PARAGUAY

an amnesty international briefing

- Prisoners of conscience
- Arbitrary arrests and detentions under state of siege powers and anti-subversive laws
- Denial of fair trial and due process
- Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
- Deaths in custody
- 'Disappearances'



PARAGUAY

an amnesty international briefing



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HIS briefing is part of Amnesty International's worldwide campaign for the international protection of human rights.

Throughout the world thousands of people are in prison because of their beliefs. Many are held without charge or trial. Torture and executions are widespread. In many countries men, women and children have "disappeared" after being taken into official custody. Still others have been put to death without any pretence of legality: selected and killed by governments and their agents.

These abuses—taking place in countries of widely differing ideologies—demand an international response. The protection of human rights is a universal responsibility, transcending the boundaries of nation, race and belief. This is the fundamental principle upon which the work of Amnesty International is based.

- Amnesty International is a worldwide movement independent of any government, political persuasion or religious creed. It plays a specific role in the international protection of human rights:
 - it seeks the *release* of *prisoners of conscience*. These are people detained for their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion who have not used or advocated violence;
 - it works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and on behalf of political prisoners detained without charge or trial;
 - it opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners* without reservation.
- Amnesty International is impartial. It does not support or oppose any government or political system, nor does it support or oppose the views of the prisoners whose rights it seeks to protect. It is concerned solely with the protection of the human rights involved in each case, regardless of the ideology of the government or the beliefs of the victims.
- Amnesty International, as a matter of principle, condemns the torture and execution of prisoners by anyone, including opposition groups. Governments have the responsibility for dealing with such abuses, acting in conformity with international standards for the protection of human rights.
- Amnesty International does not grade governments according to their record on human rights: instead of attempting comparisons it concentrates on trying to end the specific violations of human rights in each case.
- Amnesty International has an active worldwide membership, open to anyone who supports its goals. Through its network of members and supporters Amnesty International takes up individual cases, mobilizes public opinion and seeks improved international standards for the protection of prisoners.

Amnesty International's work is based on the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The organization has formal relations with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States.

Amnesty International is concerned about a wide range of human rights violations in Paraguay perpetrated against people from many different backgrounds, including political leaders and workers, lawyers, doctors, peasants, housewives, office and factory workers, and students. The abuses have included arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance" and forcible expulsion of detainees from the country.

Many such violations have resulted from the abuse of powers provided under the state of siege, which has been in force almost continuously since 1929—and which for nearly 30 years now has been renewed by decree every 90 days as a matter of routine by the government of President Alfredo Stroessner.

People detained under the state of siege are denied the right to fair trial and due process of law, and have no recourse against being detained indefinitely or for unreasonably long periods. Amnesty International is concerned also about the effects of two anti-subversive laws which have been increasingly used to arrest and detain people who have been peacefully exercising their human rights.

In October 1983 Paraguayan jails held some 50 political prisoners, many of them regarded by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience.

Human rights violations in Paraguay

Legal framework

Under Paraguayan law the state of siege is an exceptional measure to be invoked for a limited period in four specifically defined cases only and for the sole purpose of defending the Constitution and the authorities established in accordance with it. In fact, however, a state of siege has been renewed by decree every 90 days as a matter of routine since the coup of 1954, when General Stroessner came to the presidency. During elections the measure is lifted for 24 hours on polling day. Since 1978 it has been restricted to certain parts of the country, mainly the Central Department and the capital, Asunción.

Constitutional requirements

Under Article 79, Chapter V of the Paraguayan Constitution, a state of siege may be declared in the following cases only: 1) international conflict or war; 2) foreign invasion; 3) domestic disturbances and 4) serious threat of one of the foregoing.

While the state of siege is in force, individuals suspected of participating in any of the activities outlined above may be detained and transferred from one part of the country to another. Those detained under the state of siege are supposed to be housed in clean and sanitary



María Margarita Báez de Brítez, a hairdresser, who claims she was abducted by police officers in civilian clothes and held in police headquarters in Asunción for more than two months in 1982, during which time she was ill-treated and tortured. Her husband was one of 10 peasants police say they killed in a shoot-out in Caaguazú in March 1980—the bodies were never handed to relatives for burial. See pages 4 and 5.

Although the decree that establishes the state of siege should, according to the Constitution, list those guarantees that are suspended or limited—as well as the

grounds for the action—the texts of such decrees do in fact merely indicate that this emergency measure has been extended.

Under the special powers granted by

the state of siege, executive actions are not subject to supervision by other branches of the government. The decree establishing the state of siege must be brought to the attention of Congress within five days—although that body has no authority to oversee or in any way limit the manner in which the executive exercises this measure.

Furthermore, although Article 79 makes no reference to the suppression of habeas corpus during the state of siege, the Supreme Court routinely rejects habeas corpus applications.

Under these circumstances, articles of the Constitution dealing with human rights, and those laws in which such rights are recognized and the means to guarantee them established, have become dead letters.

Anti-subversive laws

Amnesty International is concerned also about the effects of two antisubversive laws which have increasingly been used as a basis for arresting and detaining people because of the peaceful exercise of their human rights.

• Law 294, on "Defence of Democracy", which was passed in 1955, prohibits the activity of any political group, in particular the Communist Party, which embraces

the notion of class struggle. It makes the mere dissemination of Marxist ideology a criminal offence.

• Law 209, on "Defence of Public Peace and Liberty of Persons", was enacted in 1970 to complement Law 294. Article 4 of Law 209 provides for a penalty of from one to six years' imprisonment for individuals who "by any means publicly preach hatred among Paraguayans or the destruction of social classes". Article 5 provides for between three and six years' imprisonment for "those who are members of an illegal association, composed of three or more individuals, the purpose of which is to commit criminal offences . . .''. Article 8 provides for penalties of between one and five years' imprisonment for individuals "who are associated or affiliated with any communist party or organization, the purpose of which is to use violent means to destroy the republican democratic system of the nation".

Law 209 prohibits a large number of activities—such as leasing premises for the purpose of holding meetings, and introducing, printing, storing, distributing or selling pamphlets, publications or films—if the authorities deem these activities to have a Marxist inspiration.

State of siege prisoners

People detained during the state of siege are denied the right to a fair trial and due process of law. There is no recourse against indefinite or unreasonably long periods of detention, since the judicial authorities have held that they have no jurisdiction in cases of individuals detained under the special powers provided for by the state of siege.

As a result of the court's position, such legal remedies as habeas corpus or amparo (similar to the former) and any other guarantees that can protect detainees against abuses of power have been nullifted or rendered ineffectual.

The Ovando case

The abuse of state of siege powers to justify lengthy arbitrary detention is illustrated by the case of Guillermo Escolástico Ovando, a cavalry sergeant who has been imprisoned for 21 years. He acted as driver for Captain Modesto Napoleón Ortigoza, who is alleged to have been a political rival of General

Stroessner. The Captain and his driver were arrested in December 1962, along with a number of other individuals.

The group was accused of responsibility for the death of a military cadet and of involvement in a conspiracy to overthrow the President.

Sergeant Ovando and Captain Ortigoza were convicted by a military court of murder and sentenced to death by firing squad. This was subsequently commuted to 25 years' imprisonment for Captain Ortigoza and 15 years for Sergeant Ovando.

Captain Ortigoza, who is serving an additional four-year term for infringing "military discipline", is believed to have become mentally deranged.

Sergeant Ovando, who completed his sentence in December 1977, remains in detention, being held under state of siege provisions. Habeas corpus petitions presented on his behalf have been routinely rejected by the Supreme Court.

After arrest, he was detained and reportedly tortured in the headquarters of the plainclothes police, the Departamento de Investigaciones de la Policía Central (DIPC), and in a police barracks, the Cuartel de Policía Motorizada. He

Paraguay

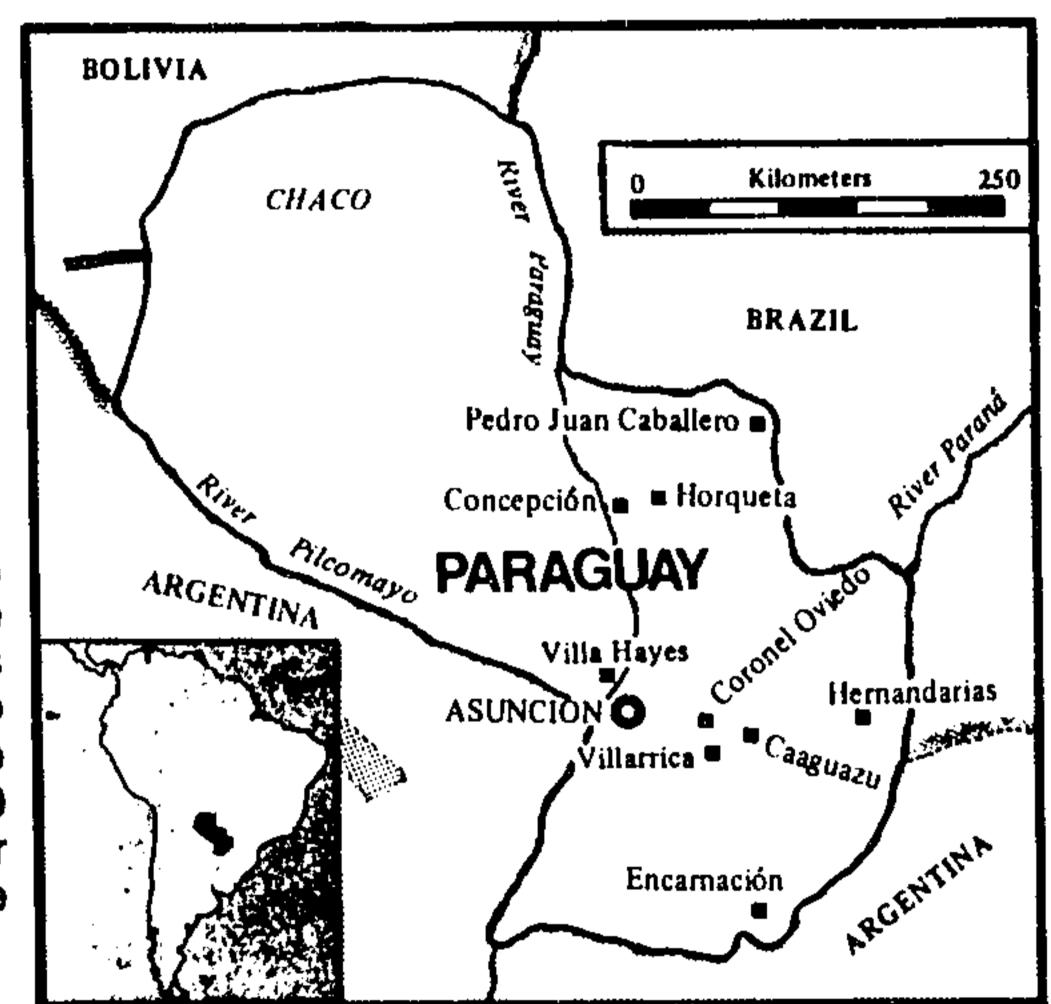
Paraguay is a landlocked country bordered by Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia. It has a population of 3,268,000, of whom about 455,000 live in the capital, Asunción. The official language is Spanish but Guaraní is spoken by the majority of the population, which is predominantly mestize predominantly mestizo (of mixed blood); there 100,000 some Indians. Ninety per cent of the people are Roman Catholic.

Elections

In an election in February 1983 which was boycotted by most opposition political parties—the ruling Colorado Party won more than 90 per cent of the votes. Government employment is conditional upon membership of the

Supreme Court

Members of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President and in practice have to belong to the Colorado Party. There have



among judges.

been allegations of corruption

Trade unions

Trade union activity is restricted. The Confederación Paraguaya de Trabajadores (CPT), Paraguayan Confederation of Workers, which is under the control of the Ministry of Justice and Labour, was expelled in 1979 from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions on the grounds of political subservience.

The Confederacion Cristiana de

Trabajadores (CCT), Christian Confederation of Workers, which concentrated its activities on the peasant organization Ligas Agrarias, has suffered periodic waves of repression. In 1978 it merged with another trade union to form the Coordinación Nacional de Trabajadores (CNT), National Coordination of Workers, and is affiliated to the Confederación Latinoamericana de Trabajadores (CLAT), Latin American Confederation of Workers.

International obligations

Paraguay is a member of the United Nations and the Organization of American States. It has signed the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, and has ratified the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. It is not a party or a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Paraguay has signed but not ratified the American Convention on Human Rights -nevertheless, it has an obligation under international law to refrain from acts which would defeat the object and purpose of this treaty.

was eventually transferred to the Cuartel Central de Policía, Central Police Barracks, where he was held for 17 years. He is now in the Guardia de Seguridad, high-security military prison in Tacumbú.

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He has staged numerous hunger-strikes in protest against his continued detention and there is concern about his health. There are unconfirmed reports that he may have contracted leprosy.

Amnesty International considers that both men must be presumed innocent as neither received a fair trial. The organization's concerns include the following:

The evidence used as the basis for their convictions were signed statements of one of the co-accused which were reportedly obtained under torture. Forensic evidence on the cause of the cadet's death conflict with the official version of events. The defence lawyer acting for the prisoners, Dr Alberto Varessini Clossa, was publicly threatened by the then Police Chief—he was later imprisoned, beaten and expelled from the country.

Court challenged

On 17 October 1983 another lawyer, Dr Miguel Abdón Saguier, presented new habeas corpus application on Sergeant Ovando's behalf. It challenged the Supreme Court's refusal to rule on the reasonableness of state of siege detentions, stressing the duty of the court, under Atticle 659 of the Code of Penal Procedures, to explain the cause or pretext of the detention and to give its ruling

Constitution

A new Constitution to replace that of 1940 became law in August 1967. It provides for a two-chamber parliament, the Congress. Two thirds of the seats in each cham-I ber are allocated to the party that wins a majority in a national election. The remaining third is shared among minority parties in proportion to the votes cast.

In 1977, the Constitution was amended so that General Stroessner could be elected to further terms of office: formerly the President could be elected to a five-year term and re-elected to one further term.

The Constitution provides safeguards against violations of human rights. Article 50 guarantees the freedom of the individual. Article 56 guarantees freedom of movement. Article 59 forbids detention without charge for more than 24 hours. Article 65 outlaws ill-treatment and torture. Other articles provide for freedom of association (Article 76) and habeas corpus (Article 78). However, much of the spirit of the Constitution has been eroded by laws that allow the executive to restrict any opposition activity considered to be subversive.



Guillermo Escolástico Ovando

on whether the detention was justified. The petition called on the court to summon Sergeant Ovando to determine whether his detention was reasonable or whether it represented a flagrant abuse of power.

The petition challenged the habitual ruling of the Supreme Court that detentions related to the state of siege are not subject to judicial scrutiny. It said that the court's attitude compounded "an absurd rule of law in which individual freedoms and guarantees are perpetually suspended".

The petition stated that the lengthy imprisonment of Sergeant Ovando (after the expiry of his sentence) had been transformed from a detention, which in legal terms is a short, procedural phase, into a de facto punishment. It argued that the executive was, therefore, guilty of two violations of the Constitution: it had punished someone without due process and had punished someone twice for the same offence.

The petition was rejected by the Supreme Court on 15 November 1983.

Amnesty International believes that Sergeant Ovando's continued detention cannot be justified.

Criminal prosecutions under Law 209

Before November 1975 almost all those detained for alleged political opposition to the government were not charged or tried but simply detained under state of siege decrees-in some cases for over 20

Since that year a few cases have resulted in prosecutions, usually for alleged violations of Law 209. In November 1983 the government disclosed that some 110 people had so far been arrested under this law. Its further disclosure that about 80 per cent of these cases had resulted in release—but not acquittal—strengthens Amnesty International's belief that Law

209 has become for the Paraguayan authorities a useful expedient to justify arbitrary detention.

In Law 209 prosecutions there are two stages in the trial, presided over by the same judge: the sumario, which is the stage of judicial inquiry; and the plenario, which leads to a final determination of guilt or innocence.

A police report usually serves to set the sumario in motion. The report is accompanied by a statement by the detained person, taken while he or she is in police custody and written and signed by the detainee. This statement is considered by the judge prior to hearing any declaration by the accused at the judicial hearing. After the hearing, the judge must decide whether to authorize preventive detention.

Excessive reliance

Amnesty International knows of many cases of Law 209 prosecutions which demonstrate an excessive reliance on the police report. In most cases of this kind the report forms the basis for convictions without any other incriminating evidence.

The organization has received persistent reports that a number of accused in political cases now before the Paraguayan courts have been forced to sign statements without being informed of the contents and that others have been obliged under duress to "confess" to offences they have not committed. The subsequent retraction of these statements in court has not, to Amnesty International's knowledge, prompted the judges concerned either to investigate allegations of illtreatment or torture of the accused or to question the admissibility of other sections of the police report.

The right to due process is further obstructed by the harassment of defence lawyers---those who have pressed human rights cases have been threatened with the withdrawal of their licenses, arrested and even physically attacked.

'38 Communists'

In the first half of 1982 two prisoners in a group referred to as the "38 Communists" were detained in secret centres for over four months. In May 1982 Dr Diego Bertolucci, a lawyer, requested that one of the prisoners, María Margarita Báez, be medically examined. He had received reports that she was in poor health as a result of torture. The request was refused by a judge.

Dr Bertolucci, who works for the Comite de Iglesias para Ayudas de Emergencia, Inter-Church Committee for Emergency Relief, was subsequently summoned to the office of the Chief of the Police at the DIPC in Asunción, where he is alleged to have been physically attacked and threatened with expulsion from the country if he persisted with his request. On 11 June 1982 he was again summoned to the DIPC and once more allegedly threatened with deportation. In May 1983 he undertook another Law 209 case, defending a group of students and

journalists who worked for the Banco Paraguayo de Datos, an independent research body. In September 1983 he was again briefly detained. He continues to work under the constant threat of arbitrary arrest.

Other lawyers working for political prisoners have been subjected to shortterm arrests, including Noyme Yore, a member of the Asociación de Abogados Latinoamericanos, Association of Latin American Lawyers, who also works for the Comité de Iglesias. She was held for 18 days after having been detained on 30 July 1981, along with other members of her family—including a 10-month-old

Amnesty International believes that legal proceedings against political detainees in Paraguay do not conform to internationally accepted standards for a fair trial. The organization is concerned also because detainees are often denied their right to be brought promptly before a judge and to receive a fair trial within a reasonable time or be released, in viol-



Sever Fermin Pastor Giménez del Puerto (pictured above, with his wife and five of their six children) was arrested on 19 February 1982 in San Lorenzo, accused of links with the Chinese wing of the Paraguayan Communist Party. He is reported to have been tortured in custody. A 35-year-old bricklayer, he is one of the defendants in the trial of the "38 Communists" accused of violating Law

In July 1983 the families of these prisoners wrote to the Archbishop of Asunción, Monsignor Ismael Rolón, complaining about the delays in the trial: "We are all from humble families with few resources, peasants or workers, forced to wander the roads of our country with anguish on our faces and grief in our hearts, while our sons, fathers, brothers and husbands in the National Penitentiary have left their fields uncultivated and their families submerged in the unrelieved poverty of the politically persecuted."

ation of Article 7 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

The 'Caaguazú case'

The so-called "Caaguazú case" demonstrates the validity of these concerns.

In March 1980 a group of 20 peasants from Acaray-i in Alto Paraná, who were being evicted from their land, stopped a bus and demanded to be taken to Asunción in order to draw attention to disputes over land tenure and poverty in the Eastern region, where several children had died from malnutrition.

Some of the peasants were apparently carrying old firearms, which they later alleged were for their personal protection. As they were approaching the town of Campo 8 in Caaguazú Department, a police patrol opened fire on the bus, forcing it to stop.

The army sealed off the area, refused journalists access and, with the help of the local Colorado Party militia, tracked the peasants to the village of Guyrua-guá.

On 10 March, 10 peasants who had been involved in the hijacking of the bus, including a 17-year-old boy, were killed. According to a police report of May 1980, they died in a shoot-out in which "the forces of order did not suffer any losses No death certificates were produced nor were the bodies returned to the families. It is alleged that they were buried secretly in an unmarked grave near the village of San Antonio-Mi.

More than 300 peasants were arrested throughout the country after the bus hijack, most being released soon afterwards. Many of the peasants had been involved with the peasant organization, Ligas Agrarias (one of its major concerns is land reform).

At the end of March 1980, 13 peasants were charged in Asunción with crimes relating to the hijack. Some of them had allegedly been tortured and had had to



Alfonso Silva (above), a tailor aged 52, and his wife María Saturnina Almada were first detained on 28 January 1968 by police from the DIPC in Asunción on suspicion of being communists. Both were held for 10 years without charge or trial and were reportedly ill-treated and tortured while in incommunicado detention. Amnesty International as prisoners of adopted both conscience.

After release in 1978, the couple bought a house in Asunción and Alfonso Silva resumed his work as a tailor. About a year afterwards, on 8 May 1979, the house was raided by 30 police officers and the couple were rearrested, reportedly for providing aid to political prisoners.

They were held in incommunicado detention in the DIPC until 1 June 1979, then transferred to official detention centres: Alfonso Silva to Tacumbú prison and María Almada to the Casa del Buen Pastor women's prison.

After two years' detention, the

couple were eventually convicted under Article 8 of Law 209, which relates to "association or affiliation with a communist party".

Their defence lawyer argued that his clients were being prosecuted for offences allegedly committed before their first arrest in 1968. He stressed that they had already spent 10 years in jail without charge or trial, twice as long as the five-year maximum sentence possible under Article 8 of Law 209. Moreover, he pointed out that the legal proceedings were in violation of Article 53 of the Constitution, which states that legislation cannot be applied retroactively: Law 209 had not been introduced until 1970.

The judge sentenced Alfonso Silva to four years 10 months' imprisonment and his wife to three years.

When Saturnina Almada had completed her sentence in May 1982 she was summarily expelled to Brazil. She now lives in exile. Her husband was still imprisoned in Tacumbú at the time of going to press: he was due for release in February 1984.

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be interned in the police hospital in Asunción, the Policlínico Rigoberto

One of the prisoners died there: Marcelino Casco, a man in his seventies. He had allegedly been forced to stand for several hours in the full sun, and had then been beaten on the head and shoulders and forced to run up and down stairs repeatedly. He was then locked in a small cell which, despite the excessive heat at the time, was full of prisoners. He was eventually taken to the police hospital and died shortly after admission.

Minors held

Three of the 13 prisoners were minors: one of them, 13-year-old Apolonia Flores, had been wounded in the legs at the time of her arrest. They were released between six and 10 months afterwards having been deemed not criminally responsible.

Four men, who, according to the police report, had not participated in the hijacking and against whom there did not appear to be any further evidence of involvement, were kept in pre-trial detention for three years.

They were: two brothers, Andrés and Luciano Centurión, who were arrested at their homes and detained allegedly because their father, the peasant leader Victoriano Centurión, had instigated the hijack and escaped arrest—he had, in fact, not been in touch with his family for several years; Ramón Paiva Acosta and Eliodoro Giménez, both of whom had witnesses to prove that they had not participated in the hijack.

In 1983 they were eventually released because they had already been detained for longer than the maximum sentence they could have received as accomplices.

Under Article 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedures, the *sumario* stage of a trial should only last two months. In the Caaguazú case it was 32 months before the judge proceeded to the final plenario stage in November 1982-and even then the prosecution did not produce a single witness or any evidence in court relating to the charges.

Same charges

Despite the fact that (even according to the police report) four of the defendants had not been anywhere near the scene of the crime and that the three minors had earlier been deemed not criminally responsible and released, the judge concluded that all 13 defendants should answer the same charges: assault, armed robbery, attempted murder, injury, usurpation of authority and illegal possession of arms.

The defence then appealed against his decision. On 6 October 1982 the Appeal Court ruled that there was no proof to sustain a charge of attempted murder and criticized the "apathy" of the Public Prosecutor in taking so long to bring the case to trial and for his failure to produce the necessary evidence.

The common charges were dropped.



Arcadio Flores, in detention awaiting the judge's verdict

Instead, the prisoners were accused of violating Articles 5 and 9 of Law 209, which refer to illicit association and kidnapping.

A year later, on 25 October 1983, the prosecution called for a sentence of seven and a half years' imprisonment.

At the time of going to press the trial was in its final stage, with six peasants in detention awaiting the judge's verdict: Arcadio Flores, Felipe Flores, Francisco

Duré, Gil Santos Duré, Mariano Martínez,

Vidal Martinez. In September 1983 the Commander-in-Chief of the Paraguayan armed forces made available to the judge—but not the defence—six old firearms and some clothing the army alleged were uniforms worn by the peasants during the attack. In an undated note accompanying the firearms, the C-in-C asserted that a number of soldiers had been wounded but there was no supporting medical evidence. Neither have the identities of the passengers in the bus been established in court.

Arbitrary arrests

Amnesty International is concerned because many people unconnected with the hijacking were arbitrarily arrested without charge—in violation of the Constitution, given that no state of siege was in force in that part of the country at the time; because many of the accused were subsequently ill-treated or tortured; and because the authorities have never properly established the circumstances in which the 10 peasants were killed, nor have their bodies been handed over to the families for burial. Furthermore, the police report, which is the sole basis for the prosecution, is composed of statements allegedly extracted under duress from the prisoners, most of whom have since retracted their declarations before the trial judge.

do 15 de Marzo de 1980

COMUNICADO DEL MINISTERIO DEL INTERIOR

Murieron 10 de los asaltantes del omnibus de la empresa

El Ministerio del Interior dio a conocer ayer un comunicado en relación al asalto a mano armada a un ómnibus de la empresa "Caaguazú", ocurrido el sábado 8 de este mes. El documento dice que los asaltantes fueron avistados en los montes de Caaguazú y se produjo un tiroteo resultando heridos el Mayor Div de Infanteria: el alca DEM Carlos Alberto Ayala Go-🗇 Rowar, v ice alli::

policial de Caaguazú, Ror ménez y César Duré y el muertos 10 asaltantes sultaron heridas. el texto del docu-"En relación con 's miem-

in a "shoot-out" in the Caaguazú moun-

tains following the bus hi-jack of 8

March. The communique gives no indica-

tion of what happened to the bodies: no

death certificates have since been issued,

nor were the bodies ever returned to the

Detienen a funcionario del Comité de Iglesias Voceros del Comité de Iglesias informaron anoche que detuvieron

al Sr. Cosme Benitez, funcionario de dicha entidad con asiento en Presidente Franco. Las fuentes dijeron que Cosme Benítez se desplazaba en la colon-💶o los maleantes se 🔝 Acaray con una nota firmada por el monseñor Van Haaken. 🤫 del Alto Parand en misión era prestar ayuda a las mum e

On 15 March 1980 the daily newspaper ABC Color published a communique from the Minister of the Interior acknowledging that 10 peasants had been killed

Just below this article, the newspaper reported the arrest of another member of the Comité de Iglesias, Cosme Benitez. He had reportedly been visiting a peasant community at Acaray and was said to have been carrying a note signed by the Bishop of Alto Paraná to the effect that his task was to give aid to the community's women and children.

in que se encuentra lubin. 🖖

families for burial.

Prisoners of conscience

For most of the 1970s political trials continued to be the exception rather than the rule in Paraguay, although the number of political detainees averaged several hundred a year, reaching a peak in 1975-76, when several thousand peasants and their leaders were detained in a temporary prison camp outside Asunción as part of government measures against the Ligas Agrarias.

According to the Minister of the Interior, only 49 of the 236 political prisoners detained during 1977 were formally charged. Of the 49, only 36 reportedly faced any kind of judicial proceedings. Only four individuals were ultimately convicted. The others were released—but not acquitted.

Between September 1976 and October 1979 some 393 prisoners detained without charge under the state of siege were released. This trend was largely reversed by large-scale detentions in the country-side and in Asunción during 1980, particularly after the killing of the former Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza.

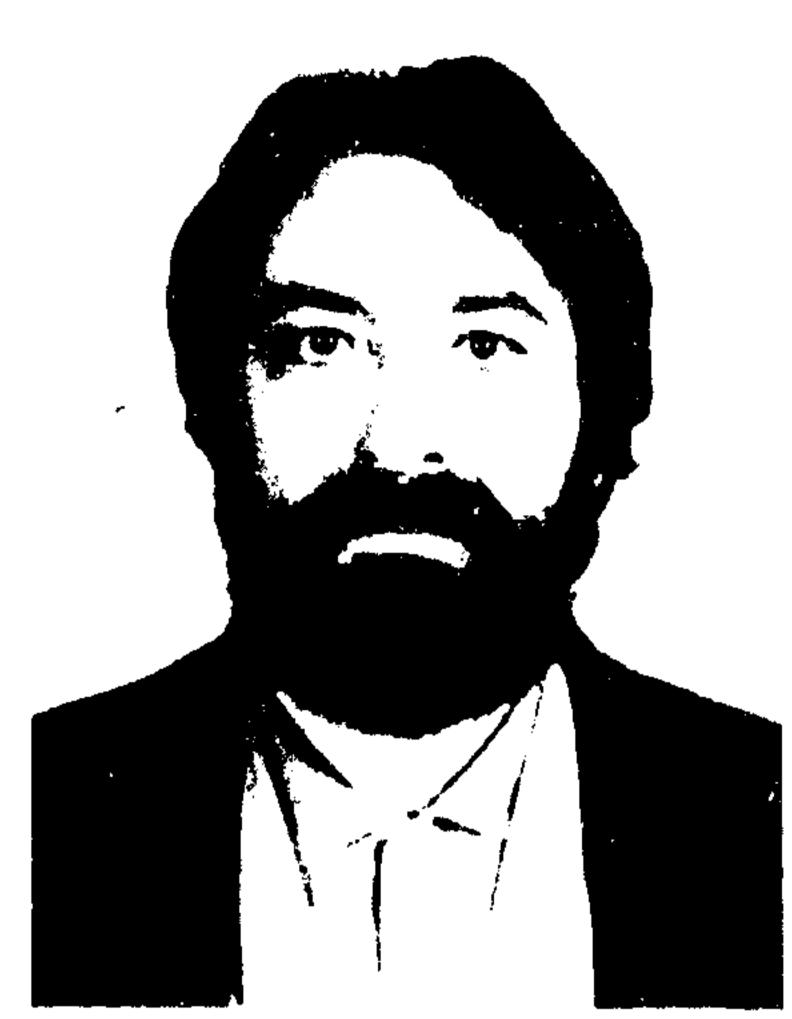
Most of those detained were released after a few weeks or months; others have been formally charged, usually under anti-subversive legislation and have faced protracted legal proceedings which have still not been completed. As of October 1983 there were about 50 political prisoners, most of whom are considered by Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience.

Arrest of staff of the Banco Paraguayo de Datos

More than 30 people were arrested during police raids on homes and offices in Asunción in May 1983. Those detained included students, teachers and trade unionists and staff members of the *Banco Paraguayo de Datos* (BPD), and the owner and employees of a printing company, *Estudio Gráfico*.

The BPD is a research institution which produced regular bulletins on the political, social, economic and trade union situation in the country. The bulletins reproduced articles from the Paraguayan press and also provided an analysis of developments in the country.

On 11 May 1983, 10 armed police officers in civilian clothes entered and searched BPD offices without a warrant. The 12 people present were questioned, then taken to the DIPC in Asunción.



Dr Domingo Laino

They were detained under the state of siege and accused of violating antisubversive legislation, principally Law 209. The police allege that the BPD was going to provide support to various independent and student organizations which, they say, were about to form an illegal workers' party. They maintain that the BPD had links with Sintesis, a magazine published in Mexico by Paraguayan exiles which the police allege is the mouthpiece of the Organización Político-Militar (OPM). This Marxist group was eradicated in Paraguay in 1976, most of its members either having been killed or fled the country. The authorities have accused other opposition figures in the past of conspiring to revive the OPM. In February 1979 they made similar accusations against Domingo Laino, a leader of the *Partido* Liberal Radical Auténtico (PLRA)—he is now living in exile—and Carmen de Lara Castro, President of the Paraguayan Commission for the Defence of Human

Numerous irregularities have occurred in the legal proceedings against the BPD members. The arrests took place without an official warrant. Three of the prisoners were reportedly tortured in detention (see pages 7 and 8) and the others were allegedly threatened with violence and ill-treated. Some prisoners claim that they were coerced into signing statements drawn up by police lawyers. The prisoners were held incommunicado until their transfer to regular detention centres.

Charged under Law 209

In August and September a number of those detained in May were released. Only Enrique Goossen, Roberto Villalba and Desiderio Arzamendia remain in detention in Tacumbú prison and face charges under Law 209.

On 12 October relatives of the released prisoners sent a letter to the independent daily newspaper ABC Color citing a "campaign of harassment and hostility" by police. They complained that although

the detainees had been released, restrictions remained (for example, they cannot travel abroad) because legal proceedings had not been formally closed. (This is a common problem in Paraguay where judges rarely give prisoners detained in connection with political crimes a full acquittal.) The relatives also referred to police pressure on the detainees to retract statements about ill-treatment in custody and alleged threats by the head of the DIPC.

On 24 October 1983 four sociology students, for whom arrest warrants had been issued in May 1983 in connection with the BPD case, presented themselves to the judge. Ernesto Heisecke and Cayetano Cuatrocci were immediately taken to Tacumbú prison and Mónica Pérez and Casta María Elizeche to the Casa del Buen Pastor women's prison.

Amnesty International believes that all now held in connection with the raid on the BPD are prisoners of conscience, detained for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression.

Short-term detention

Numerous short-term detentions have been reported over the past few years, with lawyers, academics, students, opposition figures and journalists having been particular targets. Some have been repeatedly detained for periods ranging from a matter of days to a few months. Such detainees are held under the state of siege provisions and are not charged. In some instances short-term detention has been followed by internal exile or summary expulsion from Paraguay.

Dr Domingo Laíno

Dr Domingo Laíno, a PLRA leader —an economist and writer—is an outspoken critic of President Stroessner's government who has been harassed and frequently arrested. In 1978 he was held from 6 July until 10 August and in 1979 from 15 August until December, when he was sent into internal exile in the town of Mbuyapey, 180 km from Asunción because he was considered to have insulted the Presidents of Paraguay and Brazil. On 30 September 1980 his home was raided and he was arrested and detained without warrant or explanation. He was held incommunicado in the Third Police Station in Asunción until his release in October 1980. His lawyer, Miguel Abdón Saguier, who had been arrested with him, was freed after a few days.

On 9 December 1980 Dr Laino was again arrested in Asunción, along with the director and an employee of a publishing house. Dr Laino's book, El General Comerciante, had been due for publication that day. The book, which was later published abroad, is critical of the Paraguayan Government. Dr Laino was deported on 13 December 1982 to

Argentina and is still in exile.

Cristóbal Alcibiades González Delvalle, aged 47, a prominent journalist on ABC Color, is Secretary General of the Paraguayan Journalists Union and former President of the Press Club.

He was detained for a month in 1979 and from June to early September in 1980: the second detention related to an article by him expressing criticism of the Paraguayan judiciary.

On 23 September 1983 he was again arrested after calling at the police head-quarters in Asunción in response to a summons. His incommunicado detention under Article 79 of the Constitution (on the state of siege) is believed to be related to articles exposing corruption in the ruling Colorado Party. In October and November 1983 the Supreme Court rejected two habeas corpus applications on his behalf.

He was released on 7 December 1983 and will not face any future legal proceedings, according to information received by Amnesty International.

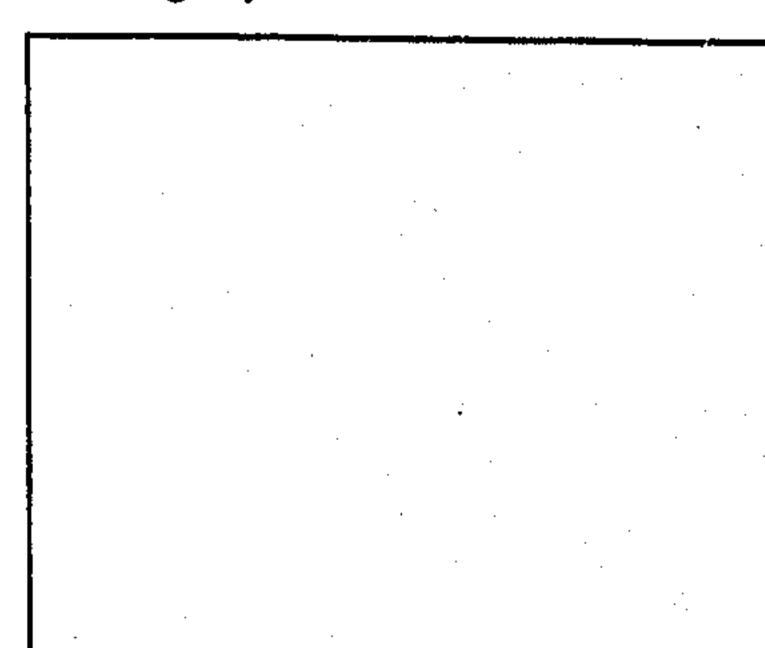
In a number of cases people have been arrested and then summarily expelled from the country, in contravention of Article 22 of the American Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees the right to freedom of movement and residence.

In June 1981 Luis Alfonso Resck, President of the Christian Democratic Party, was arrested and summarily expelled to Argentina.

In April 1982 the writer Augusto Roa Bastos was arrested and deported to Argentina.

In September 1982 a 34-year-old lawyer, Dr Hermes Rafael Saguier, was arrested after returning to Paraguay from exile in Argentina. He was detained at the office of his brother, Miguel Abdón Saguier, also a lawyer, and was held first in the DIPC and then in the Guardia de Seguridad, where he is reported to have been tortured. He had travelled to Asunción to submit a recurso de amparo (similar to a habeas corpus application) on behalf of 14 exiles who planned to return to Paraguay (their subsequent attempt to return was unsuccessful). He was held until 14 October 1982, then summarily expelled back to Argentina.

In June 1983 Dr Jorge Alvarenga, a general practitioner, was arrested after attending a meeting at the National University about trade unions and repression. He, too, was deported to Argentina. He had allegedly been tortured in detention.



Torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment

Amnesty International continues to receive reports about the torture of both political prisoners and common criminal suspects. Political arrests are often not acknowledged for several months, which puts prisoners at particular risk of human rights violations.

Allegations of torture are usually denied by the Paraguayan authorities and are rarely the subject of legal action.

On 13 September 1983, after a number of defendants in the "38 Communists" case had alleged before a judge that they had been tortured, the Police Chief of Asunción issued a statement "emphatically denying that physical or psychological torture or any other form of illegal ill-treatment against prisoners in detention, whatever the reason for their arrest, takes place in police stations".

He blamed lawyers attached to the Comité de Iglesias for publicity about torture allegations and said they were acting on instructions from the Communist Party.

The principal centres for torture in Paraguay, according to allegations received by Amnesty International, have been the DIPC and its Dirección de Vigilancia y Delitos, Vigilance and Crime Division, and the División Técnica de Represión del Comunismo, Technical Division for the Repression of Communism, all of which are in Asunción. According to Amnesty International's information, torture sessions have usually taken place at night in an annex to the DIPC known as the "laboratory".

The methods of torture most commonly alleged to have been used are: picana eléctrica (electric prod); pileta, where the victim's head is plunged into a tank or tub of water—which is sometimes polluted with excrement—to the point of asphyxiation; beatings, particularly on soles of feet with truncheons; cajones, prolonged confinement in a box or other restricted space—one of the positions used is feto, in which the victim is forced to remain for hours at a time in a foetal position; and murciélago, with the victim suspended by the ankles.

Although victims were usually forced to sign false confessions, the main purpose of torture was apparently to discourage any opposition to the government.

During the past three years Amnesty International interceded on behalf of over 400 individuals—students, peasants, journalists, lawyers and teachers—fearing that they might be subjected to torture after having been arrested. Most at risk were those suspected of being members of the Paraguayan Communist Party or other left-wing or Marxist groups, which are banned in Paraguay, and members of the *Ligas Agrarias*, or peasants suspected of being connected with it. The worst treatment was apparently received by those regarded by the authorities as leaders of such groups.

In May 1983 following the Banco Paraguayo de Datos (BPD) arrests in Asunción, Amnesty International received reports that three people whom it had adopted as prisoners of conscience, Enrique Goossen, Roberto Villalba and Ruben Lisboa, had been tortured while in incommunicado detention. All had allegedly been severely beaten and two had been subjected to the pileta torture. Roberto Villalba was reported to have suffered a heart attack during interrogation

Torture. testimonies

In June 1983 Amnesty International received statements from Enrique Goossen and Roberto Villalba describing their treatment in the DIPC.

• Enrique Goossen, aged 25, holds dual Paraguayan-German nationality. He had been a volunteer in the *Comité de Iglesias* before joining the BPD as its General Coordinator.

He said he was taken to the DIPC's Vigilancia y Delitos division, where he saw other BPD detainees. According to his testimony, he was questioned about José Carlos Rodríguez, a BPD member who had fled to Brazil in May 1983 to escape arrest, and who, the interrogators alleged, was head of the political sector of the Organización Político-Militar (OPM).

Enrique Goossen said he was accused of being José Carlos' right-hand man and was questioned about the OPM. An interrogator said "they knew everything because the BPD had been infiltrated and that I would either leave [the DIPC] a dead man or an invalid".

When he denied any links with the OPM one of the interrogators "beat me



Enrique Goossen

He was blindfolded, heard more people enter the room and was then bound hand and foot. "They sat me on the edge of the *pileta* and threw me in backwards ... one of them ... pushed me under. ... They pushed me under four times. ... After the fourth time they had to pull me out completely because I was only half conscious".

Later he was taken to another room and left blindfold for several hours. He was then held for two days (a Wednesday and Thursday) in an infirmary in the building, during which period he was questioned and again threatened with death or serious injury. He was questioned through the night of Thursday and allowed no sleep.

The next day, Friday, a doctor examined and treated him: "I had pains in my chest and stomach and could breathe only with difficulty.

"My treatment improved from Friday onwards . . . but they still kept me apart from the other prisoners in the infirmary."

At the time of going to press he was still detained.

Roberto Villalba

• Roberto Villalba was responsible for the reporting of land and peasant questions for the BPD in the bulletin *Paraguay Social*. His common-law wife was arrested with him in May 1983 and held until her release in September.



In his testimony he described his treatment while held in the Vigilancia y Delitos section of the DIPC. First of all, he said, he was beaten with a whip on his thighs and back. After further interrogation he was stripped, bound hand and foot and taken to the pileta:

"They pushed me under several times. Then they asked me about the organization, about José Carlos Rodríguez, about his friends, about the OPM. I replied that I did not know anything. They continued to push me under. As a result I suffered from a sort of paralysis and pains in my chest. . . .

"They saw that I could no longer con-

trol my legs. They put me in a bed and covered me up but remained there and continued to ask questions.

"The following day a doctor came and carried out a general examination. I told him that in the past I had suffered from a heart condition and that in the San Lucas clinic an electrocardiogram had been ordered. After his examination they said that I was fine and gave me a tablet."

Testimonies

The following are extracts from testimonies of prisoners currently detained in the Casa del Buen Pastor women's prison awaiting the outcome of their trial.

All three were arrested in 1982 during a wave of arrests in the capital and in the countryside of 38 alleged members of the "Chinese wing" of the Paraguayan Communist Party, which is illegal. All have been charged under Law 209.

International first investigated their cases in 1982 and concluded that they were prisoners of conscience, detained because of their alleged political opinions or their non-violent political activities. The organization is concerned about the inadequate medical attention given to these and other prisoners.

Irene Giménez

• Irene Giménez was eight and a half months' pregnant at the time of her arrest in 1982. While held in the DIPC her contractions started and she gave birth to a son, Adrián, in the police hospital, the *Policlínico Policial*.

half months in a small room without a toilet or ventilation. We did our personal hygiene once a day and there were occasions in which I was not allowed to go to the lavatory. Then an order was issued that my son should be handed over to my husband. Once this order was carried out—resulting in the greatest suffering a mother can feel: to see her son taken from her without being able to prevent it—I was taken back to the *Departamento de Investigaciones* to make statements accompanied by the 'appropriate' physical and psychological pressure used in such cases.

When I had finished there I was taken to the Guardia de Seguridad, where 34 of us were held in a room 6m by 4m, without toilet or ventilation, in the most precarious conditions a human being can find herself.

I was suffering from chicken pox and so was my son (we caught it in the *Policlinico Policial*). Adrián was suffering from gastroenteritis and infection of the intestines as a result of poison caused by an overdose of drugs. While he was with me

he had been breast-fed and he did not take to the change of diet—so he was given sedatives to calm him down and help him sleep. All this happened to a baby only three months old... 9

Cristina González

• Cristina González, aged 19, was arrested in Yhu, Caaguazú Department, along with her mother, Leonidas Bogado de González, and three brothers in 1982. They were held in the DIPC for a month.

Afterwards we were transferred to the Guardia de Seguridad, where there were 34 of us in one room 6m by 4m without ventilation, water or a toilet. We performed our physiological needs in plastic buckets because we were not allowed to leave the room. We did not know anything about the charges against us and this forced us to stage a hunger-strike lasting seven days to support our request that we be transferred and brought before a court. While we were on hunger-strike, they forced us to work and they beat many of us. . . .

On 1 June they transferred the women to the Casa del Buen Pastor and the men to Tacumbú prison.

In December my mother began to feel pains in the ganglions which were severely inflamed. This made it difficult for her to breathe or eat. She was treated by a doctor sent by the Comité de Iglesias but in February her illness worsened and the doctor advised that a biopsy be performed as soon as possible.

We called our lawyer and he requested permission from the substitute judge dealing with our case—our judge was on holiday-for my mother to be transferred to the police hospital. The judge delayed several days before giving the order. Two weeks passed when she went back and forth between the Buen Pastor and the Policlinico. She was in the hospital for several days but they did not perform the biopsy and she returned to Buen Pastor. She had to wait another day before being transferred to the Cancer Institute—and she was held there incommunicado for four days without even our lawyer being able to see her.

My mother died without having received medical treatment. She was 50 years old.

A report issued by the Instituto Paraguayo de Cáncer, Paraguayan Cancer Institute, put the cause of death down to adenocarcinoma. Amnesty International believes that the Paraguayan authorities failed to provide Leonidas Bogado de González with the medical attention and treatment necessitated by her illness.

Amnesty International is also increasingly disturbed by reports of widespread torture of common prisoners. Under Article 59 of the Paraguayan Constitution, a suspect must be brought before a judge within 48 hours of arrest and granted access to a lawyer. But from testimonies Amnesty International has received these

Testimony of María Margarita Báez

PARAGUAY BRIEFING

• María Margarita Báez de Britez, aged 35, a hairdresser, is the widow of Gumersindo Britez, who was one of the 10 peasants police allege were killed in a shootout in Caaguazú after the bus hijack of March 1980. Her testimony states:

I myself was abducted in the street on 16 February of that year [1982] by four policemen in civilian clothes who gagged, hooded and handcuffed me and took me to the *Departamento de Investigaciones*. . . . Without knowing the reason for my treatment I was taken directly to the head of the department who . . . said, 'Do to her what you want. Tear her apart.'

[Later] a police inspector and a torturer covered my eyes and handcuffed my hands behind my back. I was taken to another building to one of the officer's rooms. (Two floors of this building are now used as the police social club.) There I was tied up to the grill of a barred window and left hanging in the sun by a rope that was attached to the handcuffs.

I was kept like this for six days without food or sleep... they constantly threw icy water over me.

Once each day they took me down to subject me to other forms of torture: my hands and other parts of my body were burned, possibly with a brazier [she was kept blindfold]; I was beaten on the face and breasts.

On the sixth night they took me down to a lower floor. There my feet and hands were tied up and I was placed in the foetal position. I became aware of a machine that was giving off some kind of gas which froze my very bones and made me sleepy. Then they injected a substance into my spinal column. Its after-effects convince me that it could not be anything but a drug.

While I remained in this room (48 days in all), Y [an interrogator] used to visit me daily and urge me to sign some documents which would eventually be my statement. When I refused, my physical and psychological tor-



The photograph shows three women prisoners who claim they were ill-treated or tortured by the Paraguayan security forces (see text for extracts from their testimonies). They are, from left to right: Irene Giménez and her son Adrian; Cristina González and María Margarita Báez de Brítez. The fourth woman, Leonídas Bogado (Cristina González' mother) died soon after being transferred from prison to a cancer clinic—AI believes the Paraguayan authorities failed to provide her with the medical attention and treatment necessitated by her illness.

ment continued.

Psychological torture consisted of threats that they would bring in my brothers and torture them too. On one occasion they brought in a wooden plank and they said to me, 'Later on we are going to tie you to this plank before throwing you into the River Paraguay.'

For 42 of the 48 days I was held in that room [She was tied to a chair each night] . . . I was constantly bitten by the ants, of which there were a large number in the room.

On 3 April I was taken in handcuffs to a cell where I was held until 27 May. There they constantly threatened me with torture and said they would leave me in the place for years.

Given the uncertainty of my situation and my incommunicado detention I felt I had to stage a hunger-strike, requesting my transfer to a place where I could exercise my right to defence and reply to the police accusations.

On 28 May 1982 I was transferred to the *Guardia de Seguridad*. On 1 June I was transferred with three other

women to the Casa del Buen Pastor.

The consequences of my physical and psychological torture are numerous. The most striking have been visual and audible hallucinations, motor disorders and cramps, severe headaches and pains in the spinal column, tachycardia, blood pressure—all as a result of the injection I was given in the Departamento de Investigaciones.

My home was raided without warrant six days after my abduction. It is still occupied by the police and it has possibly even been sacked, which has occurred in other such cases.

On 12 September 1983, after my case had been open for 15 months, I was eventually taken to make a preliminary statement before the judge. By this time the trial had reached the plenario . . . which as far as I can tell means that we will be convicted.

I ask myself what is my crime? This week I have learned that a warrant has been issued for my lawyer's arrest with the clear intention of delaying the trial and increasing our anguish and uncertainty.

regulations appear to be repeatedly disregarded and prisoners are kept incommunicado in police stations for weeks. During this period they are allegedly tortured in attempts to force them to sign incriminating statements, which may form the basis of prosecution.

• Fermina Zunilda González, a 17-yearold domestic servant and mother of a baby, says she was held in incommunicado police custody for more than 50 days after her employers had accused her of theft because they wanted an excuse

to sack her.

She was taken to the DIPC in Asunción where she was held for eight days in May 1983. When she refused to sign a confession she was beaten with sticks and truncheons over a period of four days until she changed her mind and agreed to do so. She spent another month in the DIPC—she says this was to allow the marks of torture to disappear. She was then transferred to the women's prison of Casa del Buen Pastor, where she is now awaiting trial.

Death in police custody

Carlos Bogarín, a 23-year-old from Hernandarias, was taken by three plain-clothes officers to the local police station in Puerto Presidente Stroessner, in Alto Paraná Department, late on 8 August 1983. He was one of four young men arrested on suspicion of stealing a van.

An hour after his arrest his family were

informed that he had died and that his body was in a hospital morgue in Hernandarias. No official cause of death was given and the Chief of Police stated that the death had occurred during an operation carried out by members of his police force.

Another of the arrested suspects, Eulalio Rojas, was transferred to the police hospital in Asunción, reportedly in a serious condition. His family say his body was covered with wounds and bruises and that he was unable to urinate or eat as a result of blows to his stomach and kidneys.

The death of Carlos Bogarin resulted in the arrest of 10 police officers, including the Chief of Investigations. In statements to the judge a number of th accused admitted to beating the prisoner with truncheons on the orders of the Chief of Investigations.

Amnesty International does not know of any other instance of government officials having been prosecuted following the death of a prisoner under torture. In 1977 the organization published a died in police or army custody alleged. A Charles fter torture. No action is because in the continuous continu report citing 10 cases of people who had after torture. No action is known to have

'Disappeared' people

Since the mid-1970s Amnesty International has received reports of the "disappearances" of 45 people after arrest by government law enforcement officials (see table below). Many of the victims were active opponents of the government.

In some instances former prisoners

have reported that the "disappeared" died under torture or were the victims of extrajudicial execution while in custody. In the case of 10 peasants allegedly killed after the Caaguazú bus hijack, the authorities have never provided documentary evidence of their deaths nor have they returned the bodies to the victims' families for burial.

Among the cases of "disapper reported to Amnesty Interof Gerardo Meza. " connect? Obe wisded ...a sons. 🦳 he was inf her the told her the Meza's wherenternational is concerned

3 Sut the abduction and possible socible extradition from Argentina of Paraguayan political refugees. About 50 Paraguayan exiles living in Argentina after the military coup of 1976 were abducted by members of the Argentine security forces and have since "disappeared". In a number of cases there is evidence that the victims were handed over to the Paraguayan security forces.

Antonio Maidana Campos, aged 69, former history teacher and First Secretary of the banned Communist Party of Paraguay, was kidnapped in

Buenos Aires on 27 August 1980 by agents of the Argentine security services. There was no official acknowledgement of his arrest. He is reported to have been illegally transferred to Paraguay, despite the fact that he was under the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as a political refugee.

He was originally arrested in Paraguay in 1958 with two other Communist Party leaders and sentenced to two years nine months' imprisonment under Law 294. This sentence expired in 1961, when a judge ordered his release—but instead he was transferred to the Central Police Station in Asunción and later to a cell in the Third Police Station, where he was held "at the pleasure of the President", for a further 16 years. He was eventually released in January 1977.

Also kidnapped with him in Argentina was Emilio Roa Espinosa, former Secretary of the Paraguayan Construction Workers' Union and former Secretary General of the Confederación Paraguaya de Trabajadores. Neither the Argentine or the Paraguayan authorities have provided information on the whereabouts of the two men.

However, in 1982 in response to a communication about the case from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, the Paraguayan Government said the two men had been detained by Argentine security agents and that, according to unspecified press reports, Emilio Roa had later been released.

It has been reported that in June 1981 Antonio Maidana was being held in secret detention in the Emboscada prison camp, 40km from Asunción. Unconfirmed reports say he was later transferred to a military prison in the north of Paraguay and then to another military prison called Esperanza near the Bolivian border, in the Chaco Department.

'Disappearances' in Paraguay

Name	Date of arrest	Place	Additional information
Acosta Cardozo, Hermilio (teacher, aged about 30)	1975	Pastoreo	"Disappeared" after arrest.
Argüello, Bienvenido (aged 35)	12.05.75	Clorinda (Argentina)	Kidnapped with another Paraguayan on Argentine border; later transferred to police station in Paraguay and allegedly tortured. Detention of companion officially acknowledged but Bienvenido Arguello has "disappeared".
Britez, Adolfo César (single)	03.80	Caaguazú	* (see below)
Britez Coronel, Gumersindo (married)	03.80	Caaguazú	
Cabellos, Leonicio Teódulo	1975		Reportedly held in Guardia de Seguridad, Tacumbú. No official information on whereabouts since arrest.
Castillo Uliambre, Fulgencio (peasant)	03.80	Caaguazú	*
De Rosa Salinas, Juan	30.04.76		"Disappeared" after arrest by police.
Gómez, Juvencio	05.01.76		"Disappeared" after arrest.

^{*} In May 1980 police stated that he/she died in an armed confrontation. The body has not been handed over to the family for burial.

Name	Date of arrest	Place	Additional information
González Acosta, Octavio	03.12.75	Acaray	Police in Alto Paraná claimed he had been transferred to
Rubén (married with three children; aged 30)		(Alto Paraná)	Asunción; authorities there deny knowledge of his arrest.
González, Concepción (peasant; single)	03.80	Caaguazú	
Goñi Martinez, Darío Gilberto (Uruguayan)	27.03.79		Feared to have died in custody; body has not been handed over to relatives.
Gutiérrez, Federico (peasant; six children)	03.80	Caaguazú	*
Gutiérrez, Reinaldo (peasant; two children)	03.80	Caaguazú	#
Inzaurralde Melgar, Gustavo Edison (Uruguayan; aged 36; former member of Uruguayan Teachers' Association; married)	28.03.77	Asunción	Previously imprisoned in Uruguay. "Disappeared" after arrest in 1976 in Asunción after he had requested visa for travel to Sweden to join his pregnant wife.
López Irala, Sindulfo, Adolfo and Victor (peasants)	30.08.78		The three brothers were arrested by police and reportedly tortured in the Alcaldía de Tebicuary Mi. On 5 September 1978 reportedly driven to unknown destination, believed to be near Yegros, and killed and buried. Efforts to prosecute police allegedly responsible have been blocked.
López, Elixto, Policarpo, Francisco and Adolfo (all married, with children)	13.05.76		Police in San Juan (Misiones) arrested the four brothers and other members of the López family, including mother aged 73 and wives and children. Some relatives later freed, others officially detained. The four brothers "disappeared" after arrest.
López , Lorenzo (peasant; member of <i>Ligas Agrarias</i>)	09.04.70		Reportedly detained by the Batallón Escolta Presidencial in 1970. Authorities did not officially acknowledge detention. Feared to have died in custody but body has not been handed over to family.
Mancuello, Carlos (student of electronic engineering, aged 24; married with one child)	25.11.74	Asunción	Arrested with Argentine wife, Gladys Ester Ríos, and taken to DIPC. In September 1976 his wife was transferred to Emboscada Prison. He has "disappeared".
Melgarejo de Benítez Galeano, Máxima and husband, Benítez Galeano, Crescencio (two children)	06.76	Quiindy	Arrested at home in Quiindy and then "disappeared".
Meza, Gerardo (married) Nell, José Luis (Argentine, aged 66)	29.07.80 28.03.77	Tebicuary Mi Asunción	"Disappeared" from prison. Held in DIPC. "Disappeared" after reportedly handed over to Argentine authorities.
Oviedo, Amilcar (student, aged 23)	25.11.74		
Pereira, Luis (married with nine children)	06.76	Santa Rosa (Misiones)	Arrest not officially acknowledged by the authorities.
Pintos, Ramón (aged 21)	05.76		"Disappeared" after arrest. In October 1976 police stated that he had been killed while trying to escape. His body has
Ramírez Blanco, Carlos	1976		not been handed over to his family. "Disappeared" from DIPC after several months' incom-
Ramírez Villalba, Carlos Rodolfo (aged 32) and	11.74		municado detention. Two brothers who "disappeared" after incommunicado detention in DIPC.
Benjamin (aged 26) Rodas, Diego (peasant; married with four children)	14.05.76		"Disappeared" after arrest by police in San Juan (Misiones). Members of family also arrested and brother allegedly killed by police.
Rolón Centurión, Martino (leader of <i>Ligas Agrarias</i> ; married with three children)	04.04.76		"Disappeared" after arrest by police.
Ruiz Díaz, Mario (three children)	03.80	Caaguazú	
Segovia Britez, Secundino Soler, Miguel Angel (lawyer, aged 54; married with three children)	03.80 30.11.75	Caaguazú	* "Disappeared" after arrest. Alleged eye-witness says he died under torture. His body has not been handed over to family and authorities refuse to disclose any information about him A former student leader and Secretary of the Paraguayan Communist Party, he had been arrested previously in 1947, 1955 and 1957.
Soteio, Estanislao Torres de Quintana, Faustina Vera, Albino	03.80 10.05.70 10.06.76	Caaguazú	* "Disappeared" after arrest. "Disappeared" after arrest.
Verdún, Feliciano (peasant) Villagra, Américo	03.80 11.75	Caaguazú Clorinda (Argentina)	* He was taken from Clorinda, near border with Paraguay, where he was living; subsequently "disappeared".

^{*} In May 1980 police stated that he/she died in an armed confrontation. The body has not been handed over to the family for burial.

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Name	Date of arrest	Place	Additional information
Villagra, Derlis (leader of Paraguayan Communist Youth, aged 36)	30.11.75		Arrested when entering Paraguay from Argentina where he had been living in exile. Shortly after arrest was seen in DIPC. Testimony from alleged eye-witness indicates that he died under torture. His body has not been handed over to family. He had previously been detained in Paraguay for several years without trial.

Paraguayans 'disappeared' in Argentina

Name (age in brackets)	Profession*	Date of abduction	Place	Habeas corpus applications
Almada Villalba, Carlos Alberto	ST-MD	16.08.76	Córdoba, CORD¹	
Alvarez, Justo (25)		07.76		
Araujo de Narváez, Porfiria (27)	HW	20.02.78	Lanús, BAIR ²	
Arzamendia de Almaraz, Celia (23)	HW	07.07.76	Buenos Aires, BAIR	
Avalos, Jorgelina Aquilina (34)	HW	09.06.77	La Plata, BAIR	yes
Ballestrino de Careaga, Ester (59)	SC	08.12.77	Buenos Aires, BAIR	yes
Barreto Dávalos, Ricardo (47)	LB	15.10.76	Buenos Aires, BAIR	yes
Barreto Dávalos, Jorge		31.08.77		
Benitez, Florencio (45)	FW	21.07.76	Boulogne Sur Mer, BAIR	yes
Cáceres, Amago Nelson (18)	ST	23.02.78	Solano, BAIR	yes
Cáceres, Arnaldo Darío (18)	ST	23.02.78	Solano, BAIR	yes
Cáceres de Simonetti, Maria Pabla (17)	OW	16.02.77	Buenos Aires, BAIR	yes, 10
Carrillo Rodríguez, Fausto Augusto (32)	LY	16.08.76	Formosa, FORM ⁴	
Chamorro Vera, Edilberto (33)	LB	01.02.77		
Centurión, César (36)	LB	19.10.77	Quilmes, BAIR	yes
Corrales, Elizabeth Maria Victoria (23)	MD	18.08.77	Lomas del Mirador, BAIR	yes
Culzoni, Armando (24)	FW	22.09.76	Campana, BAIR	yes
Espinoza de Robles, Martina C. (31)	HW	13.09.77	Banfield, BAIR	•
Esquivel, Daniel (28)	ST	01.02.77	Buenos Aires, BAIR	
Farina, Mario		20.09.78	San Alberto, BAIR	
Goiburú Jiménez, Agustín (45)	MD	11.02.77	Paraná, ENTR ⁵	
Jara Torres, Anuncio		20.09.78	San Alberto, BAIR	
Jensens, Eduardo Juan (28)		15.10.75	Córdoba, CORD	yes
Kegler, Marlene Katherine (23)	ST	24.09.76	La Plata, BAIR	•
Kleiner Lledo de Morales, Josefina (29)		26.09.76	Buenos Aires, BAIR	
Ledesma Medina, Oscar Eladio (20)	LB	05.08.76	San Martin, BAIR	yes
Maidana Campos, Antonio (69)		27.08.80	Buenos Aires, BAIR	•
Morales, Gladys Beatriz (19)	ST	17.09.77	Buenos Aires, BAIR	yes
Orrego Mesa de Ramirez, Vicenta (26)		14.03.77	Quilmes, BAIR	•
Orue, Griselda Elizabeth (23)	OW	25.01.78	Buenos Aires, BAIR	yes
Osuna de Corbo, Lidia (21)		25.05.78	V. Alsina, BAIR	yes
Parra González, Jorge Rodolfo (19)	ST	09.04.76	Lanús Oeste, BAIR	yes, 2
Patiño, Toribio (29)	ĹB	20.06.78	La Matanza, BAIR	,
Penayo Pereira, Juan José		02.77	MISI	
Peralta, Eustacio (57)	SM	28.12.77	Buenos Aires, BAIR	yes, 2
Peralta Aguirre, Niséforo (58)	FW	16.09.78		7 , -
Ramírez, César Antonio (18)	LB	17.10.78	La Plata, BAIR	
Ramírez Medina, Mario (45)	LB	09.02.79	Caseros, BAIR	
Roa Espinosa, Emilio (65)		27.08.80	Buenos Aires, BAIR	
Samaniego Villamayor, Ignacio (35)	SC	18.09.78	Buenos Aires, BAIR	yes
Servin, Santiago (54)		16.09.76	Quilmes, BAIR	y 0 3
Samudio, Manuel (45)	FW	11.04.78	Villa Celina, BAIR	yes, 6
Solís de Patiño, Luciana (36)	HW	20.06.78	La Matanza, BAIR	,
Soto, Edilberto (28)	LB	05.08.76	Buenos Aires, BAIR	
Tatter, Adolfo		05.00.70	Buenos Aires, BAIR	
Tatter, Adono Tatter Morinigo, Federico Jorge (54)	LB	15.10.76	Buenos Aires, BAIR	
Vargas Bustamante, María Antonia (25)	L. LJ	22.09.77	Buenos Aires, BAIR	
Vera Báez, Cástulo		01.77	Puerto Iguazú, MISI	
Von Schmeling, Hermann (40)	BU	15.11.77	Olivos, BAIR	
von semmenng, richhann (40)	DO	13.11.77	OHTOS, DATE	

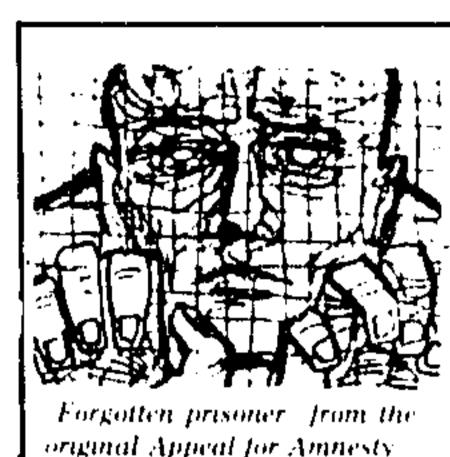
¹ Córdoba province; 2 Buenos Aires province; 3 Misiones province; 4 Formosa province; 5 Entre Ríos province.

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