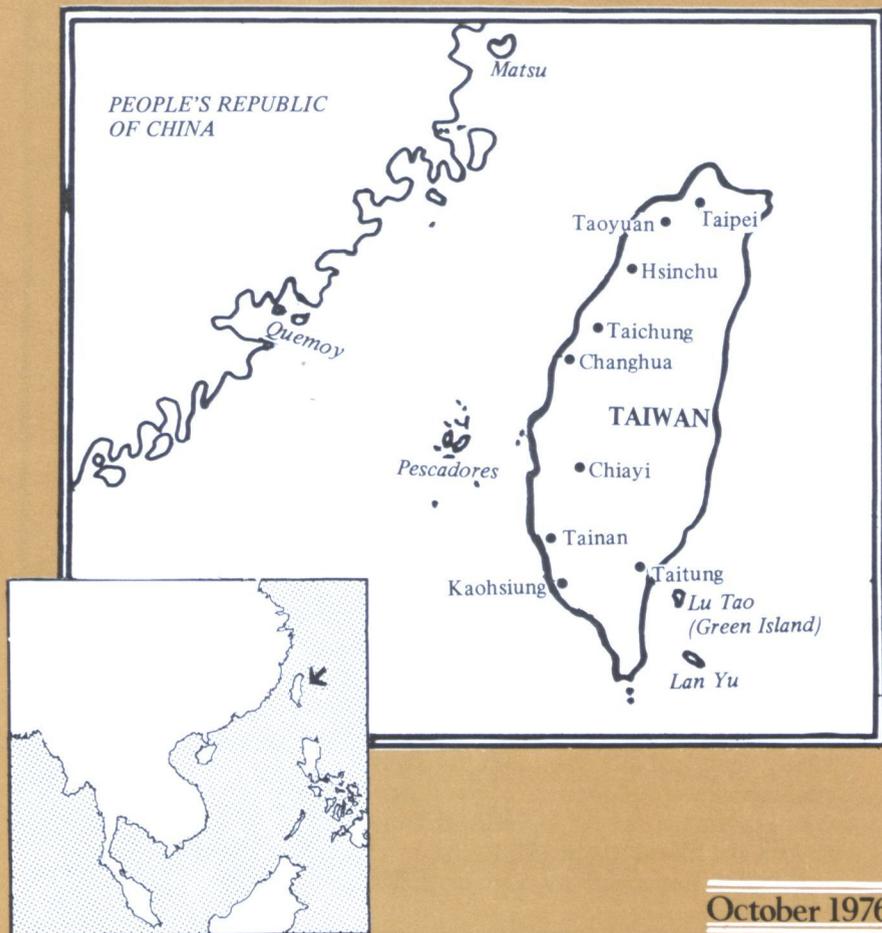

Amnesty International Briefing

TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA)



October 1976

TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA) IN OUTLINE

The Nationalist (Kuomintang) government of the Republic of China retreated from mainland China to the island of Taiwan in 1949, establishing itself there with Taipei as its capital, in December of that year. This government retains its original name as well as its claim to represent the whole of China. However, the government of the People's Republic of China governs the whole of the mainland from the traditional capital, Peking, and its representatives have been recognized by the United Nations in 1971 as entitled to represent China in all the organs of the UN, including the Security Council, where China is one of the five permanent members.

The Republic of China therefore now consists of the island of Taiwan (area 36,260 square kilometers), 320 kilometers from the coast of southeast China, and includes the nearby Pescadores islands and the islands of Kinmen (including Quemoy) and Matsu (about 10 kilometers from the Chinese mainland). The capital is Taipei.

The population is around 16 million and apart from a very small minority of non-Chinese aboriginal inhabitants (approximately 200,000), is ethnically of Chinese origin. However it is divided into several groups which have strong cultural and linguistic differences:

- 13.6% Chinese mainlanders
- 86.4% Taiwanese, themselves divided into two sub-groups:
 - 73.72% Min-nan (originally from Fukien province)
 - 12.68% Hakka (originally mostly coming from Kwangtung province)

Among the Taiwanese elite, there are strong feelings that Taiwan should be considered independent and free from the rule of the Kuomintang.

Since 1949 Taiwan has been ruled on the basis that the country remains at war with the People's Republic of China on the mainland. All constitutional guarantees of civil liberty have been abrogated by the provisions of the state of siege proclaimed on 19 May 1949.

Strategic and economic support by the United States of America has been of paramount importance to Taiwan. Between 1951 and 1968, American aid was used to improve communications and establish export industries. Economic development has been successful: Taiwan has one of the highest annual economic growth rates in Asia and also in the world. Its major trading partners are the USA and Japan. West Germany is its most significant partner in Europe.

Taiwan (Republic of China)

1. Introduction

Developments related to political imprisonment in Taiwan since 1949 can be interpreted in the light of two major factors. The first is the claim by the Chinese Nationalist government that it is the legitimate government of *all* China and therefore still at war with the Chinese communist government established on the mainland. It is on this assumption that a state of siege, declared in May 1949, has been imposed in Taiwan.

A second factor is that the local Taiwanese population, which differs culturally and linguistically from the Chinese mainlanders who arrived in 1949, has since that time been denied an adequate share in the political affairs of the island. The majority of the indigenous Taiwanese elite therefore turned towards the idea of independence for Taiwan and formed the repressed political opposition to the Nationalist government.

Violations of human rights have been the prevailing practice in Taiwan. The following issues are of particular concern to Amnesty International:

- (a) the arrest and detention of suspected political opponents generally held on charges of sedition under the provisions of laws drawn up after the state of siege was declared in Taiwan;
- (b) the permanent abrogation under these laws of the civil rights provisions of the constitution of 1946;
- (c) the holding of trials and appeal reviews by military tribunals and the inadequacy of basic legal safeguards;
- (d) the use of torture during interrogation in some instances;
- (e) the use of the death penalty as punishment for certain criminal and political offences.

2. Political and Constitutional Context

In 1949 the Nationalist government retreated from mainland China to the island of Taiwan and established the Republic of China (ROC) there in December of the same year.

For half a century until the defeat of Japan in 1945, Taiwan had been under Japanese rule. Among the local Taiwanese elite, the first moves towards the formulation of autonomist ideas developed during that period. After the island was restored to China in 1945, becoming again a Chinese province, the Kuomintang (Nationalist Party) instituted government monopolies, arrested leading Taiwanese on the grounds that they had collaborated with the Japanese and, in February 1947, suppressed brutally a Taiwanese revolt against its maladministration, thus alienating the local population.

The Chinese mainlanders who followed the Kuomintang to Taiwan in 1949 now represent 14% of the 16 million population of the Republic of China.

Indigenous Taiwanese, themselves divided into different sub-groups, form the remaining 86%.

The ROC constitution is that adopted in Nanking (mainland China) by the National Assembly in December 1946. It guarantees fundamental human rights, such as:

- article 8: personal freedom
- article 11: freedom of speech, teaching, writing and publication
- article 10: freedom of residence and change of residence
- article 12: freedom of privacy of correspondence
- article 13: freedom of religious beliefs
- article 14: freedom of assembly and association
- article 16: freedom of petition

However the state of siege and martial law proclaimed by the Chinese Nationalist Garrison Command (known as Taiwan Garrison Command) in May 1949 suspended all provisions of individual rights and freedoms guaranteed by the constitution. The state of siege was declared before the Nationalist government retreated to Taiwan and is supposed to last as long as "communist rebellion" exists on the Chinese mainland.

Equally significant, in a system which practically prevents all articulate opposition, is the fact that no general elections have been held in Taiwan since 1948. The Republic of China is governed by a president, elected by the National Assembly, and five organs of state called *Yuans*. The Legislative *Yuan* is the highest legislative organ of the state. It is composed mainly of those surviving members who were elected in 1948 on the mainland. Minor amendments were later made to provide for the inevitable decline in the number of these survivors. Thus in 1969, the first supplementary elections were held for some 22 seats, whereas the other 430 seats of the Legislative *Yuan* remained occupied by life members, most of them Chinese mainlanders. Elections for these 22 seats are held every three years. The last ones took place in December 1975.

The conditions in which elections are held can only be described as suppression of freedom of expression. During the December 1975 election campaign, a local Taiwanese candidate, Pai Ya-tsan, was arrested shortly after he published a campaign statement consisting of 29 questions addressed to Prime Minister Chiang Ching-kuo. These questions touched on problems of corruption, foreign policy, martial law, etc—issues rarely discussed publicly in Taiwan. Shortly after his arrest, Mr Pai was tried in secret and sentenced to life imprisonment. Reports say that opposition candidates receive warnings from local authorities if they make statements judged "contrary to the national policy". Thus local elections are almost entirely dominated by the Kuomintang, and independent candidates have little chance.

The Kuomintang Party (KMT), with its own welfare and employment services, remains the key to promotion in all spheres of activities. The KMT national congress takes policy decisions which are implemented by the government. Since the death of President Chiang Kai-shek in April 1975, the KMT leadership has been assumed by his son Chiang Ching-kuo, who is also at present prime minister. Before becoming prime minister, Chiang Ching-kuo had been in charge of national

defence and the security police.

It is hard to estimate the extent of Taiwanese nationalism as a political force since the main source of information on the subject are Taiwanese exiles, who are usually strong advocates of Taiwanese self-determination. The "Independents" are opposed to the rule of the island by the Kuomintang as well as to the reunification of Taiwan with mainland China. They advocate the independence of Taiwan. The number of Taiwanese exiles is in itself very significant. Estimates in 1967 said that less than seven per cent of the students who left Taiwan to study abroad returned home.

3. Number and Analysis of Political Prisoners

There is no official figure for the number of political prisoners held in Taiwan. Government officials refuse to recognize the term "political prisoners" and only admit to the existence of imprisoned "rebels".

During the early 1950s a large number of persons disappeared and mass arrests took place in the 1960s. However the number of political prisoners has fallen since that time. In 1975 sources close to the government admitted that there were about 400 persons detained for political reasons. But Taiwanese abroad estimated that 8,000 persons are in prison for their expression of dissent.

During the summer of 1975, a reduction of prisoners' sentences, proclaimed by Prime Minister Chiang Ching-kuo in memory of his late father, resulted in the release of a small number of political prisoners. It is generally believed that about 130 political prisoners were released in June and July 1975. However new arrests have occurred after this brief period of liberalization. The total number of those arrested in the past few months is not known.

Amnesty International has on file the names of more than 200 political prisoners, but little has been heard of about half of them for several years. Most political prisoners are either intellectuals—students, teachers, journalists, writers—or local politicians. There are also a number of government officials imprisoned as a result of internal political struggles. Arrests of workers are rare, although they are occasionally prosecuted for offences related to the government position regarding mainland China. Members of ethnic minorities have also occasionally been arrested. In general, political detainees can be divided into the following categories:

(a) *Suspected "Independents"*. People arrested in this category are generally accused of having links with the Taiwan Independence Movement (a movement formed by Taiwanese exiles abroad), although it is generally believed that no similar organization exists in Taiwan. They include in particular the following groups:

- Some 16 students and teachers arrested in August 1968 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of Taiwan and tried a year later on charges of "advocating the forceful overthrow of the government and seizure of political power". According to the indictment, they planned to establish an "independent Taiwan" in "collaboration with communists" in Japan and with this aim had formed a society called the "Taiwanese People's Happiness Party".

- A group of about 18 people arrested in 1961 in connection with the arrest of Su Tung-ch'i, a councillor from Yun Lin, who had sponsored a petition calling for the release of another well-known politician and was found guilty by a military court of "plotting rebellion". Most of them received very heavy sentences including life and 15 years' imprisonment.
- A small group of students arrested in March 1969 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and accused of being members of a *T'ung Chung Hui* (Unification Society), about which no further information is available. One of them was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and others to 15 years.
- The *Taiwan Ch'ing-nien* cases. At least 14 people were arrested for allegedly forming or belonging to a "Society for Promoting the Unity of the Taiwanese Youth" (*Taiwan Ch'ing-nien*). The group was reportedly guilty of "wild talk" in a Taipei restaurant and of "scribbling political graffiti and distributing leaflets". Different charges were involved when they were brought to trial in late 1969. Three of them, including "two students returned from Japan", were sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for "overtly acting to overthrow the government". The others received lesser sentences for "preparing to act to overthrow the government".

Many other individual cases also fall into this category, ranging from popular Taiwanese intellectuals and political leaders to people who merely commented publicly on the status of Taiwan. It also seems that often people having no connection with those really advocating the independence of Taiwan have been arrested in attempts to prove the existence of "subversive rings", particularly during periods when the government wants to silence the opposition.

Those involved in or sympathizing with the independence movement are generally held under the provisions of the Statute for the Punishment of Rebellion (see *Legal Situation*, page 5). Most of them are indigenous Taiwanese.

(b) *Suspected communists*. The first category in this group consists of people arrested by the Kuomintang on mainland China during the civil war (before 1949). The Nationalist government took with it some of these prisoners when it retreated to Taiwan in 1949. They have no relatives in Taiwan, and very little is known of their present fate and number. It must be assumed that many have died in prison. According to one source, there might still be some 1,000 such prisoners in various prisons of Taiwan, although such a figure seems very high.

The second category concerns people suspected of pro-communist sympathies or of advocating the peaceful reunification of Taiwan with mainland China. They probably represent only a small group, as the Kuomintang has succeeded in creating a certain amount of anti-communist feeling among the population. Most of the known cases are those of people arrested in the early 1950s who are believed to have been in contact with the Taiwan Communist Party (TCP) during the period of Japanese rule. The TCP, which no longer exists, was formed in 1923. Although never a very large organization,

it apparently tried to gain support among labourers and farmers in rural Taiwan.

The last group is composed of influential journalists or members of the administration arrested at various periods for "pro-communist activities". Several journalists in particular were arrested between 1968 and 1970 for alleged involvement in "espionage for mainland China". One of them was tried by a military court in 1971 and charged with treason for "being a member of the Communist Party since 1935, giving government secrets to the communists during the Second World War and for having tried to foment a revolt on Taiwan". This was based on a confession that the prisoner later claimed had been forced on him.

(c) *Members of the ruling elite*. Some cases are known of government officials or members of the security organs arrested as the result of purges. One such purge in 1967 concerned the Federal Bureau of Investigation of Taiwan (FBI). Several agents of the Taiwanese FBI were sentenced to death or to long term imprisonment on charges of "planning to overthrow the government". The Taiwanese FBI was then the security arm of the central government, sharing to a certain extent that responsibility with the Taiwan Garrison Command. The 1967 arrests seem to have been largely the result of rivalry between these two bodies.

(d) *Ethnic minorities or montagnard groups*. Reports on minorities are very scarce and generally lack details, since information on them rarely reaches important cities. However, several cases of arrests have been reported among the population of remote mountainous regions of Taiwan—the so-called *montagnards*. They involve either *montagnards* themselves when they refuse to comply with the rules imposed by the central authorities, or people who advocate a different policy towards ethnic minorities. This was the case of a group of people arrested in 1969 for allegedly participating in a so-called "Mountain Highland Youth Corps", an organization apparently designed to assert the rights of native hill-people living in Taiwan against the central authorities. They were charged with "participating in a seditious group" under article 2, section 1 of the Statute for the Punishment of Rebellion".

4. Legal Situation

(i) *Legislation under which prisoners are held*

Taiwanese law rests on the assumption that the country is still at war with mainland China. The proclamation of the state of siege on 19 May 1949 automatically put into operation the whole body of martial law promulgated by the Chinese Nationalist government on 29 November 1934. The provisions of the state of siege abrogate all constitutional guarantees of civil liberties. They proscribe in particular public meetings, strikes, demonstrations or petitions and "spreading of rumours by letter, slogan or other means". Political offences are dealt with under some articles of martial law and under special statutes and laws adopted later:

- the "Statute for the Punishment of Rebellion" (adopted in 1949, amended

in 1950 and 1958) which defines a "rebel" as any person "who plans to destroy the national policy, occupy the national territory or, by illegal means, to change the constitution or overthrow the government and who starts to undertake the above activities. . ." (article II, section 1). The following sections and articles of the statute enlarge the scope of political offences by including any person who "prepares to commit an offence specified" in section 1 (article II, section 3), who "participates in an organization or meeting of rebellion" (article V), or who "makes propaganda beneficial to the rebels by written words, books or speeches" (article VII).

- the "Statute for Denunciation and Suppression of the Rebels" (introduced in 1950, amended in 1954) which make it a crime not to denounce a person suspected of having committed some of the above offences, and provides for it penalties of between one and 7 years.
- the "Military Tribunal Law" (1956, amended 1959).
- the "Judicial Interpretation of the Council of Grand Justices" (1956).

(ii) *Legal procedures*

a) *The judiciary.* According to the constitution, the courts would normally be under the Judicial Yuan (one of the central organs of the state independent from the government itself), but this is now true only of the Supreme Court. Provincial and local courts now come under the ministry of justice. The Supreme Court rarely makes pronouncements and the real decisions are made in the lower courts which are not responsible to the Supreme Court. In the mid-1960s the Supreme Court ruled that the removal of local courts from its supervisory jurisdiction was unconstitutional, but this ruling has been ignored by the government. In this context the independence of the judiciary is in serious doubt.

Procurators are accountable to the judges, and judges are trained and appointed by the ministry of justice. The government maintains that once appointed the judges are autonomous but recognizes however that they are under the "administrative supervision" of the ministry of justice. In fact, the majority of political cases are handled by the military.

b) *Arrest and detention process.* The Taiwan Garrison Command (TGC) is the main institution for arrest and trials of political offenders, who are held incommunicado by the TGC for an indefinite period. This is in contravention of the provisions for *habeas corpus* written into the constitution, which are enforced only in ordinary civil and criminal cases.

During the interrogation period, which can last several months and sometimes years, prisoners are ordered to write a detailed autobiography including details of their families and associates. It is reported that in some cases prisoners have been subjected to various forms of physical and mental torture. The confession extracted from the prisoner is usually the sole evidence used for conviction. Prisoners are allowed to see a lawyer only after formal indictments are made against them and taped manuscripts of their conversations with their lawyers are made available to the court.

c) *Conduct of trials.* Most trials of political offenders are held in secret by military courts and the press may only publish a statement of the conviction prepared by the court. The court's decision must be approved before its delivery by the security organ which arrested and investigated the defendant. Courts martial presume the guilt of political defendants.

The "Judicial Interpretation of the Council of Grand Justice" of 1956 removed the limitation on the court's right to bring a prosecution, so that political offences can be tried 20 years after they were committed. Although criminal law prohibits *ex post facto* prosecutions, political offenders are tried under an independent system of judicial rules, including retrospective legislation.

d) *Release process.* Releases are generally conditional: most detainees must sign a statement of loyalty to the constitution and laws of the ROC and find one or two guarantors to ensure their future behaviour. The system of release on parole is not applicable to political offenders, who must serve the full term of their sentences. In some very rare cases anticipated release has happened but severe surveillance has been imposed, as well as restriction in freedom of movement, residence, employment and association.

An amnesty of prisoners (the first since 1949) pronounced in October 1971 only affected common law prisoners, although a handful of political prisoners were later released. The second amnesty, announced after the death of President Chiang Kai-shek in April 1975, included for the first time political prisoners and took the form of a reduction of prisoners' sentences. As a result of it, a large number of prisoners were released, including about 130 political detainees. The position of released prisoners however is often precarious: it is difficult for them to find employment and they are kept under surveillance by the security organs. Contacts with foreigners and journalists are particularly watched and released prisoners are likely to receive visits of security agents and warnings if these contacts are too frequent.

5. Location of Detention Centers and Prisons

Upon arrest, political detainees are initially held for interrogation in the Detention Center of Taiwan Garrison Command. Unofficial buildings in Taipei reportedly are used by the security organs for interrogation. During interrogation prisoners are held incommunicado under extremely stringent conditions. Several prisons are known to be used mainly for political prisoners, in particular:

- Ching Mei prison, in Taipei, which is under Taiwan Garrison Command. The prison has several solitary confinement cells. It now has slightly less than 300 prisoners.
- The Military Prison of Hsintien, known as An Kang, some 20 kilometers outside Taipei. It is under the ministry of national defence and reportedly is used for both military and civilian political prisoners.
- The Taiwan Experimental Institute for Production Education, near Taipei, known as Pan Chiao. This has some 400 political prisoners and is mainly used for women prisoners and young political prisoners sent there

for "reform". Long term detainees are also sometimes sent to Pan Chiao in the last few months before the end of their term of imprisonment.

• Green Island New Life Camp, a prison camp on an island off the southeast coast of Taiwan, known simply as "Green Island". It is mainly used for prisoners sentenced to life or long term imprisonment. The camp normally houses about 200 prisoners, but probably over 100 remained there after the 1975 releases (see page 7, *Release process*). The only inhabitants of Green Island are the prisoners of the camp and a military garrison, which makes of Green Island camp the most isolated and dreaded prison of Taiwan.

Other prisons are also known to hold political prisoners, such as Taichung prison, Taiyuan prison, Hsiao-liu-ch'iu Island Camp (an island to southwest of Taiwan) and Orchid Island Camp (southeast of Taiwan), the two last being for both political prisoners and outlaws.

6. Conditions of Detention

During the period of interrogation, political prisoners are held in solitary confinement, generally in underground cells without a bed and without exercise. They are denied books, pen and paper, except for the purpose of writing a confession. After conviction they may receive a visit from relatives once a week, but this usually never happens during the first four months of imprisonment. In some cases the period of isolation has been much longer. Mail is strictly controlled.

The following conditions seem to prevail in average prisons:

- Food is reported to be adequate although deficient in protein.
- Prisoners who are doctors or dentists may treat fellow-prisoners, but with very little equipment or medicines.
- Sick prisoners have to wait until their case has become extremely serious before they are taken to a military hospital.
- Tubercular cases are not necessarily separated from other convicts.
- There is a daily period of exercise the length of which varies depending on the prison.
- Families are allowed to send money to imprisoned relatives with which to buy paper and extra food.
- There is generally a prison library with a controlled and very limited choice of books.
- Some prisoners, however, have been subjected to much more severe conditions, such as being held in solitary confinement for several years in very damp cells with their hands or feet shackled, receiving no medical treatment and not being allowed visits or reading material.

The Green Island camp was particularly notorious in the 1950s as a place where prisoners received exceptionally harsh treatment and where torture and execution were current practice. International attention has since forced a gradual easing of the situation, but in spite of general improvement, prisoners on Green Island suffer from complete isolation. The inaccessibility of the camp to outsiders makes it difficult to describe present conditions there.

7. Allegations of Torture

Little reaches the outside world about the treatment of political prisoners in Taiwan, especially as regards the period of interrogation. During this period, they are held incommunicado for several weeks or months, or sometimes years. After indictment, communications and correspondence between the prisoner and his family or lawyer are strictly controlled. For a long time, therefore, it is practically impossible to know how the detainee has been treated.

However, it is not unusual for prisoners to claim during their trial that a confession (which is very often the sole evidence for conviction) has been extracted from them by force. Reports say that various forms of pressure, including physical torture, are used by the security authorities to make a prisoner confess. The evidence suggest that most ill-treatment of prisoners takes place while they are held by the security organs rather than by the prison authorities. According to some reports, various buildings in Taipei which are not officially identified are used for the interrogation of suspects.

Amnesty International has received allegations of torture concerning a number of individual cases. Two cases concerned prisoners who had smuggled out of prison information about other detainees and who were subjected to extremely severe beatings in retaliation. Neither of them reportedly has since received the medical treatment they need. Another prisoner, who was perfectly sane before his arrest, had his trial suspended because of mental disability, reportedly because of maltreatment during interrogation.

Among the forms of psychological and physical pressure used for the purpose of securing a confession are solitary confinement, round-the-clock interrogations, electric shocks, lack of sleep and severe beatings. In one case it was reported that gasoline had been poured in the prisoner's nostrils during interrogation in 1971, causing swelling, lack of feeling in the arms, skin rashes, insomnia, vomiting and excretion of blood.

8. Capital Punishment

During the state of siege, which is still in force, the following offences are punishable with death:

- circulating rumours and "beguiling" the public
- inciting to rebellion or public riot
- disrupting the money market
- theft or robbery with violence
- strikes by workers or traders thereby disrupting public order
- encouraging students to strike or publicly inciting others to commit crimes
- destroying traffic or communications facilities, or stealing material thereof
- disrupting the supply of water, electricity or gas
- causing fire or flood or endangering public safety
- possessing arms, ammunitions or explosives without permission

In addition, under the Statute for the Punishment of Rebellion, "treason", "rebellion" or assistance to a "rebel" is punishable by mandatory death penalty. Whereas executions of political opponents were numerous in the 1950s and 1960s, there seem to have been very few executions of political prisoners in

the past few years. However, executions of common law criminals have increased recently. At the end of 1975, the government decided that, temporarily, cases involving crimes of violence (murder, rape and armed robbery) would be tried by military courts and not, as previously, by civilian courts.

Appeals go to the court of the ministry of national defence but the ministry hardly ever reverses a judgment. Judicial executions are carried out by firing squad.

9. Action by Amnesty International

- (a) Individual Amnesty International groups were active in July 1976 on the cases of 90 prisoners detained for political reasons. AI groups have continuously expressed concern about the situation of political prisoners in Taiwan. They have appealed to the ROC authorities for the release of prisoners where it is clear that they are imprisoned for the non-violent expression of their beliefs.
- (b) In May 1975 an Amnesty International representative visited Taiwan for high level talks with the government after a commutation of prisoners' sentences had been announced in memory of President Chiang Kai-shek. The delegate was able to discuss at length with government officials the proposed commutation, the question of political imprisonment and a few cases of prisoners. Following the visit, AI sent a number of recommendations to the government, welcoming the act of clemency and urging the authorities to implement it unconditionally. In July 1975, when the Commutation Act came into force, more than 100 political prisoners were released, and others had their sentences reduced by one-third.
- (c) In September 1975, a delegate of Amnesty International again visited Taiwan to observe a politically significant appeal trial involving eight prisoners. There were fears that a heavier sentence would be inflicted on the eight because of prosecution demands. The delegate was not allowed into the court room, to which only close relatives and lawyers had access. However, the eight defendants received reductions in their sentences, leaving them less than two years to serve in prison from the date of the appeal trial.
- (d) Amnesty International has urged the ROC government on several occasions to give proper medical attention to prisoners who need urgent or specialized treatment, particularly Hsieh Ts'ung-min who suffers from asthma, arthritis and allergy, and who is now in very poor health after several hunger strikes; Ts'ai Ts'ai-yuan who cannot bend either leg; and Hsu Hsi-tu, who needs treatment in a mental hospital.
- (e) Amnesty International urges the ROC government to implement the provisions of human rights guaranteed in the Chinese constitution of 1946 and to conduct trials openly, in accordance with recognized norms

of judicial procedures. AI opposes torture and capital punishment in all circumstances. It also urges the ROC government to release all prisoners of conscience and, on humanitarian grounds, all those prisoners who have now been in prison for 20 years or more.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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