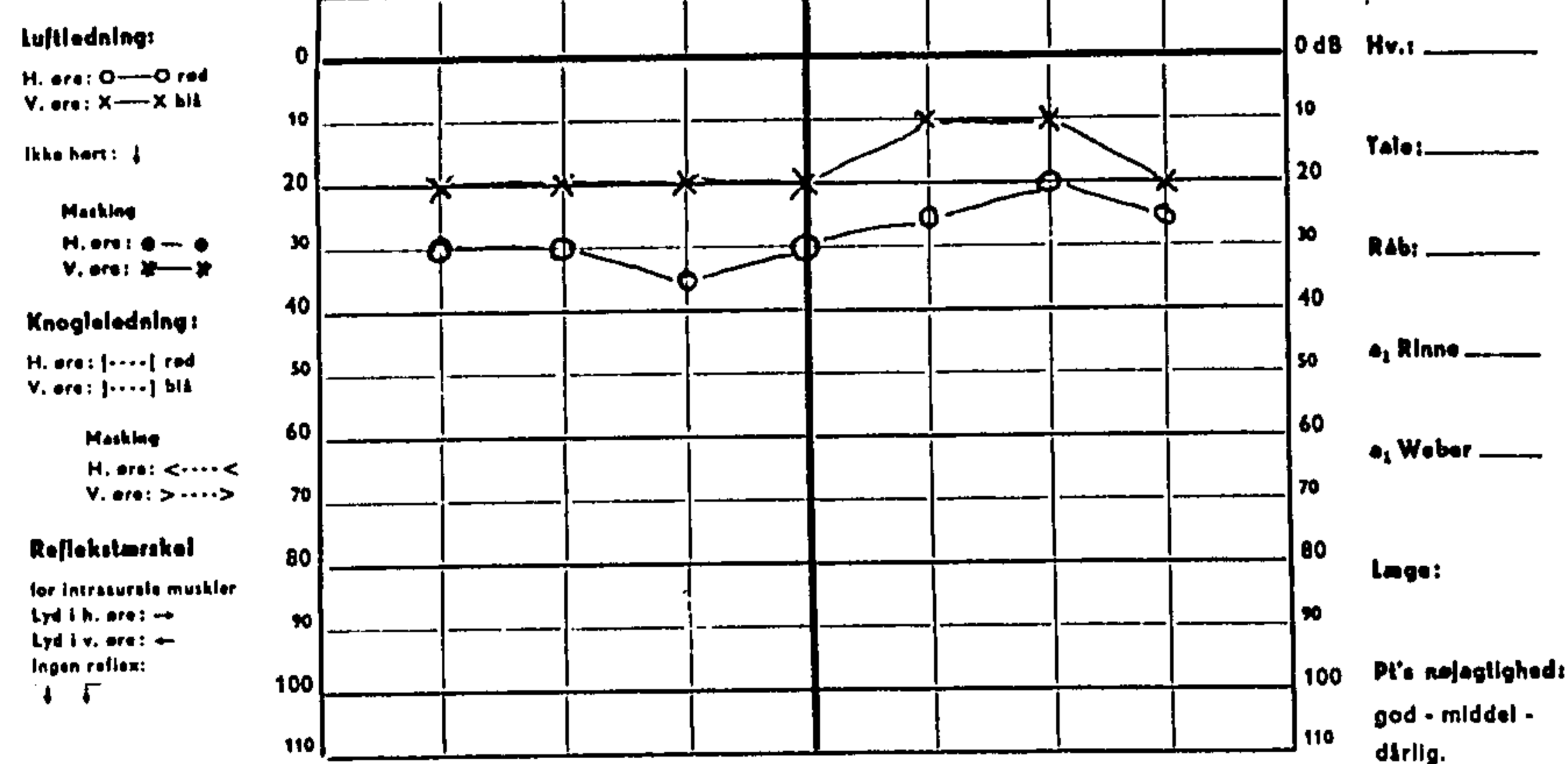
Treatment of odontogenic headaches.



Audiologisk Laboratorium  
Rigshospitalet

Efternavn	Fødselsnr.	Blad 2a.....	Nr.
		Journ. nr. ...	

Toneaudiometri d. 10/5 Lydrum: Undersøger: HW



## Taleaudiometri

HA.....									
Til. type...									
Tone.....									
Vol. kontr.									
Ørefll....									
TI dB....									
Tol. dB....									
DL %....									
DL+MA..									

Tone decay	h	dB	sek.
2000 Hz	v	dB	sek.

Bemærkninger

Ortop: lei røsten c. 1/2 bilal, aur. ext. int.  
hå. fibros, cicatricel, spec. nodulær  
(flaccida ovar.) Nat reflexer, = perf.

Name: ARG 9

Age: 32

Nationality: Argentinian/Italian

Sex: F

Occupation: Printshop worker

Marital status: Married

Date and place of examination: 9 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome

Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Niels Hyldebrandt, dentist Pia Marstrand

Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach

Report by: Henning Beck

## Short Presentation

This is a 32-year-old university-educated, middle-class woman who was active in the student movement in Argentina until she was arrested (kidnapped) by the federal police in April 1975. She was detained and tortured at the federal police station in Tucumán, then imprisoned in the Tucumán central police station and Buen Pastor Prison in Tucumán. Ten days prior to her release, she was transferred to Coordinación Federal in Buenos Aires. She was released and exiled to Italy in February 1976.

## Background

She grew up in a middle-class home, the third of four children. Her father, who died 23 years ago, was a doctor, her mother a schoolteacher. She has one older brother and two sisters. Her brother, who is also a political refugee, presently lives in exile in Norway. Her younger sister, who was also arrested and tortured, also lives in Italy. She herself was born in Astiaco d'Estado but grew up in Tucumán. She studied literature and Spanish at the university's liberal arts college, working at the same time to support herself. She has been politically active in both student and party politics since 1960, but otherwise has lived a rather well-regulated life.

## Previous State of Health and Illnesses

She reports that there is diabetes mellitus in the family but no other hereditary illnesses, including connective tissue diseases.

At the age of 12, she was diagnosed to have systematic lupus erythematosus

(SLE) and underwent a large number of treatments in hospital, including thymectomy. Previous to this, she had been treated with cortisone and purinethol. In addition, she was treated with antacids for gastritis. Kidney biopsies were done on her twice, but these did not reveal either high blood pressure or reduced kidney function. She had pyelonephritis of the right side twice and frequently suffered from sores in the mouth and gums, as well as pains in the jaw and other joints. In the year prior to her imprisonment, however, her state of health was generally good, and the steroid-cytostatics treatment she was on was discontinued. During that year, she spent one month in hospital, but apart from that her work attendance was good. She cannot tolerate alcohol, as this exacerbates her SLE, and in addition she is on a special diet for her gastritis and therefore avoids coffee and spicy and fatty foods.

Present medications: 0

Alcohol intake: 0

Use of tobacco: Moderate

#### Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

One day in May 1975, she arrived home from school to find six plainclothes policemen from the federal police waiting for her. She ran away and sought shelter in a nearby sanatorium, but the policemen followed, and one of the doctors, who had been willing to hide her, allowed them to take her away upon presentation of their identification. They took her to an automobile, where they blindfolded her and bound her hands and feet. Then she was driven to a camp she couldn't identify. On the way, the policemen told her they worked for the Argentinian antisocialist organization AAA, and that they were taking her to be tortured at a place called Famailla. She became very frightened when she heard this, as she was afraid she would be killed. They asked her questions about her family, particularly her politically active brother and sister, as well as one of her cousins, who had disappeared in Argentina two years previously. She told them their names, but nothing more. When they arrived at the camp, she was left alone in the car, but about midnight some policemen came, punched her in the face and on the upper back and kidney regions, and took her to a room where she was undressed and bound to an iron bed. In order to keep them from giving her electrical torture, she told them she had a weak heart, but they only laughed at her.

She was subjected to picana on her nipples, eyelids, eyeballs, nose and vagina with a pencil-shaped electrode. The bed itself acted as the second terminal. The torturers were masked. She was subjected to electrical torture for about an hour in all. In between administering the electric shocks, the torturers punched her. She did not, however, lose consciousness and did not tell them anything.

The next morning, she was dressed and taken out to the car, from where she could hear the screams of her sister, who was also being tortured. She was made to stay in the car, with a guard watching her, the entire day. She was not given anything to drink, and when she asked to go to the toilet she was told she would be killed if she urinated in the car. That night she was taken to the torture room again and subjected to picana on the same places as before, as well as the feet, the soles of the feet and the fingers. She was also beaten and kicked, and was kicked while lying on the floor.

Then she was taken to another room, where she found her sister and another prisoner. They remained there for three days, still blindfolded and with their hands cuffed behind their backs. They were not given anything to eat or drink. As they had been blindfolded the entire time, their eyes became infected and inflamed, and they asked that their blindfolds be removed and they be given medicine for their eye infections. Instead, they were threatened with execution. They were carried out into a courtyard and stood in front of a wall. The soldiers pretended to load their rifles, cocked them and pulled the triggers. The prisoners were then taken back to their room. The whole time, they were resolute and composed, and on their way back to their room, they began to sing the national anthem.

Since that time, this woman has attempted to reconstruct the trip to the camp and has concluded that it must have been the federal police barracks in Tucumán. Each night, she was taken out into the courtyard and beaten. On the fourth day, she was given some coffee and bit to eat.

On the fifth day, the three women were told they would be released. They were put into the trailer of a truck and driven back and forth and around and around, until they ended up back at the barracks, where their blindfolds were removed. The police, who pretended to be unaware of what had happened to the women, took their pictures and interrogated them, then registered them as official prisoners. They were disappointed that they had not been released.



This woman was taken to the Tucumán central police station in July 1975 and in September 1975 was transferred to Buen Pastor prison, a Catholic prison for ordinary criminals, also in Tucumán. In September 1975, she applied for permission to emigrate to Italy and later was transferred to Coordinación Federal in Buenos Aires, where she remained for 10 days, until she was exiled to Italy in February 1976.

#### The Individual Prisons

Tucumán Police Station (July-September 1975): There were 19 political prisoners in a room measuring 5 x 5 m. This crowding was in itself a stressful condition, but the prisoners got along well among themselves. There were also common criminals in this prison, but they were held in another cell block. There was a single small barred window in the cell, plus an electric light which could be turned on and off as the prisoners liked. It was very cold in the winter. There were no bathing facilities, but later on in this woman's stay the prisoners were given a pail of hot water to wash themselves in. Food was sparse and of poor quality, but after she had been there a month and a half, her family was allowed to bring her food, as well as clothing and other articles, when they visited her. Visiting rules changed frequently. The prisoners were not molested by the prison guards. Medical help was available, and this woman's eyes were treated at the military hospital. A doctor--most probably a medical student--came once a week, and, among other things, gave this woman medicine for her stomach. She was not, however, seen by a dentist, in spite of the fact that one of her teeth had been loosened by a blow on the mouth.

Buen Pastor Prison (September 1975-February 1976): This is a Catholic prison which normally is used only for common criminals. At the time this woman was transferred there, there were very few other political prisoners, and these were treated better than the criminal prisoners. This woman's sister was in fact allowed to finish her master's thesis there. The cell blocks measured 40 x 8 m, and there was a toilet, sink and shower in each cell block. The windows were large. There were six political prisoners to a cell block, whereas the common criminals were kept 17 to a cell block. The prisoners were allowed into the kitchen and workshop, and they could also go outdoors. The food, which was served in a dining hall, was plentiful and good and included meat, vegetables and

and milk. The prisoners' morale was good, and they were generally in good spirits. This was, however, prior to the military coup. Since that time, conditions have changed for the worse.

Coordinación Federal (February 1976): This prison functioned both as a transfer camp and also as a prison to which newly arrested prisoners were taken. Some of the prisoners had been kidnapped and were subjected to torture while there. Most of the cells were punishment cells, but this woman was not put into one of these. There were four prisoners in each regular cell. The prisoners received almost no food except for what their families brought to them. The prison rules were very strict, especially for the newest prisoners. The prisoners were, however, allowed to share their food with the prisoners in the punishment cells.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

After the picana to the eyes, this woman's periorbital region became seriously inflamed, and she could not open her eyes. She felt there were lesions on her eyeballs, and her eyes smarted and were very painful. She was not treated for this, and the symptoms gradually went away of themselves. In addition, she had bruises on her trunk and extremities after being kicked and punched, and her mouth was swollen as a result of having been punched. She does not remember how long the bruises and swelling lasted.

Her menstrual cycle has been irregular almost to the point of oligomenorrhea even since she began to menstruate at the age of 13 and became even more irregular just after she was tortured. Beginning on the fifth day after she was arrested, she bled for five days, following which she suffered from amenorrhea until October 1975. She did not begin to menstruate anywhere near normally until after she had been released.

She feels being tortured created a feeling of passivity in her, as well as a feeling that it was all happening to somebody else, to the point of being almost able to see and hear that it was happening to somebody else. This feeling lasted all through the torture sessions and recurred whenever she felt herself in a psychologically trying situation in the time just after. While being tortured, she talked disconnectedly, but she did not lose consciousness. Since that time, she has wondered if she reacted in a schizophrenic manner. While being tortured, she felt calm and resolute. She did not wish to die either at that point or later on, but when the





There are no electrode marks on the body or extremities. There is a scar after thymectomy, but no other scars.

Eyes: Normal.

Ears: Normal.

Otoscopy: Normal.

Spine: There is slight tenderness of the thoracic column on pressure. Normal curving of the spine, but a slight fixation of the thoracic vertebrae upon bending to the left.

Auscultation of heart and lungs: Nothing abnormal.

Abdomen: There is paraumbilical tenderness on both sides.

Genitalia: Gynecological examination and anoscopy not performed.

Extremities: Normal movement, no deformation or edema.

Neurology: Normal.

Examination far cerebral asthenopia: Normal.

Audiometry: Normal.

Dental examination: See attached report.

#### Summary and Conclusion

This is a woman from Tucumán, Argentina, who prior to her arrest was treated extensively for systematic lupus erythematosus. She was arrested in April 1975 and twice subjected to electrical torture of the eyes, temples, nose, breasts, fingers and toes, as well as being kicked and punched on the mouth, face and lower back. In addition, she was subjected to severe mental torture in the forms of isolation, threats and mock execution. She also was not given enough to eat while in prison.

Her reactions to being tortured included psychotic manifestations and other forms of mental self-defense. The immediate effects of torture included pronounced eye edema and inflammation, as well as other physical symptoms. She continues to have minor psychological problems. While in prison, she was not examined or treated for SLE, but there is no definite indication that it became worse.

#### DENTAL REPORT--ARG 9

#### History Taken for Dental Record

Allegedly had regularly had dental treatment, fillings as well as extractions. Had brushed her teeth daily.

#### Symptoms before Arrest

At the age of 12, she developed systematic lupus erythematosus (SLE), which has given rise to several problems. She was treated with cortisone and was told that this had caused decalcification of her teeth. This was said to have resulted in severe caries, which were treated by extracting the affected teeth. There was no question of loosened teeth or gingivitis. She suffered from periodic violent manifestations of the SLE in the oral cavity, especially when she was tired, and at times it became so severe she could not eat or brush her teeth.

#### Torture

She was beaten with fists in the face and was subjected to picanas to the eyes and other sites. Among other things, the blows broke an incisor (I2). After being tortured, she suffered from violent swelling and wounds on the face, as well as severe headaches, difficulty in opening the mouth wide and pain in the masseter and temporal regions on both sides, making it difficult for her to eat. She also suffered from toothache, especially in I2. After being tortured, her teeth were also very sensitive, especially to changes in temperature.

#### Stay in Prison

Due to the poor diet in prison, she developed fissures in the corners of her mouth which, however, disappeared when her diet was improved. While in prison, she was seen by a dentist three months after being tortured. He extracted I2 and made her a partial upper denture. During her stay in prison, she was able to brush her teeth every day.

#### Present Condition

After her arrival in Rome, she was treated by a dentist. She still has headaches and severe pain on opening her mouth wide. This pain is localized

for the most part below the temporo-mandibular joint. During long periods, pus oozed from the region of 12. She stated that she clenches and grinds her teeth.

Physical Examination

Extraorally: Nothing abnormal except for a change in coloring of the cheeks due to the SLE.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: She is able to open her mouth fully, but this causes pain. The masseter muscles are extremely tender to palpation on both sides, as is the tendon of the temporal muscle on both sides and the external pterygoid muscle.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: Nothing abnormal. Gingiva: Normal, except for slight inflammation in a few sites. Some scattered plaque and 2-3 mm pouches. At the site of 12, pus could be expressed in relatively large quantities by exerting very light pressure on the mucosa.

Teeth: A number of teeth are missing, but otherwise she has a well-tended set of teeth with fillings and a partial upper denture. There are severe infractions from 42-34 and 11-22. 42 to 32 exhibit uncomplicated enamel-dentin fractures involving only the incisal quarter of the teeth.

Pulp: On vitality testing, all teeth proved fully vital.

X-rays: Slightly widened periodontal space between several teeth and internal absorption in 34. In three areas, there is bony density, apparently encapsulated: (1) between the apices of 48-47; (2) mesially to 26 (possibly a root left behind after extraction); (3) apically to 11. On a level with the region of 12, also a large translucency in the bone, involving the entire mesial surface of 13 and the entire distal surface of 11.

Conclusions

As a result of the violent blows, 12 was fractured and later had to be extracted; also, according to the patient, infractions and enamel fractures occurred to several teeth. Her muscle pain, which is quite severe, may be due to her state of mental tension, but it may also be a consequence of her SLE. The translucency in the region of 12 is possibly due to a persisting root apex. The density of the bone on a level with 11 and 26 may be root apices left from extractions, but other causes are also possible.

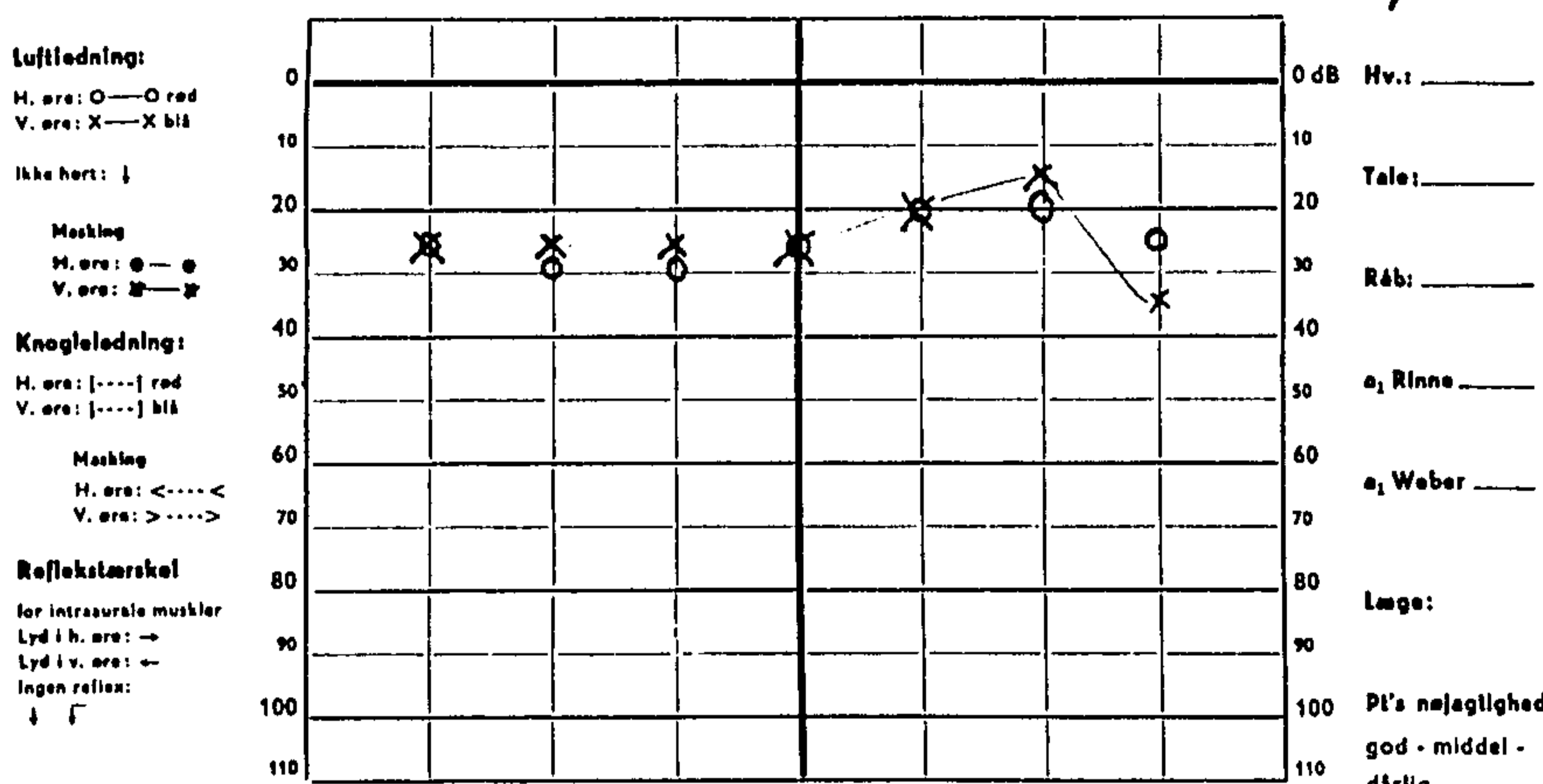
Recommended Treatment

Removal of a root apex left behind after extraction, region 12, a soft acrylic splint to relieve myosis and possibly grinding of supracontacts. Ordinary treatment of caries.



Efternavn		Fornavn		Blad 2a.....	Nr.
				Journ. nr. ...	

Toneaudiometri d. 9.V.79 Lydrum: Undersøger: Hg.



Taleaudiometri

HA.....									
Tlf. type...									
Tone.....									
Vol. kontr.									
Øre/lf.....									
Tl dB.....									
Tol. dB....									
DL %....									
DL+MA..									
Tone decay	h	dB	sek.						
2000 Hz	v	dB	sek.						

Bemærkninger

*Obsipi*

So 17-151a

Name: ARG 10  
Age: 28  
Nationality: Argentinian/Italian  
Sex: F  
Occupation: Technical assistant in a theater  
Marital status: Unmarried  
Date and place of examination: 10 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome  
Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Niels Hyldebrandt, dentist Pia Marstrand  
Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach  
Report by: Niels Hyldebrandt

Short Presentation

This is a 28-year-old unmarried Argentinian psychologist who was kidnapped and imprisoned in 1975 on grounds of claimed participation in political activity. During the first five days after her arrest, she was subjected to electrical torture and blows. She was in prison for 10 months and then exiled to Italy, where she has lived since February 1976. She presently lives with her sister and works full time as a technical assistant in a theater.

Background

She grew up in a middle-class home, the youngest of four children. Her father, a doctor, died when she was 6 years old, but then as well as later the atmosphere in the home was affected by the fact that he had been politically active. He had been imprisoned twice and presumably tortured, and this woman can remember the police searching their home while she was still a child. While growing up, she was quite close to the other members of her family. While at university, she studied psychology, and she completed her master's thesis while in prison. While at university, she was active in a student political organization, and at the time of her arrest she was secretary to the organization and in contact with a good many of the other students.

Previous State of Health and Illnesses

At the age of 6, she was involved in an automobile accident and suffered a concussion. She lost consciousness and had a large wound on her head, but

there was no fracture. During the next four years, she suffered from headaches almost every day, but after a while they began to recur less frequently and finally disappeared completely, except for occasional recurrences.

For several years before she was arrested, she suffered from periodic episodes of mild depression during which she felt tired, in a bad mood and incapable of doing anything. She did not, however, consider committing suicide at any time and did not consult a doctor. Otherwise, she has always been in good health.

Present medications: 0

Alcohol intake: 0

Use of tobacco: 20 cigarettes per day since the age of 15

#### Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

At 11 p.m. one evening in April 1975, six plainclothes policemen came for her. She screamed and resisted, but one of the men put his hand over her mouth so tightly she was afraid she would be suffocated. She was punched a number of times in the head, breasts and stomach, and on the way to the car she was kicked several times, but she did not lose consciousness. They blindfolded her and continued to cover her mouth; she thinks this must have been because there was quite a lot of traffic and the police were afraid people in the other cars would notice what was going on. At one point during the trip, someone in the car she was in fired a shot at another car, which she presumes was blocking traffic. She was blindfolded tightly during the entire journey. They drove for about 40 minutes, and she is reasonably sure they drove in a circle, so as to make it seem they drove farther than they actually did.

Upon arrival at the federal police station, she was taken to a room, undressed and made to lie on a cold floor. Her arms and legs were then bound in a spread-eagle position, and the policemen charged her with being the liaison between the student organization and a guerrilla organization and asked her for the names of other people involved. When she did not answer, they attached electrodes to her nipples, vagina, soles of the feet, both sides of her groin and her temples. When she began to scream, they stuffed a wet cloth into her mouth so tightly her jaw began to ache. They poured cold water over her, and then the electric torture began. They tortured her intermittently for about four hours, stopping from time to time to demand she give them the names they wanted. After this, she was

dressed again and taken out into a courtyard, where a mock execution was carried out. By this time, she was more or less calm, as she had expected to die anyway. After this, she was taken to a new room, where they continued to question her. She felt quite calm and concentrated on not saying anything. This drew her attention from her physical pain. Beginning at dawn, she was allowed to sleep for about five hours. For the next two days, she lay on the floor, blindfolded tightly and with her hands bound behind her back. Her eyes hurt and felt inflamed. On the third day, two other prisoners, one of them her sister, were brought into the room, and they told each other about what had happened to them. At one point, the third prisoner lapsed into a delirium in which she talked incessantly to her parents; after a while, however, she became quiet. They were given no food at all for five days, only a little water to moisten their lips. One day, one of the guards gave them a glass of milk, which presumably had been smuggled in. When this woman asked for a new blindfold, she was kicked on the body, but not in the head. After her sister was brought in, she was afraid they would torture her sister in front of her, but this did not happen. Although they were told they would be released shortly, there were totally convinced they would simply be killed. On the fifth day, they were driven to a new place, still blindfolded, but they thought they must have been driven in a circle again and ended up in a different department of the same building. They were not maltreated on the way, and when they arrived the police were surprised at their appearance. At this point, they were officially registered as prisoners.

#### The Individual Prisons

Tucuman Prison: The cell this woman was in measured 5 x 5 m and contained, in all, 19 people, all political prisoners. It was winter and the cell was totally unheated, so it was very cold. Light was provided by a small barred window and an electric light, which was turned off at 9:00 p.m. Later on in this woman's stay, the prisoners were given hot and cold water to wash in. The food was sparse and of poor quality, and this woman lost 10 kg in the first three months she was there.

After she had been there several weeks, she was given permission to resume her studies and was allowed to go outside her cell to read for an hour or two each day. She was, however, always guarded.

Buen Pastor Prison: She spent the last months of her imprisonment in this



Catholic prison. Her cell, which measured 5 x 5 m, held six prisoners, including herself and her sister. Conditions here were better: the prisoners were allowed to move around more freely and could even work in a workshop. The prisoners ate together in a dining hall. The food was better than before and included milk and fruit. This woman continued her studies here, and, in spite of a marked reduction in her ability to concentrate, completed her master's thesis while in prison.

Immediate Symptoms after Torture

For the first 10-15 days after she had been tortured, there was pain and swelling in the areas where the electrodes had been applied and where she had been beaten. She also had severe pains in her jaw joint (see also dental report, attached). For several weeks, she also had clenching pains in the stomach region, occurring about an hour after she ate. These symptoms have all disappeared completely. Her sleep became increasingly disturbed, and she frequently had nightmares about being tortured. A few days after being tortured, she noticed a loss of hearing in the right ear, but she cannot remember if she was hit particularly hard on that ear or not. This hearing loss has persisted, and she occasionally has a high-frequency ringing in that ear.

For about a year after her release, she found it difficult to be with other people, apart from her sister. At times, she would suddenly feel afraid and feel pressure in her chest, as, for example, when she would see a car with men in it. She continued to have nightmares, and they were always the same. She felt emotionally washed-out and incapable of showing her feelings, and it was hard for her to laugh or cry. Her ability to concentrate remained low, and she could not read as long as before.

General State of Health in Prison

She did not have a menstrual period for the first 50 days she was in prison, but her menstrual cycle then became regular again.

Family Situation

She now lives with her married sister.

Charge and Trial

She was never tried.

Present Symptoms

Today she feels reasonably healthy. Several months ago, she noticed tenderness in both breasts, and she was successfully treated with hormones. She has recently gained a couple of kilograms, which she feels are a result of the hormone treatment. She still occasionally has nightmares; for instance, after taking part in a heated discussion, she may dream she is beating the other discussion participants. She is still moody, but her depressive phases come somewhat more frequently than before she was arrested. Her periods of depression have not affected her work, and she has not consulted a doctor.

Physical Examination

Height: 163 cm    Weight: 62 kg    BP: 140/100    P: 82

General physical condition: She looks her age, and there are no obvious illnesses present.

General mental condition: She was calm and relaxed during our interview, had a positive attitude towards our examination and cooperated well. Her memory appears to be normal, her ability to concentrate and perception are good and her voice modulation, facial expressions and gestures are also normal.

Skin: There is depigmentation of the left side of the forehead, presumably as a result of the previous accident. There are small pigmented spots on both temples, as well as scattered teleangiectasiae.

Cranium: Normal.

Eyes: The pupils are normal and reaction to light is normal. Ophthalmoscopy showed nothing abnormal.

Ears: Normal.

Otoscopy: The right membrane is slightly retracted, and there are typical otitic changes. The left membrane is slightly hyperemic, but there are no fluid levels or perforation.

Spine: There is slight tenderness, as well as palpable myoses of the sacrospinal muscles.

Thorax: There are no deformities, and respiratory movements are equal.

Auscultation of heart and lungs: Nothing abnormal.

Abdomen: Normal. There is an adequate scar from an appendectomy.

Extremities: Normal.

Neurology: Nothing abnormal.

Audiometry: There is a dip to 40 dB at 8000 Hz on both sides. Otherwise, nothing abnormal.

Dental examination: See attached report.

Summary and Conclusion

This is a 28-year-old unmarried Argentinian woman who was kidnapped in April 1975 and subsequently imprisoned on grounds of participation in political activity. At the time of her arrest, she had nearly finished the work required for a master's degree in psychology. During the first five days after she was arrested, she was beaten on the head and body and subjected to electrical torture with electrodes placed on her nipples, in her vagina, on both temples, on the soles of her feet and in her groin. After being interrogated, she joined her sister and together they spent 10 months in prison. The pain left by the beatings and the electrical torture disappeared after about two weeks, but she still feels pain on movement of the jaw joint.

During the first few months in prison, she suffered from disturbed sleep and nightmares, but most of the time she felt calm and mentally quite strong. She also felt she could help her fellow prisoners due to her knowledge of psychology. After a few months, she was allowed to resume her studies in prison and here finished her master's thesis. After her release, she went to Rome with her sister, and she now works as technical assistant in a theater there. Apart from this, she is working on a play about the position of women in Argentina. She still occasionally has nightmares, but in general she feels healthy and does not feel that being tortured and imprisoned had any long-lasting ill effects.

DENTAL REPORT--ARG 10

History Taken for Dental Record

She was used to brushing her teeth daily and seeing a dentist regularly. She had had a number of fillings and two extractions done for orthodontic purposes. She has a scar above the right side of the upper lip, the result of a traffic accident.

Symptoms before Arrest

After being in the traffic accident, she began to suffer from headaches, which however gradually diminished and completely disappeared after the age of 10.

Torture

After being arrested, she was tortured by being punched on the head and back of the neck, but not in the face. She was subjected to picana in the temporal region, the area anterior to the ears and down along both cheeks. The picana session lasted about four hours, and during that time her mouth was packed with rags to prevent her from screaming. When the rags were removed, she was unable to close her mouth, as her jaw had become dislocated. Her mouth had to be closed manually. For the next five days, she was not given food or water, and was allowed only to wet her lips.

Stay in Prison

During her stay in prison, she was given scanty, poor-quality food which often had gone bad. During the first four months of her imprisonment, she could brush her teeth only at three-to-four-day intervals, as in between there was no water. During her stay in the second prison, she was allowed to brush her teeth daily. There was access to a dentist in both prisons. She had a filling in the first prison and two extractions done in the second, as she was told that the two attacks of caries were beyond repair. In her own opinion, the holes were quite small. Immediately after being tortured, she had violent pain in her temporo-mandibular joint. After the immediate pain had subsided, about two years went by with no particularly violent pain, but later it again began to increase and is now becoming continually worse. Her ability to open her mouth has also continually decreased.



Originally, the pain was worst on the left side, but now it is quite severe on the right side also. There is a high, definite clocking sound on the right as well as left sides. According to this woman, this sound was not present on the right side until recently. She reported that the headaches and restriction of movement are worst in the morning, but periodically she suffers from pain as well as headache for longer periods. As far as she is aware, she does not grind or clench her teeth.

Physical Examination

Extraorally: In the region of 13, a 2½-cm scar extends vertically from the prolabium towards the nose.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: She can open her mouth to about 4 cm between the incisors, but this movement immediately elicits pain. The mandible deviates to the right on closing. There is a marked click on both sides on opening the mouth. The following muscles are also tender to palpation: the right temporal (most severely posterior to and immediately superior to the ear), the tendon of the temporal muscles on both sides, the external and internal pterygoids on both sides, both digastrics, and the posterior as well as anterior bellies.

Intraorally: Occlusal findings: 24, 25, 37 and 47 missing. Violent elongation of 36. Also, crowding in both jaws. Mucous membranes: Nothing abnormal. Gingiva: Normal, pouches of 3 mm.

Teeth: She has a well-treated set of teeth with several fillings.

Pulp: Vitality testing not done.

X-rays: Nothing abnormal.

Conclusions

This woman has always taken care of her teeth. There are no comments on the teeth or gingiva.

The occlusion gives rise to supracontacts, i.e., in several movements the position of the mandibular teeth in relation to the maxillary teeth unfavorably affects the masticatory muscles and temporo-mandibular joints. The pain in the jaws is presumably due, both directly and indirectly, to the torture this woman underwent. Its cause is partly overstrain on the temporo-mandibular joint and partly myosis of the masticatory muscles owing to her state of tension.

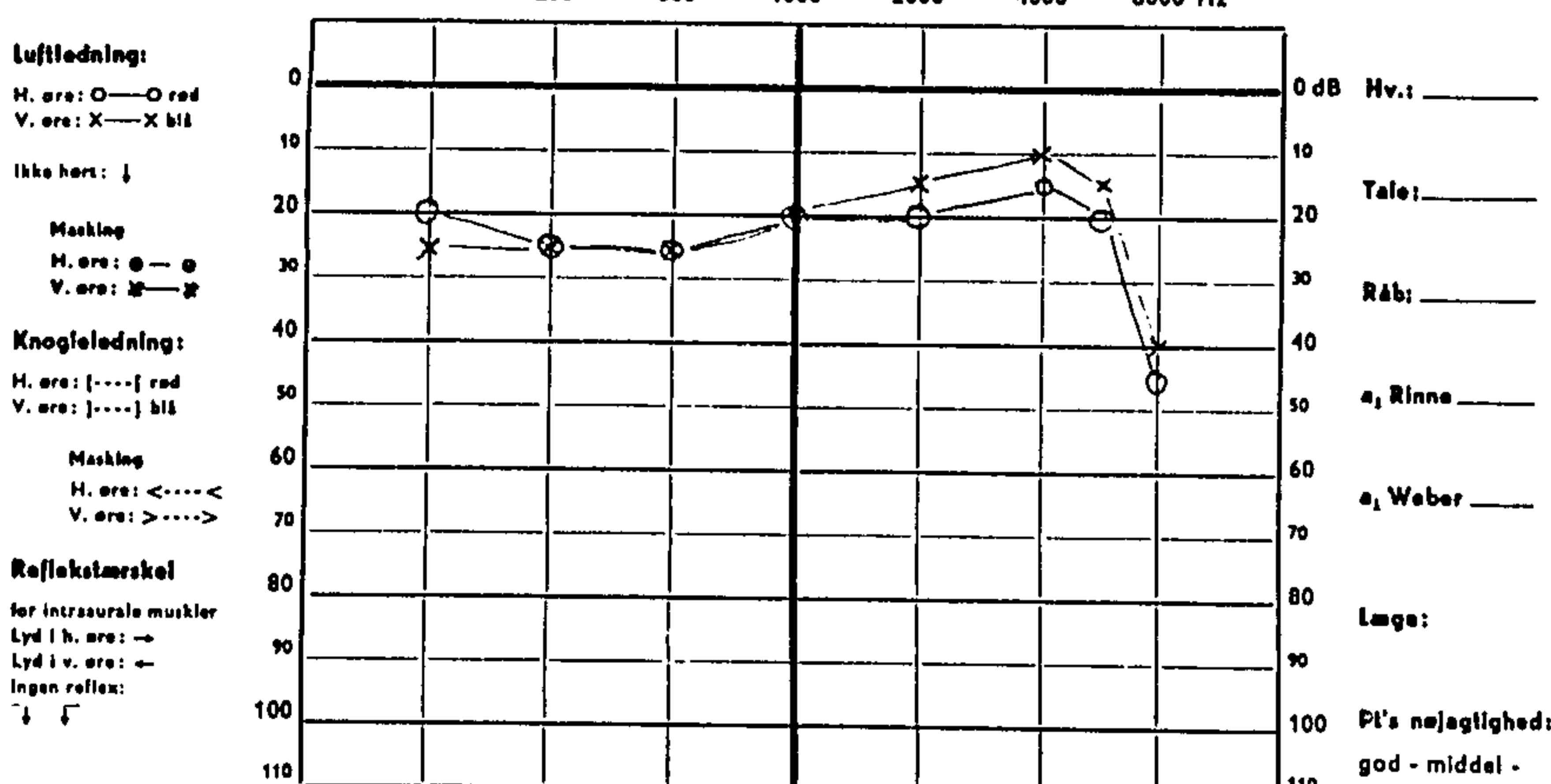
Recommended Treatment

Grinding of supracontacts and a soft acrylic splint to relieve the masticatory muscles and temporo-mandibular joints. Root treatment of 3 and 7 and ordinary treatment of caries.

Audiologisk Laboratorium  
Rigshospitalet

Efternavn		Fornavn		Blad 2a .....	Nr.
				Journ. nr. ...	

Toneaudiometri d. 10/5-79 Lydrum: Undersøgt: MW



## Taleaudiometri

HA .....							
Til. type ...							
Tone .....							
Vol. kontr.							
Øre/ll .....							
TI dB .....							
Tol. dB .....							
DL % .....							
DL+MA ..							
Tone decay	h	dB	sek.				
2000 Hz	v	dB	sek.				

## Bemærkninger

Otoscopi: kl. reaktion på lyd, reaktion på lyd  
for ve sicut indicat, + 125.250 Hz  
i øre f.  
det er ikke en CH + i øre.

Name: ARG 11

Age: 31

Nationality: Italian

Sex: M

Occupation: Medical doctor

Marital status: Married, wife reported missing

Date and place of examination: 10 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome

Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Niels Hyldebrandt, dentist Pia Marstrand

Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach

Report by: Henning Beck

## Short Presentation

This is a 31-year-old man who finished his medical studies in 1973. He was arrested in August 1974 and held prisoner until February 1979, at which time he was exiled to Italy. He is now an Italian citizen.

## Background

He was born in Italy, the elder of two brothers. His family moved to Argentina when he was 7. His father, a mason, is 56 years old. His mother, a housewife, died at the age of 36 of uterine cancer. His brother, who is 25 years old, works as a mason in Italy but is not a political refugee.

He studied medicine at Córdoba University, working at the same time to support himself, and finished his studies in 1973. He worked for various student political organizations and at one point for the secretariat of the league of student organizations in Córdoba, primarily concentrating on political organization in that city.

He was married in 1973. In 1976, his wife was arrested and disappeared without a trace. There were no children in the marriage.

## Previous State of Health and Illnesses

At the age of 12, he developed hemoptysis. As a child, he was also treated with hormone injections for retentio testes, but without effect. Two days before his arrest, he suffered an attack of hemoptysis, in which the blood appeared to be fresh, and was admitted to hospital in Córdoba. There were no other symptoms. He was still in hospital at the time of his arrest.

Present medications: 0



Alcohol intake: 0

Use of tobacco: 0

Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

In August 1974, while he was still in hospital, he was taken away by some men from the federal police in Córdoba, who charged him with having taken part in an armed action. He had been reported injured, and the police therefore assumed he would be in hospital. He was not, however, subjected to torture or other violence until after the military coup occurred.

After the military coup in March 1976, all the prisoners in Córdoba Prison had their belongings taken from them. They were then locked into their cells, and gradually the prison rules became stricter. The prisoners were beaten and kicked more frequently and at all hours of the day and night. Occasionally, the whole group would be beaten by way of collective punishment and terrorization; at other times, individual prisoners were beaten as punishment for small offenses. They were beaten on the back, head and arms with rubber truncheons and rifle butts.

At one point, this man was hung up by his hands from a window ledge and told that if he let go he would be shot. He managed to stay up half an hour and was not shot, although others had been shot in similar circumstances. He was not interrogated. Once he was hit on the back of the head, fell against a stairway and incurred a gash on the right side of his jaw.

The prisoners were forced to crawl naked on the floor and were hit with rifle butts. Occasionally, they were made to lie flat on their backs with their legs up in the air, and while lying in this position they were kicked and beaten. This man came close to losing consciousness several times. He also had an attack of hemoptysis and was given an expectorant but was not examined.

He especially remembers one night when he was hauled out of his cell, undressed, and rolled over stones and through water in the prison courtyard, kicked and hit all the while. This arbitrary type of punishment and the lack of any consistent rules were very hard on the prisoners, who found it difficult to keep track of time and were constantly in a state of tension.

While he was in Córdoba Prison, 30 of the other prisoners were killed, including a doctor named Rene Moukartzel, who was found in the courtyard, nude and drenched with cold water. This man always slept in his clothes, so as to avoid being hit and kicked on his bare skin. He described in detail how

the prisoners felt most insecure when they were being examined by a doctor or dentist, most secure in their own cells. In spite of his friends' being killed and the generally uncertain situation, this man was not depressed, and he did not consider committing suicide. He did, however, begin to hate the prison guards, whom he wanted to get even with.

A number of the prisoners from cell blocks 6 and 8, including this man, were transferred to Sierra Chica Prison in Buenos Aires Province in a group. At 2:00 one morning, they were bound together, and at 8:00 a.m. they were taken to a car, driven to the military pilot training school and loaded onto a plane. During the flight, they were beaten continuously with truncheons. On the way from the landing field to Sierra Chica Prison, this man was hit on the back of the head and lost consciousness for several minutes.

After arriving at the prison, the prisoners were beaten all over, undressed and weighed, at which point this man discovered he had lost quite a lot of weight. The prison officials filled out papers on them, but they were not subjected to physical torture. While in prison, they were continually subjected to mental torture, in that the rules and regulations were very strict. Physical torture occurred in the punishment cells, where prisoners were beaten and doused with cold water, and sometimes prisoners were put into punishment cells for days on end for minor infringements of the rules, which changed constantly. This man was at one point in a punishment cell for 15 days. In the beginning, the prisoners were allowed to read newspapers; later, however, this was not allowed, and singing and whistling were also forbidden. During their outside exercise periods, the prisoners had to stare out into space and were not allowed to talk to each other. The continual close supervision and threats of punishment were mentally exhausting.

While in Sierra Chica Prison, this man learned from another prisoner that his wife had been arrested, and later on a second man told him she had been tortured at the police barracks in Córdoba. Her mother, who went looking for her, was also arrested and imprisoned for five months. This man later learned directly from his wife's parents that she had disappeared, and he has not heard anything from her since.

As he is an Italian citizen, the Italian embassy in Buenos Aires, on the initiative of his family and the Italian consul, demanded that he be transferred to another prison. He was therefore transferred to La Plata



Prison, a three-hour flight away. There, he had access to books and magazines, but the food was very bad. Again, he suffered from hemoptysis attacks, and this time he was examined. In this prison, the regulations were again strict and arbitrary, and infringements of them led to blows and kicks as punishment. The prisoners who were put into punishment cells were tortured with submarino and cigarette burns. This man was not tortured, however. The prisoners were kept in one-man cells but were allowed to be outside them a good deal of the time. While in La Plata, this man suffered from gastritis and further attacks of hemoptysis. The evenings went very slowly, which he thinks was because there was too much time to think. His thoughts were disconnected, and he had difficulty sleeping, often not falling asleep until one in the morning, even though the light was turned off at 9:00 p.m. He was allowed to read books (fiction), and he exercised in his cell, even though it was forbidden. His general state of mind was good, as he felt he still had a chance to be released.

From there, he was transferred to Coronda Prison in Santa Fé. He was not told the reason for his transfer, and he believed at this point that he was about to be released. He was handcuffed and blindfolded during the journey. At that time, Coronda was one of the worst prisons in Argentina: all the cells were isolation cells, and the prisoners were not allowed to read or write letters to their families. The regulations were very strict, and the prisoners were not allowed to talk to one another outside their cells, nor were they allowed to sing or whistle. They were allowed outdoors an hour each day. They were punished randomly, sometimes for nothing. This man was given 20 days of isolation for not having closed his window completely. The cells were regularly inspected and body searched were carried out.

When this man was transferred to another cell block, he was beaten all over, particularly in the chest and the right side of the abdomen. He vomited after being beaten. He felt psychologically broken, was unable to sleep and suffered from headaches. He was very depressed but did not feel exceptionally nervous. He hated his suppressers. He had no suicidal thoughts.

He learned from one of the other prisoners that there were two punishment blocks in the prison, one of which was nicknamed "The Tomb". The cells in this block were in very bad condition, and the prisoners there were all subjected to torture. The prisoners in the other punishment block were being held in "collective isolation." Both of these blocks were physically

separate from the main part of the prison. A number of the prisoners went insane, and there were a good many suicide attempts. Two prisoners died due to lack of medical care.

After  $3\frac{1}{2}$  months, he was transferred to Rawson Prison together with some other prisoners, again without being told why. While being transferred, the prisoners were blindfolded and handcuffed, but they were not beaten. This man was in a solitary punishment cell for his first 15 days and was interrogated and threatened, but not physically hurt. The Bible was the only available reading material, but the edition at Rawson was unexpurgated, in contrast to the one in Sierra Chica Prison, which had been cut because some sections had been judged to be too left-wing. He was allowed out of his cell for seven hours a day; the rest of the time, he had to lie on his cot. Punishments were again harsh and arbitrary; for instance, a prisoner could earn kicks and a term in solitary confinement simply for lighting another prisoner's cigarette.

After six weeks, this man was told he would be released immediately and he should pack his things. He was not blindfolded, which fact nearly convinced him he really would be released, instead of simply transferred. He dared not believe it, though, until it actually happened. After 10 days at Policía Federal in Alcadiane, he left for Italy.

#### The Individual Prisons

Córdoba Prison: This is an old prison. Two of its cell blocks, Nos. 6 and 8, were used strictly for dangerous political prisoners and were guarded by the military. The other cell blocks were used for ordinary political and criminal prisoners. The cells, which were large with large windows, each held between 20 and 30 prisoners, who were not allowed to leave their cells, except for 10 minutes a day, when they were allowed to use the sink and toilet outside the cell. The rest of the time, they had to use chamber pots. The food was sparse, the daily ration consisting of maté tea, 200 grams of bread, some raw grain, fat and soup, and the prisoners were always hungry. Before the military coup, they were allowed three visiting periods a week, but after the coup they were allowed no visitors at all. It was possible to see a doctor, but the guards beat and kicked the prisoners on the way. The doctor was unsure of himself, and the medical care was poor. Dental care was also available, but the only treatment offered, was extraction of the affected tooth. All the prisoners had bad teeth, and toothbrushing



was not allowed. This individual had three teeth extracted while in prison.

Sierra Chica Prison: This prison consisted of two-man cells in cell blocks laid out in the shape of a star. The cells, which were very small, each held two beds, a sink and a toilet. The cells were cold and very damp, almost foggy at times, and they smelled bad. Each cell had a window measuring 50 x 50 cm, which was covered by a thick curtain at night. The prisoners were allowed one two-hour visiting period per week. The food here was more plentiful but of poorer quality than in Córdoba Prison. There was only cold water to wash in, but shaving was allowed. When this man had a hemoptysis relapse, he was examined by a nurse, who took a lung X-ray, a cytological test and an ESR.

La Plata Prison: Here he was in a solitary confinement cell, and the food was very bad. The regulations were very strict and the punishments arbitrary. The prisoners were allowed visitors for two hours a week, and they were also allowed outdoors for exercise.

Coronda Prison, Santa Fé: Here he was again put into a solitary confinement cell. He was not allowed to read and the regulations were strict, but the food was good. There were 200 prisoners in his cell block. Each prisoner was allowed one one-hour visiting period per week, but, as a punishment, this could be reduced to 15 minutes. This man's father, for example, traveled 800 km to see him at Christmastime 1975, but then was only allowed to talk to his son for 15 minutes.

Rawson Prison: Some of the prisoners here were put into solitary confinement cells, while the others spent their time in a common room. The prisoners had to be out of their cells seven hours each day, and the rest of the time they had to lie on their cots. Reading of the Bible was allowed.

#### Contact with International Organizations

While this man was in Sierra Chica, La Plata and Coronda Prisons, delegates from the International Red Cross came on inspection tours, and the prisoners talked with them despite threats of punishment from the prison's side.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

After being beaten and kicked, this man had hematomas and bruises on his back, arms and legs and was in so much pain he could not move. The

parasthesia of the outer right thigh persisted. At one point, he was hit on the back of the head, fell forward and hit his chin on a staircase, which left a long gash under the right side of his lower jaw. He was in a constant state of anxiety and became easily depressed, and he slept badly, having nightmares about escape attempts, alarms and executions. Gradually, he began to hate those responsible for his imprisonment and torture, but naturally there was no way for him to work these feelings off. He felt uncared-for and mentally dull, but at times became anxious. At such times, his thoughts began to race aimlessly, and he became depressed and restless, especially when he thought of his family.

#### General State of Health in Prison

After being tortured and throughout his entire period of imprisonment, he had gastric pains in the upper abdomen with accompanying pyrosis. Eating would sometimes relieve these pains, but this was by no means always the case. While in prison, he lost a total of 12 kg.

#### Present Living and Work Situation

He arrived in Italy in February 1979 and now lives with some other Argentinians in a house in Rome. He is an Italian citizen and has never held Argentinian citizenship. As his degree and other papers have not yet arrived from Argentina, he cannot yet begin to work as a doctor. He would like to specialize in anesthesiology (for financial reasons) and infectious diseases (out of personal interest). Other Argentinians living in Rome help him out financially.

#### Charge and Trial

He was tried by a civil court in November 1975 and pronounced not guilty. He was formally charged and was defended by two lawyers, but these lawyers were later also imprisoned. He was not freed but came under executive order and applied for exile. However, after the coup occurred, he was kept in prison for another 3½ years. At no time after the coup was he formally charged with any crime, tried or allowed to see a lawyer.

#### Present Symptoms

He does not feel ill, but he does have some problems. At times, he feels frightened and insecure, and he worries about what might happen to him in the future.





serious as they were before, but they are still present to a marked degree. Physically, he has a scar on the right lower jaw, as well as a hypesthetic area on the front of his right thigh. Clinical examination showed a bilateral cryptorchism (bilateral retentio testes and atrophica testes, as well as scrotal hypoplasia).

DENTAL REPORT--ARG 11

History Taken for Dental Record

Had seen a dentist a few times for toothache. Had had some extractions and a few fillings done. Had brushed his teeth infrequently.

Torture

At the time of his arrest and in prison, he was occasionally subjected to physical torture, chiefly blows with the fists, rubber truncheons or rifle butts, as well as violent psychological torture. On one occasion, he was forced to crawl naked downstairs with the other prisoners. During this procedure, he was beaten on the back of the head with a rifle butt, so that his mandible hit the steps, causing a large wound under his chin on the right side. Today there is a 1½-cm scar in that area.

Stay in Prison

He reported that he had been in a state of constant tension almost the entire time during his stay in prison, that he had slept badly and had had nightmares. While in prison, he had four extractions done by a dentist under anaesthesia. There was no possibility of getting the teeth filled. The food in the prisons was very poor and periodically also scanty. He brushed his teeth only sporadically during his stay in the prisons, and during the first two years not at all.

Present Condition

He has no problems with his teeth, gingiva, masticatory muscles or anything else.

Physical Examination

Extraorally: There is one scar, 2½ cm long, in the region of 44 and 45, just below the mandibular angle.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: Nothing abnormal.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: No abnormalities. Gingiva: Mild inflammation, plaque and dental calculus. 3 mm pouches.

Teeth: A few minor attacks of caries and a couple of fillings. Four teeth had been extracted.

Pulp: All the teeth in the right mandible were vitality-tested because of the blows received on this side, but all proved vital.

X-rays: Failed to turn up.

Conclusion

In spite of poor maintenance of his teeth, this 31-year-old man shows a set of teeth which is surprisingly good. In spite of the state of tension from which he has suffered for four years, he has no symptoms or signs from the masticatory muscles or temporo-mandibular joints.

Recommended Treatment

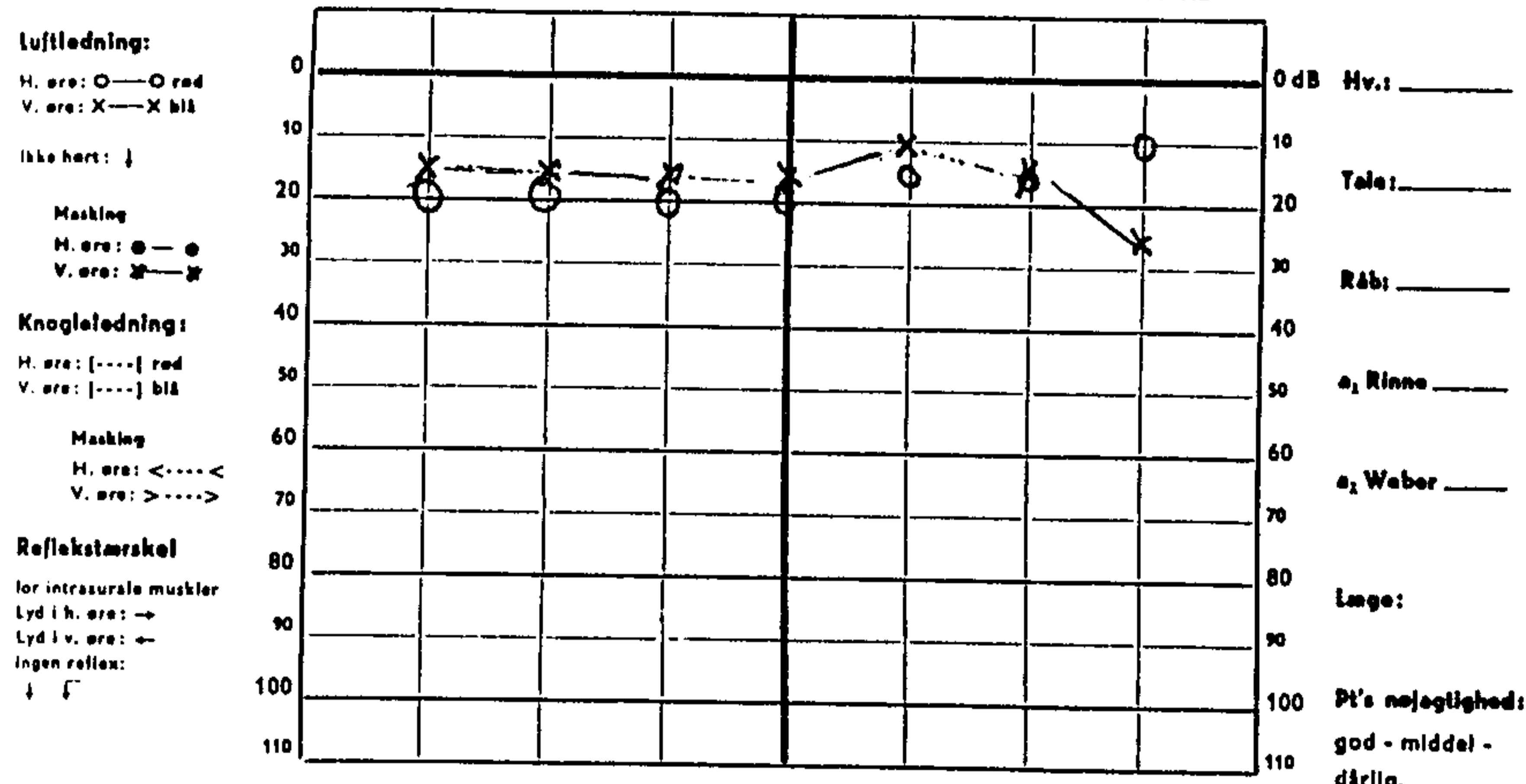
Depuration and ordinary treatment of caries.

Audiologisk Laboratorium  
Rigshospitalet

AUDIOMETRY--ARG 11

Efternavn		Fornavn		Bled 2a . . . . .	Nr.
				Journ. nr. . . . .	

Toneaudiometri d. 16/5-79 Lydrum: Undersøget:



**Taleaudiometri**

HA . . . . .							
Til. type . . .							
Tone . . . . .							
Vol. kontr.							
Øre/ll . . . .							
TI dB . . . . .							
Tol. dB . . . .							
DL % . . . . .							
DL+MA . . . .							
Tone decay	h	dB	sek.				
2000 Hz	v	dB	sek.				

Bemærkninger

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Name: ARG 12

Age: 22

Nationality: Argentinian

Sex: F

Occupation: Street vendor (artisan)

Marital status: Married

Date and place of examination: 11 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome

Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Niels Hyldebrandt, dentist Pia Marstrand

Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach

Report by: Henning Beck

Short Presentation

This is a 22-year-old woman who was arrested (kidnapped) at the age of 19, at which time her child was three months old. At the time of arrest, she was threatened, undressed, beaten and pushed around. She was also threatened with picana, but this was not carried out. She was released, but three weeks later she was arrested again and this time was subjected to electrical torture of the breasts, as well as kicks and blows. She was held for four days, then released. Three weeks later, she emigrated to Italy, where she now supports herself by making small objects for retail sale.

Background

She was the only child of middle-class parents. Her father, a chemist, and her mother, a psychologist, lived in Argentina until a year ago, when they emigrated to Spain. They are Jews, and anti-Semitic feeling is quite strong in Argentina. This woman moved to Italy voluntarily and went to Europe before her parents did, as she had a cousin who lived in Italy. At the time of her arrest, she was nearly finished with college.

Previous State of Health and Illnesses

Since she was a child, she has suffered from scoliosis, which was, and still is, quite painful. She has never been hospitalized, and she has never had a trauma or been in an accident. At times, she has suffered from fatigue, dizziness and anemia, particularly during pregnancy. Her child was born when she was 19 years old and weighed 2.5 kg at birth. Her blood sugar level was high during pregnancy, and diabetes mellitus runs in her family on both her father's and mother's sides.

Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

In July 1976, she was kidnapped by three men, who raided her parents-in-law's residence, where she and her husband were living. The search took place at night, while they were sleeping. They were wearing nightclothes. The men found illegal newspapers, and the family members were accused of terrorism and threatened with execution. This individual was blindfolded while the apartment was ransacked and all objects of value were stolen. She was then taken down to a waiting car, thrown onto the floor and driven to a place she thinks was La Dipa. There was no violence exercised against her on the way, but she was again threatened with execution and searched.

On arrival, she was taken to a room and made to sit on a chair. She asked to be allowed to go to the toilet, but instead was taken to another room, where she was made to sit on a table. Here she was asked, in a friendly manner, which terrorist group she belonged to. When she answered that she did not belong to any terrorist organization, the people interrogating her began to insult and threaten her. Then they ripped her clothes off her, threw her onto the table and tied her arms and legs to the table. As she was lactating at the time, milk flowed freely out of her breasts. The people carrying out the interrogation told her her husband had said they belonged to Montoneros, and they demanded she give them the names of the other members.

They then poured water over her, and she screamed and cried, as she thought they were going to give her electrical torture. But after about half an hour her bindings were loosened and she was taken to a bathroom, where she was thrown onto the floor along with some other prisoners. She asked for some cloth to bind up her breasts to stop lactation but was told she would be released shortly. Together with her husband, she was driven blindfolded through the city to a garage where they were left and their blindfolds were taken off.

After this, she began to consider leaving Argentina, as she was afraid she would be arrested again. As her husband was a Uruguayan citizen, he went to Uruguay to take care of the formalities necessary for emigration to Italy. In the meantime, she divided her time among the house of an aunt, her own apartment and her parents-in-law's. She discontinued breast-feeding. Three weeks after her first arrest, several plainclothes army men came around to arrest her husband one day at 4:00 a.m. She and her

parents-in-law were made to go into the living room and remain there while the apartment was searched. Then each of them was taken into a separate room. The men asked her about her husband, then tied her hands behind her back and took her out to a car. The building was surrounded by policemen, and an electric fence was being put up around it. She was driven to the army mechanics school, where she was taken to a room, made to sit on a chair and interrogated for quite a long time. Afterwards, she was taken out into a long hallway which was partitioned off into small rooms, each of which held small mattresses and a large number of people. She was still blindfolded, and her hands were cuffed behind her back. When she asked to use a toilet, she was given a chamber pot.

She was then taken to be interrogated in a small room, where she was left alone for a few minutes. She managed to get her blindfold off and saw left-wing posters on the walls. After this, she was blindfolded again and taken to another room, where she was insulted and asked the same questions as before. She was asked if she was familiar with the picana machine and given a small shock. She was threatened and taunted, and told she would be released if she would tell them where her husband was. The policemen began to hit her, then tore her clothes off and pushed her back and forth between themselves. Her hands and feet were then tied to a table and a wet cloth was stuffed into her mouth so she couldn't scream. Then she was subjected to picana on both breasts, though not on her nipples. With each shock, her body jerked up into an arch. She was subjected to electrical torture for about half an hour, after which her body trembled and vibrated so much she couldn't put her clothes back on. She was then thrown onto the floor. There was no doctor present. She does not think the electrical voltage was particularly high, as the electrodes left no marks. She was offered water, but she did not drink any, as she had heard it was dangerous to drink liquids right after electrical torture.

After this, the police again began to insult and threaten her. They threatened to throw her out of a window and pushed her over to one which she could see was open.

The entire time she was in prison, she was threatened that she would be tortured again, and she could constantly hear other prisoners screaming. She was allowed to sleep but was frequently awakened by screams. She felt nauseous and dizzy, and a prison guard offered her food and water. She

was very afraid of which might happen to her and simulated a nervous heart attack to avoid being tortured again.

After four days, she was released. She was led around in the building so she wouldn't know where she was, then driven to a church, where she was left. She then moved into the residence of a lawyer she knew, but emigrated to Italy after three weeks there. Her husband followed her a month later.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

While she was being tortured, she completely lost her sense of time and was very afraid, but she was able to concentrate. She did not hallucinate, and her voice modulation did not change. Her entire body was bruised and tender due to having been beaten, but her muscle pains went away relatively quickly. There were no sores or blisters where the electrodes had been held against her skin. She was unable to see for a time after her blindfold had been removed.

#### Symptoms in the Following Period

In the following period, she felt weak and often suffered from nausea and dizziness, especially on change of position. There were no menstrual changes in connection with imprisonment or torture, and no sexual changes. During the first three months after she was released, she frequently went to the dentist and felt her teeth had become very bad.

#### Family Situation

She and her husband support themselves by carving small objects out of wood for sale to shops and private customers. When they first arrived in Italy, their financial situation was quite bad, but it has improved in the past year. They live in a poor-quality apartment. The rest of her family has not been subjected to arrest, torture or any form of reprisal.

#### Charge and Trial

There was no charge brought against her, and she was never tried.

#### Present Symptoms

She coughs quite a lot and frequently suffers from a sore throat with expectoration. About once a month, she suffers from pressure and pain in



her chest with an accompanying sensation of difficulty in breathing. Recently, she has begun to urinate frequently, but there are no other gynecological symptoms. She has no gastrointestinal problems. For the past year, she has had cramplike pains in both thighs, especially at night. There is radiation to the calves, but this is not neuralgic in character. The pains are less severe when she walks. There is no change in sensitivity to heat or cold, but she has noticed increased venous distensions on both thighs. She continues to feel weak and dizzy as in seasickness, and this becomes worse upon rapid change of position.

She has no gynecological problems, and uses a diaphragm for birth control.

She maintains good relationships with her nearest acquaintances, primarily other Argentinians, and has among these one close male friend and one close female friend. She feels she is open and positive in her dealings with other people. She has always been rather emotional and does not feel that either her basic personality or her way of relating to her surroundings has changed significantly. At times, she does feel fearful, and sometimes she has panic attacks, particularly when faced with a stressful situation or when she meets a policeman. She still occasionally has nightmares, which deal with her being arrested, but these were at their worst in the first three months after she was released.

#### Physical Examination

Height: 150 cm    Weight: 50 kg    BP: 115/75    P: 80

General physical condition: Her nutritional state is a bit under average, but she is not dehydrated and is not afflicted by severe weight loss.

General mental condition: She is relaxed and a bit asthenic. Her mental orientation, memory and intellectual ability all appear to be normal. Her voice modulation is normal, and her communication with the interviewer was good. She reveals no psychotic, neurotic or pathological characteristics.

Skin: There is a skin tag in the right nostril. The skin of the extremities is normal.

Cranium: Normal.

Eyes: No conjunctivitis, normal pupillary reaction.

Ears: Nothing abnormal.

Otoscopy: Normal.

Spine: There is a sinistroconvex scoliosis of the thoracolumbar spine without torsion. The scoliosis is fixed on leftward bending and is straightened on forward bending. There is no tenderness of the paravertebral musculature.

Thorax: Normal.

Breasts: Nothing abnormal.

Auscultation of heart and lungs: Nothing abnormal.

Abdomen: Nothing abnormal.

Extremities: The left leg is  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 cm shorter than the right.

Neurology: Nothing abnormal.

Dental examination: See attached report.

#### Summary and Conclusion

This is a 22-year-old woman who was arrested twice in 1976 and subjected to electrical torture of the breasts, blows and kicks on second arrest. In all, she was held five days. There are minor mental sequelae in the forms of sleep disturbances and nightmares, but no physical sequelae which can be related directly to the torture. The physical examination shows an asthenic individual with symptoms indicating neurocirculatory asthenia. In addition, her spinal column shows a convex left fixed thoracolumbar scoliosis and a slight abbreviation of the left leg.

DENTAL REPORT--ARG 12

No dental record was taken, as the subject had not been in prison for more than 24 hours and later four days and had not undergone torture involving the head or teeth. However, it is worth noting that her mouth was packed with wet rags, so that she could not scream during torture. No sequelae were noted.

Name: ARG 13  
Age: 25  
Nationality: Argentinian  
Sex: F  
Occupation: Casual worker  
Marital status: Married  
Date and place of examination: 12 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome  
Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Niels Hyldebrandt, dentist Pia Marstrand  
Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach  
Report by: Niels Hyldebrandt

Short Presentation

This is a 25-year-old married Argentinian mathematics teacher who, together with her husband, was a member of a political student organization. They were arrested together in April 1976 in Rio Cuatro, and she spent a year and eight months in prison. Her husband is still in prison. During the first four days of interrogation, she was beaten and forced to undergo a mock execution.

Background

She was born and raised in Córdoba, the youngest of three children. Her father is a commercial traveler, her mother a housewife. Both are alive. She has two older brothers. She describes the members of her family as getting along well with each other. After finishing high school, she went to university to train to be a mathematics teacher and received her degree just before she was arrested. She was married in 1974. There are no children in the marriage.

Previous State of Health and Illnesses

Prior to her arrest, she was never hospitalized and never subjected to a trauma. She describes her state of health at the time of arrest as being good.

Present medications: 0

Alcohol intake: 0

Use of tobacco: 0



#### Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

While visiting her parents one day in April 1976, she and her husband were arrested by plainclothes policemen. They were taken to their own home, and the police ransacked their apartment for names of other members of the student organization. When they did not find anything, they tied this woman's hands behind her back, blindfolded her and took her and her husband out to a car, where she was told to sit on the floor. They were then driven to the local police station, where she was taken into a room, made to lie down on a table, and again asked for the names of the other members of the organization. One man sat on her stomach and, at the same time, a sopping wet cloth was stuffed into her mouth and held over her nose. She could not help inhaling some of the water, after which she began to cough and felt she would suffocate. She did not, however, lose consciousness. The cloth was then taken away, and the policemen began to punch her and bang her head against the table. She was not hit in the face, and she did not lose consciousness. She was so tense and frightened that it wasn't until several hours later that she began to feel sore from the blows. As her clothing had become wet from the cloth, she felt quite cold. After several hours, she stopped coughing but still felt unable to breathe properly.

The first interrogation and torture sessions lasted, she thinks, for several hours, after which she was allowed to go to the toilet and sleep. Every night for the next three or four nights, she was interrogated and punched, but no special methods of torture were used on her. On the third or fourth day, she was handcuffed and, still blindfolded, driven out into the country. She heard voices talking about executing her, and when the car was stopped, she was ordered to get out and walk to a nonexistent grave. Then the order was given to fire, and the rifle hammers clicked. At this point, she was not afraid to die; during the following days, in fact, she would actively wish to die.

After the fourth day, she was not systematically tortured, but the police continued to interrogate and threaten her for a total of 20 days. During this time, her family brought her food and drink, but she was not allowed to see them or talk to them.

#### The Individual Prisons

Río Cuatro: Her cell in this prison measured about 3 x 3 m and held between

seven and 10 women. For six of the 11 months she was there, one of the other women had a very young child with her. There was a single small window, which was impossible to open, and the only fresh air came from a little hole in the door. There was no toilet or sink in the cell, but the prisoners were allowed to use an outside toilet three times a day. The food was of very poor quality, consisting primarily of thin soup with occasional pieces of meat or vegetables. The prison guards were both male and female, and there were no incidents of violence. The woman with the baby was allowed to take it outside, and her family presumably brought food and milk for it. The child was not sick during its six months in the cell and seemed adequately nourished. During her 11 months in this prison, this woman was not allowed to have visitors, nor was she allowed to talk to or correspond with anyone outside, especially her husband.

Córdoba Prison: One day, without any explanation, she was transferred to Córdoba Prison. During transfer, her hands were bound so tightly they became first numb, later very painful. She was blindfolded and made to sit with her head bent forward and was then hit on her body a number of times. At Córdoba Prison, she was held in solitary confinement for 16 days but was not subjected to torture.

Villa Devoto: From Córdoba, she was transferred to Villa Devoto, where she was put into a 10-x-20-m cell along with 22 other prisoners. Conditions here were generally better than in the other prisons: for instance, visits were allowed twice a week, and occasionally the prisoners were allowed to buy candy and cigarettes in the prison store. After four months in this large cell, she was transferred to a four-person cell which held four beds, a sink and a toilet. The guards in this prison were exclusively women, and once a month all the prisoners were searched. The food was again of poor quality, but there was plenty of bread, and this woman gained 4 kg while there. She was not tortured in this prison, but the regulations were strict and the variety of punishments meted out was enormous. It was possible to see a doctor, and this woman did so twice, the first time for irregular menstruation, the second time for a reason she can't remember.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

For the first two to three weeks after being tortured, the places where she had been hit were tender and painful. She had periods where she thought

she saw her husband being tortured but felt too weak to be able to do anything about it. Later on, however, she learned that this hadn't really happened. She had breathing difficulties several times but did not wheeze, and there was no real obstruction. She became easily upset in stress situations and began to have difficulty sleeping, as well as nightmares about prison and torture. She also suffered from occasional anxiety attacks, during which she felt a "knot" in her chest. This happened especially when she thought about her husband and the future.

#### Symptoms in the Following Period

Later on, just before she was released, she frequently suffered from headaches with pressure behind the eyes and photophobia.

During the first four to six weeks after her release, she was indifferent to everything and had difficulty expressing her feelings. However, she had no suicidal intentions. She continued to have occasional nightmares, and during her waking hours she could be seized with anxiety if she read about violence or prisons. She does not remember having any specific physical problems during this period.

#### Knowledge of Other Forms of Torture

She heard the other prisoners talking about picana, rape, beatings, deliberate undernourishment and psychological torture but was not witness to any of these.

#### General State of Health in Prison

In August 1976, she was transferred to a public hospital after 10 days of severe stomach pains and a general worsening of her physical condition. Just before she was transferred to the hospital, she was very weak and could hardly see, and a blood analysis done at the hospital showed a very high white cell count. She had been given aspirin by the prison doctor, but, when she was taken to the hospital, she was operated on, and it was discovered her appendix had burst. When she awoke after the operation, two policemen were standing by the sides of her bed, and she was guarded constantly until she returned to prison. For a while after this, she was given a special diet, but her abdomen and the incision were painful for about a month afterwards.

Her menstrual cycle, which had been regular since she began to menstruate at the age of 13, became irregular while she was in prison. She consulted the doctor for this and was treated with something, probably hormones. After this, she did not menstruate for six months, after which her periods resumed and became regular again.

#### Family Situation

At present, she lives alone in Rome and, as she does not have a work permit, supports herself by taking miscellaneous jobs. Her husband is still in prison, and she has applied to the Argentinian embassy in Rome to try to have him released.

#### Charge and Trial

At no time was she charged, brought before a judge or allowed to consult a lawyer.

#### Present Symptoms

She has had periods of breathing difficulty three times during the past winter. She did not see a doctor for this but borrowed some broncholytic medicine from a friend. According to her, she did not have a fever. She has no organic problems and feels mentally well-balanced. She still finds it difficult to trust people she doesn't know and is afraid of losing the people she has developed good relationships with. She sleeps well but still has nightmares from time to time.

#### Physical Examination

Height: 165 cm    Weight: 51 kg    BP: 125/80    P: 72

General physical condition: Good. Nutritional state average.

General mental condition: She was a little nervous and fidgety at the beginning of our interview, but, apart from this, she was open and cooperative. Her memory appears to be normal. Her voice modulation is neutral, her facial expressions and gestures are normal and her communication with the interviewer was good.

Skin: The skin of the head is normal. There is an 8-cm-long appendectomy scar on the abdomen.



Cranium: Normal.

Eyes: The pupils are round and react normally to light. Ophthalmoscopy showed nothing abnormal.

Ears: Normal.

Otoscopy: There is a fluid level on the left side, otherwise nothing abnormal.

Spine: Normal.

Thorax: Normal.

Auscultation of heart and lungs: Dispersed sibilant rhonchi can be heard. Otherwise, nothing abnormal.

Abdomen: There is a 4-x-4-cm umbilical hernia. Otherwise, normal.

Extremities: Her nails are bitten.

Neurology: Normal.

Audiometry: Normal.

Dental examination: See attached report.

Summary and Conclusion

This is a 25-year-old married female mathematics teacher who was arrested with her husband in April 1976. She was imprisoned for 20 months in all, at the beginning of which she was interrogated and subjected to torture including blows, a wet cloth held over her nose and stuffed into her mouth, leading to a coughing attack and difficulty breathing, and mock execution. She was held in three different prisons and at one point developed appendicitis, for which she was operated on at a public hospital. Both the torture and the imprisonment had sequelae in the forms of anxiety, fear and nightmares. She describes her present state of health as being good.

DENTAL REPORT--ARG 13

History Taken for Dental Record

The subject had regularly visited a dentist and had brushed her teeth daily. During childhood, one or two of her teeth were extracted and several fillings done.

Torture

The torture consisted chiefly of blows and a kind of submarino, a man sitting on her abdomen while wet rags were pushed into her mouth. At the same time, her nose was held so that she felt she was about to suffocate and coughed a great deal. In spite of the blows she received, there was no damage to or pain from the teeth and no headaches.

Stay in Prison

During her stay in prison, she was given poor, scanty food. She was able to brush her teeth during her entire stay in prison. She was visited once by a dentist to have a wisdom tooth extracted, but otherwise she had no problems.

Present Condition

No dental problems.

Physical Examination

Extraorally: Nothing abnormal.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: Nothing abnormal.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: Nothing abnormal. Gingiva: Normal, pouches  $\leq 3$  mm.

Teeth: A full set of teeth with Class 1 fillings.

Pulp: Not vitality-tested.

X-rays: No X-rays taken.

Conclusion

This 25-year-old woman was not exposed to torture directed at the teeth, and

her mental problems have not given rise to myoses of the masticatory muscles or pain in the temporo-mandibular joints. Apparently, the torture has had no influence upon her masticatory apparatus.

Recommended Treatment

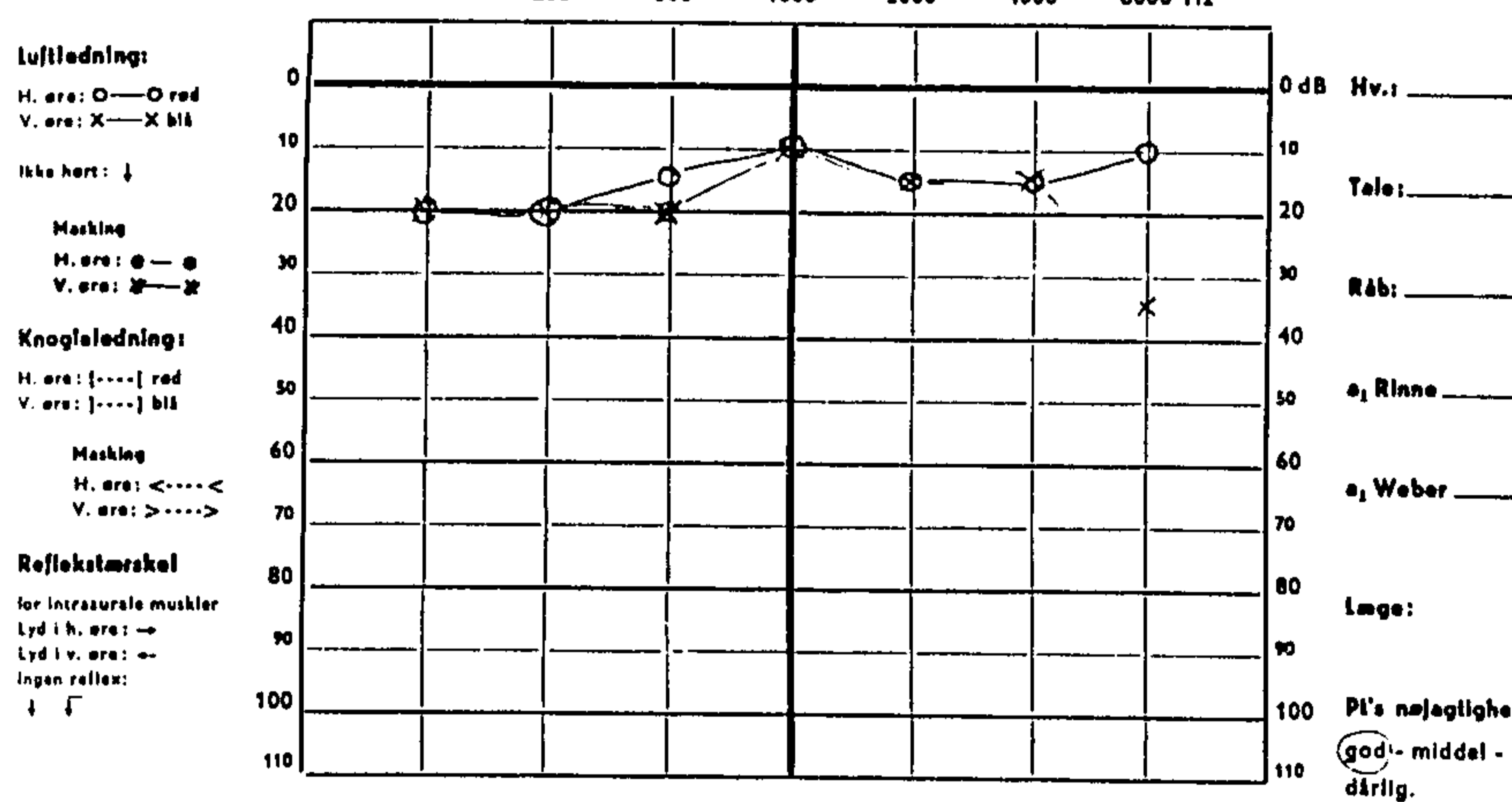
None.

Audiologisk Laboratorium  
Rigshospitalet

AUDIOMETRY--ARG 13

Efternavn	Fornavn	Blad 2a . . . .	Nr.
		Journ. nr. . . .	

Toneaudiometri d. 12/3-7 Lydrum: Undersøgt af: *KWJ*



**Taleaudiometri**

HA . . . . .									
Til. type . . .									
Tone . . . . .									
Vol. kontr.									
Øre/ll . . . .									
Tl dB . . . . .									
Tol. dB . . . .									
DL % . . . . .									
DL+MA . . . .									
Tone decay	h	dB	sek.						
2000 Hz	v	dB	sek.						

Bemærkninger

*Øreops: dulle vækstspjæt resultatet på 12. side 130. nat, 4000 nat 125.*



Name: ARG 14  
Age: 26  
Nationality: Argentinian  
Sex: F  
Occupation: Secretary  
Marital status: Unmarried  
Date and place of examination: 12 May 1979, Hotel Palatino, Rome  
Examiners: Drs. Henning Beck and Niels Hyldebrandt, dentist Pia Marstrand  
Interpreter: Dr. Marianne Wallach  
Report by: Henning Beck

Short Presentation

This is a 26-year-old Argentinian woman who was arrested in November 1976 in Campala, before the military coup but after the establishment of a state of emergency during the last part of the Perón regime.

Background

The elder of two sisters, she was born in Buenos Aires and grew up in the countryside of Entre Ríos Province. Her parents were both farmers, and the family was poor. She went to school until the age of 18, at which time she finished gymnasium. After this, she worked as a secretary at a steel mill in Campala. She was active in the union there, and this was the direct cause of her arrest.

Previous State of Health and Illnesses

Her father's brother is asthmatic, and her father has chronic bronchitis and has been asthmatic since the age of 40. She herself has suffered from asthma since the age of 4, allegedly caused by an inadequately treated case of bronchitis. She has been tested for allergies which might contribute to this and has been found to be allergic to dust and certain flowers. Her asthma is worst in the spring but also gives her trouble in the winter, when her bronchitis recurs. It also becomes worse in times of emotional stress. She does not suffer from running eyes or nose, but during asthma attacks does develop a whistling in the chest, as well as difficulty breathing. As a child, she was treated with steroids (Celeston®) for more severe attacks and frequently used a bronchodilator. She was hospitalized at the age of 12 for suspected appendicitis, but she was not operated on for it. Her tonsils and adenoids were removed when she was 5.

At the age of 15, her motorcycle ran into a barbed-wire fence, and her face was cut rather badly, especially the right side. Scars from this accident are still visible.

Present medications: Bronchodilator, and tablets for indigestion  
Alcohol intake: 0  
Use of tobacco: Has smoked since the age of 14

Arrest, Interrogation and Torture

After the police had conducted an investigation into the political sympathies of the workers at the steel mill where this woman worked, she was kidnapped on an open street by six masked men one evening after a union meeting. She was hit in the face, blindfolded and handcuffed and driven away in a car. After driving for about 25 minutes, they arrived at the local police station, where she was asked questions about her private life and insulted by several men, who made suggestive remarks. She was interrogated for about an hour, then, together with one of her co-workers, was driven away in a truck. They drove for about an hour and a half, during which time she was threatened with rape and told she was a murderer and a menace to national security. She was taken to someplace she cannot identify for certain, but she thinks it was a military building or barracks, as she could hear the sounds of baying dogs and motors starting. The men there also called each other by military ranks, such as captain and colonel.

Upon arrival, she was taken to a room where she was undressed and tied in a stretched-out position to a metal bed. While this took place, she could hear people talking about what kind of torture she should have. She thinks medical personnel may have been present but is not sure. She was then subjected to picana to the cheeks, bridge of the nose, mouth, fingernails and vagina, as well as torture with electrodes attached to her breasts. She was also subjected to electrical torture to her back, particularly the hip region, and was given electric shocks on her kneecaps at the same time as she was beaten on her back and the backs of her knees. She thinks the electrical voltage could be varied.

Between rounds of torture, she was interrogated and threatened, and from time to time her heart was checked with a stethoscope and her pulse was taken, presumably by a doctor. She had the impression they wanted to test her, to see how much she could take.

On the first day, she underwent two long torture sessions separated by about half an hour, during which time she was allowed to rest in a courtyard which was cold and wet after a rainstorm. While she was being tortured, a pillow was held over her mouth so she couldn't scream. She did not, however, feel she was being suffocated, and she did not lose consciousness, although she did feel rather remote from the whole thing. Her interrogators demanded she give them names and tell them the locations of weapon caches, and while she was being tortured she was threatened with execution. She also heard the screams of other prisoners who were being tortured and thinks they may have been some of her co-workers from the factory.

After the second torture session, she was taken to a small cell. She was tortured again the next day, this session being similar to the first but also including submarino, in which a plastic bag was pulled over her head and her head was pushed down into a tank of clean water four times. At this point, she felt as though her asthma became worse. She could not breathe, but she did not lose consciousness. After this, she was dressed again, taken out to a car and driven away by four men, one of whom put his hand on her breast, which was very sensitive due to the electrode burns. The men also threatened to rape her.

She was driven to another building which she definitely feels was a military establishment. Here the general atmosphere was worse than in the other building. She could not eat anything for eight days due to the burns and blisters in her mouth, which took about three weeks to heal. She could not sleep, as the floor was cold and there was no mattress. Her shoulders and arms were numb due to her hands' having been cuffed behind her back so long.

She was not tortured after this, but she was insulted and threatened by the prison guards, and she could hear the screams of other prisoners who were being tortured. She noticed that the prison personnel often washed their hands in wine vinegar to get rid of the smell of burnt flesh. She remained in solitary confinement for five or six days, during which time she and some other prisoners frequently were lined up against a wall, hit in the stomach and mock-executed.

She was then transferred to a third building by car. On the way, she was beaten all over her body, and, after reaching the new destination, she was interrogated once again. She was allowed to wash her face, then was blindfolded again and driven to Brigada de San Justo in Buenos Aires. Here she was taken to a small solitary confinement cell where her handcuffs were

removed, but the smell of urine was so strong she passed out and was transferred to a cleaner cell. She was examined by a doctor, who gave her drops for her heart, as well as an ointment for the burns on her breasts and in her mouth and vagina. She was in this cell for about 10 days, during which time she was not allowed to talk to anyone and had to sleep on the bare cement floor.

She was then transferred to another police station, where she was allowed to wash with soap and water and was put into a cell with other political prisoners. She was given food which she was now able to eat, as the burns in her mouth had healed. She felt she would not be tortured any more and therefore could relax. She still had the bronchial problems which had been exacerbated by the torture she had been subjected to, and she was given a bronchodilator by the prison doctor.

She remained here for six days, after which she was transferred to Olmos Prison in Buenos Aires, where she remained for eight months, until she was transferred to Villa Devoto, also in Buenos Aires. From there, she was exiled to Italy.

#### The Individual Prisons

Olmos Prison: She was first put into a cell measuring 6 x 6 m, together with four other prisoners, later into a 4-x-4-m cell which she shared with two other prisoners. All of them were political prisoners. The cell, which was reasonably decent, contained cots, a small window and an electric light. The food was of poor quality and low in protein, and the prisoners often had indigestion. However, the prisoners' families were allowed to visit them twice a week and could bring food along. This prisoner was allowed to see a doctor for her indigestion, and it was also possible to be placed on a waiting list to see a specialist, if necessary. The prisoners were allowed reading materials, and the prison regulations--this was before the military coup--were relatively unrestrictive. The prison guards were women, and the prisoners were not molested physically.

Villa Devoto: She was first put into a cell block which measured 6 x 10 m and contained 25 prisoners, who slept in tightly ranged rows of beds. Each cell block contained a toilet, a small sink and two showers. After this, she was transferred to a cell which measured 4 x 4 m and held four prisoners, who slept in two bunk beds.



It was very cold in the winter, and the cells were very damp. The sanitary conditions were poor. The food was sparse and of poor quality. Prisoners were allowed visitors for an hour each week. In the beginning, prisoners' conversations with their visitors were conducted through a screen, later through a glass pane with the aid of a telephone. The prisoners were allowed to go out into the courtyard for an hour each day, but there was no sun there. Medical assistance was available, but it was inadequate and incompetent. Several prisoners' deaths in prison were ascribed directly to incompetent medical care; for instance, that of Alicia Pais, who suffered from asthma and who died after being given an injection of Valium.

#### Immediate Symptoms after Torture

After being tortured, this woman suffered from increased difficulty in breathing plus dyspnea, which became worse on exertion. She often had to stay in bed because of this. The electrical torture to her legs and the blows she had received made her knees swell up, so that she couldn't walk.

Black pustular sores measuring up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cm in diameter appeared on her face, breasts and back where the electrodes had been placed. The electrical torture also created sores on her face plus sores, swelling and blisters on her tongue and lips, the pain of which was so great she couldn't eat at all for eight days. The sores healed up after about 20 days and the marks from the blows she had received disappeared after about 10 days, while the electrode marks took 20-30 days to disappear.

After being subjected to electrical torture of the vagina, she began to bleed profusely from the vagina. After this, she did not menstruate for three months, but since that time her menstrual cycle has been normal.

She also suffered from periodic headaches and pains behind the eyes, but not dizziness. She did not have any particular mental problems just after being tortured.

#### Symptoms in the Following Period

Her breathing difficulties became more pronounced, and she had recurrent severe bouts of bronchitis, especially during cold, wet weather. She was hospitalized twice for this while in prison and was given oxygen, steroids and, on several occasions, a bronchodilator. She recovered normal movement of her legs after about two months.

#### General State of Health in Prison

While in prison, she frequently suffered from constipation, bloating of the stomach after eating and colicky stomach pains, but not pyrosis. After being tortured, her weight dropped from 54 to 50 kg, but later during her prison term her weight rose to 62 kg, where it has remained. Due to the inadequate prison diet, her skin became dry and flaky. She did not lose any hair and did not suffer from lice, but she was occasionally inflicted with infestations of ticks.

Her menstrual cycle in the latter part of her prison term was normal. After arrival in Italy, she was examined by a gynecologist, who found an erosion of the cervix. She still occasionally has an uncharacteristic vaginal discharge and pain in the vulva, as well as slight menstrual cramps.

#### Family Situation

Her family was not informed as to her whereabouts until three weeks after she had been kidnapped. During interrogation, she was threatened that her family would be harmed if she did not give her interrogators the information they wanted. However, no member of her family has been arrested or tortured.

After she was exiled to Italy, her family's house was bombed, and they have now moved to Rome. She lives with her family in an apartment in downtown Rome, and their financial situation is difficult.

#### Charge and Trial

There were no charges brought against her and she was not tried, nor was she allowed to consult a lawyer.

#### Present Symptoms

At present, this woman suffers from occasional asthma attacks, which at times are so severe she must stay home from work. However, this has been happening less and less frequently. In addition, she has daily digestive problems with accompanying colicky pain, bloatedness and constipation. She had no urological or gynecological problems at time of examination. She periodically has pain in her back and legs, especially in the left knee, which becomes swollen on occasion. The changes in her skin are disappearing, but there are still some faint scars left by the electrical torture. She has a daily bilateral frontotemporal headache without pulse synchronization.





DENTAL REPORT--ARG 14

History Taken for Dental Record

She stated that before her arrest she had been to a dentist only twice, to have two teeth extracted. She also states that she brushed her teeth daily.

Symptoms before Arrest

No dental problems.

Torture

Blows and picana to her face. The blows did not at any time hit her teeth. Picana in an external circle around the mouth, on the gingiva at many teeth and lastly to a great extent on the tongue, leaving vesicles, wounds and large areas of black-stained gingiva. There were large vesicles and violent swelling of the tongue for about 15 days, as well as extraoral swelling and wounds on the face. She had difficulty in opening her mouth, and pain in the whole of her face, so that it was impossible for her to eat for eight days. During a long period after the picana, her teeth were very sensitive to cold. Three days after the picana, she noticed that a piece had broken off one tooth (confirmed on 34). She believed this had occurred during the violent reflex movements of the mandible during the picana. During these movements, the tongue was also squeezed and developed several wounds for that reason. The predominant pain from the mouth area was from the tongue, which was incredibly sensitive. After being tortured, she was not seen by a dentist. The prison doctor gave her an ointment for her tongue, but she does not feel it helped.

Stay in Prison

Since being tortured, she has had violent headaches and pain in the temporal region as well as the region in front of the ears. During her imprisonment, she did not suffer from toothache, was not seen by a dentist and did not receive any dental treatment. She was allowed to brush her teeth except for during the first two months, after which she brushed her teeth daily.

Present Condition

She was recently to a dentist, who had started root treatment of 12 and had also filled 34, the tooth which broke during the torture. At present, she

has no complaints from her dental region, except that her teeth are sensitive to cold.

She still suffers from lateral headaches.

Physical Examination

Extraorally: There are three scars near her mouth, but allegedly they have nothing to do with the torture she underwent.

Temporo-mandibular joints and muscles: She can open her mouth fully. There are no deviations or sound phenomena, but both temporal muscles, both masseter muscles and both digastric muscles, post. bellies, are tender to palpation.

Intraorally: Mucous membranes: Nothing abnormal. Gingiva: Nothing abnormal, except for slight inflammation in a few spots. Slight plaque and dental calculus. 2-3 mm pouches.

Teeth: A filling in 34, and temporary filling in 12 mesially, as well as caries distally. She stated that 12 was undergoing root treatment. 36 and 46 are the only teeth missing, and, as already stated, they were extracted before her arrest.

Pulp: On vitality-testing, only 12 proved nonvital.

X-rays: Not done.

Conclusion

This 26-year-old woman has very good teeth and gingiva. At present, 34, which has been repaired, is the only tooth which shows traces of torture. There are no other sequelae to the picana on the gingiva. The facial pain is odontogenic, due to her state of tension.

Recommended Treatment

A soft acrylic splint and possibly grinding, ordinary treatment of caries, root treatment.

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