CENTRAL AFRICA

Al Index: AFR 02/15/97 Network: EXTRA-15/97 Pages: 1

Date: 27 February 1997

Title:Rwanda/Burundi: Further information on fear of refoulement /fear for safety: Thousands of Burundi refugees in Rwanda

Abstract:On 18, 19 and 20 February 1997, between 1700 and 1900 Burundi refugees from Kibangira camp in Cyangugu prefecture returned to Burundi. The exact circumstances are unknown, but it is feared that they may have been returned under duress. Approximately 2000 Burundi refugees remain in Kibangira camp and their situation is uncertain. The Burundi refugees in Musange transit centre, Butare prefecture, and in Kigeme, Gikongoro prefecture, are still in the camps there, and they remain under threat of refoulement.

Keywords:BURUNDI / REFOULEMENT / REFUGEES / RWANDA /

CENTRAL AFRICA

Al Index: AFR 02/16/97 **Network:** UA-59/97 **Pages:** 1

Date: 5 March 1997

Title:Zaire/Rwanda: Refoulement /fear for safety: Around 50 Rwandese refugees in Zaire

Abstract:There is concern for the safety of some 50 Rwandese refugees in Kinshasa who are at risk of being sent to eastern Zaire or Rwanda. On 28 February 1997 about 43 of them were flown to Kisangani and were expected to be transferred to Tingi-Tingi refugee camp in eastern Zaire. About six others are awaiting repatriation to Rwanda. There is concern that those deported from Kinshasa are at risk of abuses from the AFDL or the Rwandese authorities.

Keywords: ARMED CONFLICT / REFOULEMENT / REFUGEES / RWANDA / UNHCR / ZAIRE /

CENTRAL AFRICA

Al Index: AFR 02/17/97 Network: UA-60/97 Pages: 1

Date: 6 March 1997

Al Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Kenya/Zaire/Rwanda: Threat of refoulement /fear for safety: 101 Rwandese refugees in Kenya

Abstract:101 refugees, including men, women and 59 children, arrived in Nairobi, Kenya from eastern Zaire between 27 February and 1 March 1997. They are seeking asylum in Kenya, but have been denied entry by the authorities who are threatening to deport them to Rwanda or back to Zaire It is believed that they would be at risk of grave human rights abuses in either country.

Keywords:KENYA / REFOULEMENT / REFUGEES / RWANDA / ZAIRE /

BURUNDI

Al Index: AFR 16/01/97 Network: EXTRA-25/97

Pages: 1

Date: 25 February 1997

Title:Burundi: Fear of torture and ill-treatment: Domitien Ndayizeye

Abstract: Domitien Ndayizeye, the Executive Secretary of the Front pour la Democratie au Burundi (FRODEBU), Front for Democracy in Burundi, was arrested without a warrant at his home on 22 February 1997 by members of the Public Security Police (PSP). He is currently detained at Kigobe PSP detention centre in Bujumbura, and there is concern he may be subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

Keywords: ARBITRARY ARREST / POLICE / POLITICIANS /

BURUNDI

Al Index: AFR 16/02/97 Network: EXTRA-25/97 Pages: 1

Date: 28 February 1997

Title:Burundi: Further information on fear of torture and ill-treatment: Domitien Ndayizeye

Abstract: Domitien Ndayizeye, Executive Secretary of the Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU), was released without charge on 27 February. He was detained for questioning at the Kigobe PSP detention centre where he was tortured by members of the Documentation nationale, intelligence unit.

Keywords:POLICE / POLITICIANS / RELEASE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

BURUNDI

Al Index: AFR 16/04/97 Network: UA-73/97 Pages: 2

Date: 19 March 1997

Al Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Burundi: Fear of ill-treatment /fear of torture

Abstract: Commandant Ndabacekure, army officer, Captain Nziyimana, army officer, Isaac Nitereka, member of the executive board of PARENA and PARENA representative for urban Bujumbura, Alexis Simbavimbere, PARENA member, Laurent Bimenyumuremyi, PARENA deputy provincial representative in Gitega, Emmanuel Manzi, a Rwandese national, Paul Mugambage, ex-member of the Rwandese Patriotic Army, Isidore Rufyikiri, senior PARENA official, Army Lt-Col (retd.) Pascal Ntako, senior PARENA official: The nine men named above were arrested on 8 and 9 March 1997 in Bujumbura, on suspicion of involvement in a plot to assassinate President Buyoya. Amnesty International is investigating reports that their arrests may be politically motivated, and there is concern at reports that they have been tortured. At least 40 other people are also reported to have been arrested in connection with the alleged plot.

Keywords: FOREIGN NATIONALS / MILITARY AS VICTIMS / OPPOSITION POLITICIANS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

BURUNDI

Al Index: AFR 16/05/97 Network: UA-74/97 Pages: 1

Date: 19 March 1997

Title:Burundi: Arbitrary arrest /fear of torture /possible prisoner of conscience: Madame Solange Ndikumana (f)

Abstract:There is concern for the safety of Madame Solange Ndikumana, an employee of the Ministry of Finance, who was arrested in Bujumbura on 7 March 1997. She is being held at Mpimba prison, after initially being taken to the national intelligence unit, where she was allegedly tortured. It is believed she may be a prisoner of conscience, arrested because of her association with critics of the government.

Keywords:Arbitrary arrest / civil servants / possible poc / torture/ill-treatment / women/

BURUNDI AI Index: AFR 16/06/97
Network: UA-75/97

Pages: 1

Date: 19 March 1997

Title:Burundi: Fear of ill-treatment /torture /possible prisoners of conscience

Abstract:Reverend Emmanuel Ndayiziga, president and legal representative of the Union of Baptist Churches in Burundi, Reverend Eliezer Ntunzwenimana, and another pastor (name unknown): In March 1997 three pastors from the same church were arrested and are currently held at the Special Investigation Brigade (BSR) headquarters in Bujumbura, where they have reportedly been ill-treated. They have not been charged, but it is believed they may have been targeted for arrest on account of their welfare work among the local Hutu population.

Keywords: POSSIBLE POC / RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS - PROTESTANT / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

BURUNDI Al Index: AFR 16/07/97

Network: UA-76/97 Pages: 2

Date: 20 March 1997

Title:Burundi: Arbitrary arrest /fear of "disappearance" /fear of torture

Abstract:Gertrude Riziki (f), Chantal Hakizimana (f), and five other women: There is concern for the safety of seven women arbitrarily arrested on 14 March 1997 by members of the armed forces. They have reportedly been taken to a secret detention centre in Kamenge district of Bujumbura, and there is concern they may be at risk of torture or "disappearance".

Keywords: ARBITRARY ARREST / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / MILITARY / WOMEN /

BURUNDI Al Index: AFR 16/08/97
Network: UA-77/97

Pages: 1

Date: 20 March 1997

Title:Burundi: Extrajudicial execution /fear of further extrajudicial executions

Abstract: Eliezer (family name unknown) and 34 unnamed civilians: There is concern that a further 35 people have been extrajudicially executed in Bujumbura, reportedly on the orders of a lieutenant at the Special Investigation Unit (BSR). The bodies were found close to Kanyosha market on 15 March 1997. One of the victims was identified as Eliezer, a young man arrested on 13 March and taken for questioning at the BSR. Amnesty International is calling for an immediate investigation into the killings and for measures to be taken to prevent further deaths.

Keywords: EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION / MASS KILLING / MILITARY /

CAMEROON Al Index: AFR 17/03/97 Network: UA-250/96

Pages: 1

Date: 17 March 1997

Title:Cameroon: Further information on prisoner of conscience /fear of further prisoners of conscience: Eyoum Ngangue

Abstract:Eyoum Ngangue, a journalist working for the independent Le Messager newspaper and its satirical supplement Le Messager Popoli, is still imprisoned at the Central Prison, New-Bell, Douala. He was arrested in Douala on 22 January 1997 after having been sentenced in early October 1996 to a one year prison sentence and a fine by the Court of Appeal after being convicted of insulting the President of the Republic and members of the National Assembly. Another journalist sentenced with him, Pius Njawe, was conditionally released on 15 November 1996. Both men have appealed against their sentence and conviction to the Supreme Court. There is concern that Eyoum Ngangue may be a prisoner of conscience detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

Keywords: CENSORSHIP / JOURNALISTS / POSSIBLE POC /

CHAD Al Index: AFR 20/03/97 **Network:** UA-298/96

Pages: 1

Date: 28 February 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Chad: Further information on torture /fear of torture /medical concern

Abstract:Nestor Mbailo, Vincent Mbainaissem, farmer, Gregoire Boltoungar, Fleuri Nebadjingum, Emmanuel Maiadjim, Blaise Mbaidoual, Apolinaire Mbaodji (note corrected spelling), Raymond Mbailassem: The above eight men were arrested in Logone occidental in August and September 1996, on suspicion of belonging to an armed group. Four of the men have been charged and tried by the Brigade Territoriale de Benoye, Logon Occidental: Raymond Mbailassem was acquitted and released on 31 December 1996, while Emmanuel Mbaiadjim, Blaise Mbaidoual and Apolinaire Mbaodji received two-year prison sentences. The other four men continue to be held in detention without charge. Since the intervention of the Procureur de la Republique of Logone Occidental the men have been held in Moundou prison, where conditions, although still harsh, are

better. Reports that they were tortured and ill-treated in the early stages of their detention are not believed to have been investigated.

Keywords:ARMED CONFLICT / DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL /

CHAD Al Index: AFR 20/05/97 **Network:** UA-296/96

Pages: 1

Date: 4 March 1997

Title:Chad: Further information on fear of extrajudicial executions: Official statement sanctioning extrajudicial executions must be withdrawn and remedied

Abstract: Georges Toubade, Karbida Nerobe and four unidentified men; and new names: Tissal Houlibele, aged 32, Guirsala Kokreo, aged 35, Ouangrebele Poure, aged 30, Faitoin Hapmon, aged 29, Djakdjinkreo Sere, aged 43, Taissam Djaoutoin, aged 40, Metoin Medandi, aged 30, Yaya Djibrilla, Djoina Lamma, aged 39: Following the issuing of an order instructing all members of the National Gendarmerie to extrajudicially execute criminals caught in the act, Amnesty International has continued to receive information on new cases of extrajudicial and summary execution in Chad. None have been the subject of official investigations. On 24 December 1996 nine people (named above) were extrajudicially executed in public in Fianga, Mayo Kebbi, in front of a large crowd, with the involvement of the local magistrate.

Keywords: EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION / IMPUNITY / INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY / POLICE /

COMOROS Al Index: AFR 21/03/97
Network: EXTRA-01/97

Pages: 1

Date: 19 March 1997

Title:Comoros: Further information on death penalty /legal concern

Abstract: Said Ali Mohamed, Youssouf Hamadi and Mohamed Youssouf: The three men named above are still detained on death row at Moroni prison. They have been denied the right to appeal up until now and the appeal court is currently not functioning. Amnesty International is concerned that they may be executed without being allowed their right to appeal to an independent and impartial higher appeal court.

Keywords: DEATH SENTENCE /

ETHIOPIA Al Index: AFR 25/05/97
Network: EXTRA-40/97

Pages: 1

Date: 24 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title: Ethiopia: Ill-treatment /prisoners of conscience: 200 university students

Abstract: Some 200 students of Addis Ababa University were arrested at a peaceful demonstration on 21 March 1997. Those arrested have not been taken to court within the prescribed 48-hour limit or charged with any offence. They are considered prisoners of conscience. There are also reports that some have been beaten and ill-treated in detention.

Keywords:DEMONSTRATIONS / LAND PROBLEMS / MASS ARREST / POLICE / PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

LESOTHO Al Index: AFR 33/01/97
Network: UA-66/97

Pages: 1

Date: 11 March 1997

Title:Lesotho: Fear for safety: Candi Ramainoane

Abstract:There is concern for the safety of Candi Ramainoane, the editor-in-chief of the Sesotho language newspaper MoAfrika, after a series of suspicious incidents at his home and office, following criticisms of his journalism by members of the government. He has previously been threatened for his negative reporting of the government.

Keywords:EDITORS / HARASSMENT /

NIGERIA Al Index: AFR 44/06/97
Network: UA-57/97

Pages: 1

Date: 4 March 1997

Title: Nigeria: Fear of ill-treatment /possible prisoners of conscience

Abstract: Sabina Solayide Iluyomade, aged 54, primary school proprietor and teacher, Folake Folasade Iluyomade, aged 31, her daughter: These two women are reported to have been arrested and detained solely because they are the wife and daughter of Raphael Iluyomade, a supporter of the pro-democracy movement living in the United States. They were arrested on 19 February 1997 at their home in the Bodija district of Ibadan and there is concern that they are probably prisoners of conscience and that they may be at risk of ill-treatment in incommunicado detention without charge or trial. There is further concern that Sabina Solayide Iluyomade's health may be at risk, as she suffers from diabetes.

Keywords:FAMILIES / ILL-HEALTH / POSSIBLE POC / TEACHERS / WOMEN /

SUDAN
Al Index: AFR 54/12/97
Network: UA-67/97

Pages: 2

Date: 12 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Sudan: Possible prisoners of conscience /fear of torture

Abstract:Imad al-Amin, graduate; Isam al-Shubagi, Omar Mohamed Ali, Usama Siddig Yousif, Ali Mohamed Osman al-Simat, Yasir Abdel Hamid, Tariq Abdel Hamid,

Mohamed Taj al-Sir, Mamoun Karrar, Atif Hassan, Mohamed Farouq, al-Nomoman al-Sair, Usama Said, students: There are fears for the safety of 13 young men, all recent or current university students, who were arrested in Khartoum in mid-February 1997 and are detained without charge or trial in a security service-run sector of Kober Prison. They are reported to have reputations as political activists in the student body opposed to the government. There is concern that they are at risk of torture and ill-treatment and that they may be prisoners of conscience.

Keywords: DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL / POSSIBLE POC / STUDENTS /

ZAIRE Al Index: AFR 62/08/97
Network: UA-283/96

Pages: 1

Date: 25 February 1997

Title: Zaire: Further information on ill-treatment /medical concern and new concern: fear of rearrest as prisoner of conscience

Abstract:Willy Mishiki, former parliamentarian, Joseph Olenga Nkoy, parliamentarian: Joseph Olenga Nkoy was released from incommunicado detention on 13 December 1996. He is believed to have gone into hiding in fear of rearrest. If he were to be rearrested he would be considered a prisoner of conscience. He is accused of having incited civil disobedience after publicly distributing leaflets calling for a "dead town" strike. Willy Mishiki was also released in December and is known to have fled Zaire, fearing further arrest. There are allegations that both men were ill-treated in detention.

Keywords: OPPOSITION POLITICIANS / STRIKES / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

BOLIVIA Al Index: AMR 18/06/97
Network: UA-27/97

Pages: 1

Date: 19 March 1997

Title:Bolivia: Further information on fear for safety

Abstract:Dr Waldo Albarracin, a human rights defender, and his family have been forced to abandon their home because of fears for their safety. The authorities do not appear to have taken any steps to provide protection for him and his family and there is no indication that the death threats against him have been investigated.

Keywords:Harassment / Human Rights Defenders / Impunity / National Human Rights Commission /

BRAZIL Al Index: AMR 19/06/97
Network: UA-17/97

Pages: 1

Date: 20 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Brazil: Further information on fear for safety /possible extrajudicial executions

Abstract: Aldemir Ricardo Gomes, Jose Marcos de Holanda Soares (both detained), witnesses to the possible extrajudicial execution of the following five men: Wilson Soares de Souza, Walmir Barbosa da Silva, Jose Alexandre da Silva, Edmilson Jose de Oliveira, Antonio Geronimo da Silva Junior: Aldemir Ricardo Gomes and Jose Marcos de Holanda Soares have now been released. Nineteen policemen have been charged with homicide for their involvement in the extrajudicial executions of the above five men.

Keywords:EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION / INVESTIGATION OF ABUSES / POLICE / RELEASE / WITNESSES

COLOMBIA

Al Index: AMR 23/10/97 Network: UA-05/97 Pages: 1

Date: 26 February 1997

Title:Colombia: Further information on fear for safety /fear of extrajudicial execution /possible "disappearance"

Abstract: Peasant farmers from the municipalities of Remedios, Yondo and Cantagallo; and new names: Marco Tulio Torres, Regulo Madero, Jose Guillermo Larios, Pablo Javier Arenales: There are fears for the safety of these four human rights workers who accompanied peasant farmer marches in the departments of Bolivar and Santander in September and October 1996. The name of at least one, Regulo Madero, is reported to appear on a paramilitary "death list", and members of the armed forces are reported to have been making inquiries into the human rights activities of another, Marco Tulio Torres. The four are all members of Corporacion Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (CREDHOS), Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights.

Keywords:DEMONSTRATIONS / HARASSMENT / HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS / PARAMILITARIES / PEASANTS /

COLOMBIA

Al Index: AMR 23/11/97 Network: UA-241/95 Pages: 2

Date: 5 March 1997

Al Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Colombia: Further information on fear for safety: Civilian population of the municipality of Vegachi and neighbouring municipalities, Antioquia department

Abstract:New names: Killed: Carlos Andres Guitierrez, Guillermo Taborda, Mauricio Valencia Acevedo, Salvador Hernandez Holguin, Ricardo Arredondo Monyoya, Carlos Alberto Osorio Valdez, Jesus Daniel Querubin, Baltazar Munos Restrepo, Reynal Antonio Galeano Velasquez, Gildardo Olarte; "disappeared": three others (names unknown); injured: Omar Velasquez, German Dario Palacios: There continues to be serious concern for the safety of members of the civilian population in north eastern Antioquia department, after reports of further paramilitary killings in the town of Vegachi and threats of further attacks against civilians in Segovia and Remedios. According to reports 20 heavily armed paramilitaries entered Vegachi on 28 February and killed or abducted those

named above. The same day, paramilitary members stopped a bus travelling between Begachi and Yali, and threatened all the passengers on it and warned them that they were planning further massacres in the nearby municipalities of Remedios and Segovia.

Keywords: DISAPPEARANCES / EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION / HARASSMENT / IMPUNITY / MASS KILLING / PARAMILITARIES /

COLOMBIA

Al Index: AMR 23/12/97
Network: UA-63/97

Pages: 1

Date: 10 March 1997

Title:Colombia: Fear for safety /possible extrajudicial execution: Victor Julio

Garzon

Abstract:There is grave concern for the safety of popular activists supporting peasant farmers involved in demonstrations in coca-producing regions in Colombia, following the killing of trade union leader Victor Julio Garzon, the secretary general of the National United Agricultural Federation (FENSUAGRO) on 7 March 1997.

Keywords:DEMONSTRATIONS / PEASANTS / POSSIBLE EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION / TRADE UNIONISTS /

COLOMBIA Al Index: AMR 23/13/97
Network: UA-241/95

Pages: 1

Date: 11 March 1997

Title:Colombia: Further information on fear for safety: Civilian population of Segovia, Antioquia

Abstract: New names: Martin Emilio Rodriguez Londono, miner, Aurelio de Jesus Pelaez, former trade unionist, Didier alias "El Grillo", Luis Carlos Munoz, Saul Eduardo Hernandez, Jesus Ramiro Zapata, teacher and human rights activist, William Buritica, human rights activist, Hugo de Jesus Tamayo Jaramillo, lottery-ticket salesman: There continue to be reports of serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial execution, beatings and threats, by paramilitary groups operating with the support and acquiescence of the security forces against members of the civilian population of Segovia, department of Antioquia.

Keywords:EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION / HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS / IMPUNITY / MINERS / PARAMILITARIES / POLICE / TEACHERS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / TRADE UNIONISTS / TRADERS /

COLOMBIA Al Index: AMR 23/14/97
Network: UA-241/95

Pages: 1

Date: 14 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Colombia: Further information on fear for safety: Civilian population in the municipality of Segovia

Abstract:New names: Nazareno Rivera, trade union activist; Jaime Ortiz Londono, Jesus Ramiro Zapata, human rights activists: The whereabouts of Jamie Ortiz Londono, a coordinator of the Segovia Human Rights Committee, have not been known since 9 March 1997. There is concern that he may be one of six people killed on 10 March by the Colombian army in the hamlet of Canaveral, municipality of Remedios, in unclear circumstances. Reports also indicate that Nazareno Rivera, a trade unionist from Segovia, is also among those killed. Jesus Ramiro Zapata, another member of the Segovia Human Rights Committee, was forced to leave town as a result of continued death threats and harassment by the army and allied paramilitary forces.

Keywords:CIVIL SERVANTS / DISAPPEARANCES / HARASSMENT / HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS / MILITARY/TRADE UNIONISTS/

COLOMBIA Al Index: AMR 23/15/97

Network: UA-72/97 Pages: 1

Date: 18 March 1997

Title:Colombia: Fear for safety: Jorge Eliecer Marin Trujillo

Abstract:There is grave concern for the safety of Jorge Eliecer Marin Trujillo, president of the Chinchina Municipal Workers Union, who has recently been subject to frequent death threats.

Keywords: HARASSMENT / PARAMILITARIES / TRADE UNIONISTS /

COLOMBIA Al Index: AMR 23/16/97
Network: 11A-241/95

Network: UA-241/95 Pages: 1

Date: 24 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Colombia: Further information on fear for safety: Civilian population of the municipalities of Remedios and Segovia, Antioquia

Abstract: New name: Wilson Patino Agudelo, human rights activist: There is concern for the safety of Wilson Patino Agudelo, a member of the Remedios Human Rights Committee, following an apparent attempt to abduct or kill him on 20 March 1997, when two heavily-armed unidentified men came to his house looking for him. He was not home at the time. Fears for his safety are heightened as he has received death threats in the past.

Keywords: HARASSMENT / HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS /

ECUADOR

Al Index: AMR 28/01/97 Network: UA-80/97 Pages: 2

Date: 20 March 1997

Title: Ecuador: Ill-treatment / fear of physical reprisals

Abstract:Lincoln Polit, Luis Lavalle, Francisco Sanchez, Roberto Agustin Garcia, Jaime Martinez, Arturo Bermudez, and other prisoners in the Garcia Moreno Prison, Quito: There is concern for the safety of prisoners held in the Penal Garcia Moreno, Quito, following the reported ill-treatment of the above-named inmates on the night of 17 March 1997. According to a report of the Human Rights Ecumenic Commission (CEDHU), they were assaulted by several hooded members of the National Police after they had initiated a peaceful hunger strike and there is concern that they may face further reprisals.

Keywords: COMMON CRIMINALS / HUNGER-STRIKE / POLICE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

GUATEMALA

Al Index: AMR 34/09/97 Network: UA-61/97 Pages: 1

Date: 6 March 1997

Title:Guatemala: Fear for safety

Abstract: Gustavo Adolfo Albizures Estrada, employee of AVANCSO, Clara Arenas, Executive Director of AVANCSO, Helen Mack, human rights defender: There is grave concern for the safety of the above three members of AVANCSO, Association for the Advancement of Social Sciences in Guatemala, following a series of physical attacks, death threats and intimidation against them by alleged members of the security forces in the last few days.

Keywords: ATTACKS / HARASSMENT / HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS / SOCIOLOGISTS / WOMEN /

GUATEMALA

Al Index: AMR 34/12/97 Network: UA-81/97 Pages: 1

Date: 21 March 1997

Al Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Guatemala: Torture/ill-treatment /fear for safety

Abstract: Eswin Rocael Ruiz Zacarias, Edwin Tulio Enriquez Garcia, Belarnino Gonzalez de Leon: There is concern at the reported abduction, ill-treatment and torture of the above trade unionists, allegedly by members of the security forces or persons operating on their behalf. On 13 March, four heavily-armed plain-clothed men abducted the three men from the assembly plant where they work in the Canton Najarito, Villa Nueva, and took them to the Villa Nueva police station. There they were allegedly interrogated by their abductors about a robbery at the plant. During this time they were reportedly beaten and tortured. Afterwards they were released and warned not to tell anyone about what had happened. Amnesty International remains concerned for their safety.

Keywords:ARBITRARY ARREST / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / TRADE UNIONISTS /

MEXICO

Al Index: AMR 41/09/97 Network: UA-56/97 Pages: 1

Date: 3 March 1997

Title:Mexico: "Disappearance" /fear for safety /fear of torture

Abstract:Rufino Pablo Mendoza, aged 22, Antonio Hernandez de Los Santos, aged 20, Victor Feliciano de Los Santos, aged 12, Rufino Ramirez Vazquez, aged 20 (all "disappeared"); Francisco Feliciano de Los Santos, aged 25, Sergio Martinez Santiago, Alfredo Rojas Santiago: Four members of the indigenous mixteco community of Guadalupe Mano de Leon in Guerrero state, including a 12-year-old child, are reported to have "disappeared" after being beaten and arrested without warrants by police on 16 February 1997. There is grave concern for their safety. Another man, Francisco Feliciano de Los Santos, arrested at the same time, is being held in prison in Acapulco. All five were connected to the legal opposition party, the Partido Revolucionario Democratico (PRD). On 15 February in the neighbouring mixteco community of La Soledad, Sergio Martinez Santiago and Alfredo Rojas Santiago, both members of the PRD, were allegedly tortured and arrested by police. There are fears that they may suffer further torture in detention.

Keywords:ARBITRARY ARREST / CHILDREN / DISAPPEARANCES / INDIGENOUS PEOPLES / POLICE / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

MEXICO
Al Index: AMR 41/10/97
Network: UA-64/97

Pages: 1

Date: 10 March 1997

Title:Mexico: Fear of torture/ill-treatment

Abstract: Jeronimo Hernandez Lopez, Gonzalo Rosas Morales (Jesuit priests); Ramon Parcero, Fidel Vera, Carlos Cruz, Pascual Alvaro, Sebastian Gonzalez (community leaders): The above men were detained on 8 March 1997 in Palenque, state of Chiapas, by members of the judicial police and public security. The two priests were forcibly removed from the vehicle in which they were travelling, bundled into a police car and taken to an unknown destination, where they were reportedly beaten and ill-treated. All seven detainees were "disappeared" for several hours, but are now reported to be in a prison in Tuxtla Gutierrez.

Keywords: ARBITRARY ARREST / CIVIL UNREST / COMMUNITY LEADERS / HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS / INDIGENOUS PEOPLES / LAND PROBLEMS / POLICE / RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS - CATHOLIC / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

MEXICO
Al Index: AMR 41/11/97
Network: UA-64/97

Pages: 1 Date: 12 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Mexico: Further information on fear of torture and new concerns:

prisoners of conscience /medical concern

Abstract: Geronimo Hernandez Lopez (note correct spelling), Gonzalo Rosas Morales (Jesuit priests); Ramon Parcero Martinez (note full name), Francisco Gonzalez Gutierrez (note correct name) (Mayan Indian leaders); Fidel Vera, Carlos Cruz, Pascual Alvaro: Amnesty International has learned that the first four men named above have reportedly been tortured while detained incommunicado after being transferred to the State Attorney General's Office in Tuxtla Gutierrez. They have now been transferred to a prison in Cerro Hueco, where there is concern that they are being denied medical treatment. Francisco Gonzalez Gutierrez suffered severe injuries as a result of torture and is in need of urgent medical treatment. All four men are considered prisoners of conscience, arrested and tortured solely because of their activities as human rights defenders. Fidel Vera, Carlos Cruz and Pascual Alvaro are now known not to have been detained.

Keywords:COMMUNITY LEADERS / HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS / ILL-HEALTH / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / INDIGENOUS PEOPLES / PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS - CATHOLIC / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

MEXICO Al Index: AMR 41/12/97 Network: UA-64/97

Pages: 1

Date: 14 March 1997

Title:Mexico: Further information on fear of torture /prisoners of conscience

/medical concern

Abstract:Geronimo Hernandez Lopez, Gonzalo Rosas Morales (Jesuit priests); Ramon Parcero Martinez, Francisco Gonzalez Gutierrez (community leaders): Amnesty International has learned that these four human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience were released without charge on 13 March 1997. Amnesty International is continuing, however, to call for a full investigation into allegations that they were tortured.

Keywords:COMMUNITY LEADERS / HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS / INDIGENOUS PEOPLES / PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / RELEASE / RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS - CATHOLIC / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT

MEXICO Al Index: AMR 41/13/97
Network: UA-78/97

Pages: 2

Date: 20 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Mexico (Chiapas): Possible extrajudicial execution /fear of torture

Abstract: Killed: Fernando Gonzalez Perez, aged 22, Carmen Gonzalez Gomez (f), aged 25, Juan N (full name unknown), aged 17, Miguel Gomez Hernandez, aged 80; arrested: 25 indigenous community members: Four people are dead and four wounded following a police operation against members of an indigenous community in San Pedro Nixtalucum, municipality of San Juan El Bosque, on 14 March 1997. Twenty-five others were arrested and are feared to be at risk of torture in custody.

Keywords:AGED / INDIGENOUS PEOPLES / JUVENILES / MASS ARREST / POLICE / POSSIBLE EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / WOMEN /

PERU Al Index: AMR 46/05/97
Network: UA-79/97

Pages: 1

Date: 20 March 1997

Title:Peru: Fear for safety: Javier Diez Canseco

Abstract: There is concern for the safety of Javier Diez Canseco, congressman for Izquierda Unida, United Left, an opposition party. On 19 March 1997 his car was shot at by a group of armed men, who reportedly claimed to be policemen. Javier Diez Canseco was not in the car at the time, but his bodyguard was reportedly shot in the leg during the attack.

Keywords:ATTACKS / DRIVERS / OPPOSITION POLITICIANS / POLICE / PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS AS VICTIMS /

USA Al Index: AMR 51/09/97
Network: EXTRA-154/95

Pages: 1

Date: 27 February 1997

Title:USA (Virginia): Further information on: death penalty /legal concern:

Coleman Gray

Abstract: Coleman Gray was executed as scheduled in Virginia on 26 February 1997.

Keywords:EXECUTION / MINORITIES /

USA
Al Index: AMR 51/11/97
Network: EXTRA-23/97

Pages: 1

Date: 6 March 1997

Title:USA (Missouri): Further information on death penalty: Roosevelt Pollard

Abstract:Roosevelt Pollard who was scheduled to be executed in Missouri on 5 March, has received a stay of execution to allow a judge to evaluate claims that he is mentally unfit to be executed.

Keywords: DEATH SENTENCE / MENTAL HEALTH / MINORITIES / STAY OF EXECUTION /

USA Al Index: AMR 51/13/97
Network: EXTRA-37/97

Pages: 1

Date: 17 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:USA (lowa): Death penalty: Possible reintroduction of the death penalty

Abstract:A bill proposing the reintroduction of the death penalty in lowa is likely to be debated and voted upon by the lowa legislature in the immediate future. Amnesty International is urging senators to vote against its reintroduction.

Keywords: DEATH PENALTY / LEGISLATION /

Al Index: AMR 53/01/97 VENEZUELA Network: UA-70/97

Pages: 1

Date: 14 March 1997

Title: Venezuela: Torture / fear for safety: Felix Faria Arias

Abstract: There are fears for the safety of 24-year-old student Felix Faria Arias, after he was reportedly abducted in Baruta, near Caracas, on 8 March 1997 and tortured by members of the security forces. His abductors reportedly identified themselves as members of the Direccion de los Servicios de Inteligencia y Prevencion (DISIP). He has reportedly been detained by the DISIP before in relation to his political activities. Furthermore, he is one of the witnesses to the killing of university student Belinda Alvarez, who was killed at the University of Caracas on 3 April 1991 by members of the security forces.

Keywords: ATTACKS / STUDENTS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / WITNESSES /

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Al Index: ASA 03/02/97 Network: EXTRA-26/97 Pages: 1

Date: 26 February 1997

Title:Myanmar/Thailand: Fear for safety /fear of refoulement: Thousands of refugees from Myanmar

Abstract: There is grave concern for the safety of thousands of ethnic Karen refugees fleeing a Burmese army offensive against the insurgent Karen National Union. They have been fleeing from villages in Tanintharyi (Tennasserim) Division to villages in Thailand, and there is concern that some have been refused permission to cross the border, and that others have repatriated to Myanmar, where they are at risk of ill-treatment, being taken as porters, or possible unlawful killing by the Burmese army.

Keywords: ARMED CONFLICT / ETHNIC GROUPS / MILITARY / MYANMAR / REFOULEMENT / REFUGEES / THAILAND /

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Al Index: ASA 03/03/97 Network: EXTRA-26/97

Pages: 1

Date: 12 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Thailand: Further information on fear for safety /fear of refoulement: Thousands of refugees from Myanmar

Abstract: Amnesty International is gravely concerned that the Royal Thai Government has continued to forcibly return Karen refugees back to Myanmar, despite a clear and persistent pattern of torture, ill-treatment and extrajudicial killings of Karen civilians by the Burmese military. There are fears that the authorities may repatriate all Karen refugees once fighting between the Karen National Union (KNU) and the Burmese army has stopped, despite evidence that the army continues to seize civilians for forced portering and forcibly relocates them under threat of death in ceasefire areas. There is also concern that those refugees who remain in Thailand are at risk of cross-border attacks. Amnesty International is calling on the Thai government to provide adequate protection and security for all refugees from Myanmar and to allow them to remain in Thailand until they are no longer at risk of human rights violations.

Keywords:ARMED CONFLICT / CHILDREN / DISPLACED PEOPLE / ETHNIC GROUPS / MILITARY / MYANMAR / REFOULEMENT / REFUGEES / THAILAND / WOMEN /

INDIA Al Index: ASA 20/11/97
Network: EXTRA-29/97

Pages: 2

Date: 4 March 1997

Title:India: Fear for safety: Bashir Ahmad Butt

Abstract:Bashir Ahmad Butt, a lawyer and Vice-President of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), appears to have been taken hostage by members of the Border Security Force, in an attempt to force the surrender of his brother-in-law, Ghulam Rasool Dar. Fears for his safety are heightened by reports that he was threatened with death and severely beaten before he was taken away in the early hours of 4 March 1997. Members of the BSF also reportedly beat Ghulam Rasool's wife and sons. A First Information Report (FIR) has been filed with police, and a habeas corpus petition will reportedly be filed in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Srinagar, on 5 March.

Keywords:ARBITRARY ARREST / CHILDREN / FAMILIES / HABEAS CORPUS / HARASSMENT / LAWYERS / POLITICIANS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / WOMEN /

INDIA Al Index: ASA 20/12/97
Network: UA-39/97

Pages: 1

Date: 7 March 1997

Title:India (Jammu and Kashmir): Further information on fear of torture: Syed Zahoorul Haq

Abstract: Syed Zahoorul Haq, a 40-year-old businessman, was released some time between 25 February and 2 March 1997.

Keywords:BUSINESS PEOPLE / RELEASE /

INDIA Al Index: ASA 20/13/97
Network: EXTRA-29/97

Pages: 1

Date: 7 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:India: Further information on fear for safety: Bashir Ahmad Butt

Abstract:Amnesty International has learned that Bashir Ahmad Butt was released from the custody of Border Security Forces on 5 March 1997.

Keywords:LAWYERS / POLITICIANS / RELEASE /

INDONESIA Al Index: ASA 21/09/97
Network: EXTRA-28/97

Pages: 1

Date: 3 March 1997

Title:Indonesia: Fear of torture/ill-treatment: Irwan Adriyansah

Abstract:Irwan Adriyansah, a young opposition activist from Jalan Pahlawan, Bandung, West Java, was arrested on 26 February 1997 by men in plain clothes, believed to be from the security forces. Several opposition pamphlets, including one from the People's Democratic Party (PRD) and the magazine Suara Independen, Independent Voice, were confiscated from his home at the time of his arrest. There are fears that he may be tortured or ill-treated while held incommunicado.

Keywords:INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / STUDENTS /

INDONESIA Al Index: ASA 21/10/97
Network: EXTRA-28/97

Pages: 1

Date: 3 March 1997

Title:Indonesia: Further information on fear of torture/ill-treatment: Irwan Adriyansah

Abstract:Irwan Adriyansah, a student and political activist, was released from police custody on 1 March after being held incommunicado for three days. It is not clear whether is is facing criminal charges.

Keywords:POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / RELEASE / STUDENTS /

INDONESIA Al Index: ASA 21/13/97
Network: EXTRA-34/97

Pages: 1

Date: 11 March 1997

Al Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Indonesia: Fear of torture/ill-treatment

Abstract:Bimo Petrus, ling, Hanni: There is concern for the safety of three young student activists, arrested by police in Jakarta on 6 March 1997 and who are currently believed to be in South Jakarta Police Resort, where they are at risk of torture or ill-treatment in incommunicado detention. At the time of their arrest they were attempting to display posters and write graffiti slogans calling for a boycott of the parliamentary elections.

Keywords: ELECTIONS / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / POLICE / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / STUDENTS

INDONESIA AI Index: ASA 21/14/97

Network: EXTRA-35/97

Pages: 1

Date: 13 March 1997

Title:Indonesia: Fear of torture/ill-treatment

Abstract: Hassan Hamid, Mohammad Daud Abubakar, Ismail Syahputra, Raman Palu, Nijar Kandang, Tengku Affan, Inur Marlia (f): Six men and one woman, arrested in connection with alleged involvement in armed separatist activity in Aceh, north Sumatra, are currently being held incommunicado in military custody, where there is concern they may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Keywords:ARMED CONFLICT / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / MILITARY / POLITICAL PRISONERS / WOMEN /

INDONESIA

Al Index: ASA 21/15/97 Network: EXTRA-20/97

Pages: 1

Date: 18 March 1997

Title:Indonesia/East Timor: Further information on fear of torture /medical

concern

Abstract:All but four of those arrested in the Viqueque district of East Timor in relation to disturbances between 7 and 11 February, have now been released. There remains concern for the safety of those still in detention.

Keywords: CIVIL UNREST / POLICE / RELEASE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

INDONESIA Al Index: ASA 21/16/97
Network: UA-06/97

Pages: 1

Date: 18 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Indonesia: Further information on fear of torture

Abstract:Baltasar Sebastiao H Belo, Jose Maria Geronimo, Joao Budiono C Moraes (Joao Budiono da Costa), Gregorio Sequira Bento, Luis Afonso, Abel Fernandes, Felciano Maria Martins, Oracio Viegas, Celestino Soares (alias Antino), Claudino Guterres (alias Alau), Jose do Rosario, Constancio Soares: Twelve people arrested in relation to disturbances in the East Timor capital of Dili on 24 December 1996 are still detained. They are reported to have been charged under Articles 351 and 154 of Indonesia's Criminal Code (KUHP), and not under Article 170 as originally thought. All twelve are being held in Becora prison, Dili.

Keywords:CIVIL UNREST /

INDONESIA

Al Index: ASA 21/17/97 Network: EXTRA-41/97

Pages: 2

Date: 24 March 1997

Title: East Timor: Fear of torture /ill-treatment /possible prisoners of conscience

Abstract: At least 48 youths, including Rosita (f), Marcelina (f), Imaculada (f), Luis de Fatima, Nelson Pereira, Romaldo Brasil and Agustino dos Santos: There is concern for the safety of at least 48 East Timorese currently in detention following a demonstration in Dili on 23 March. The demonstrators had gathered to present some documents to the UN Personal Representative of the Secretary General on East Timor, who was on a three-day vist. When police attempted to disperse the crowd, clashes broke out. There is concern at reports that some of the demonstrators were beaten by police. There are further reports of other arrests at demonstrations on 24 March.

Keywords:CIVIL UNREST / DEMONSTRATIONS / MASS ARREST / POSSIBLE POC / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / UN / WOMEN /

CAMBODIA Al Index: ASA 23/02/97
Network: UA-65/97

Pages: 1

Date: 11 March 1997

Title:Cambodia: Fear for safety: Srun Vong Vannak

Abstract:There are fears for the safety of Srun Vong Vannak, chief of security of the opposition Khmer Nation Party (KNP), who is being held in incommunicado detention at an unknown location. He was reportedly arrested on 14 February 1997 on suspicion of involvement in the murder of Kov Samuth, the brother-in-law of Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, in November 1996. All attempts by his family, lawyers and human rights workers to gain access to him have been prevented by the authorities.

Keywords: INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / OPPOSITION POLITICIANS /

CAMBODIA Al Index: ASA 23/03/97

Network: UA-65/97 Pages: 1

Date: 17 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Cambodia: Further information on fear for safety: Srun Vong Vannak

Abstract: Srun Vong Vannak is being held in PJ Prison in Phnom Penh and now has access to his family and lawyer.

Keywords:OPPOSITION POLITICIANS /

MALAYSIA

Al Index: ASA 28/02/97 Network: UA-127/96 Pages: 1

Date: 26 February 1997

Title:Malaysia: Further information on legal concern /possible prolonged detention without trial /possible prisoners of conscience

Abstract: Nasiruddin bin Ali, 37, Fakhruddin Al-Razi bin Abdullah, 30, Pahrol bin Mohd Juoi, 36, Jaafar Ahmad, 29, Mohd Nizamuddin Ashaari, 33, Hashim Ahmad, 42, Hasyim Jaafar, 40, Ahmad Salim Omar, 49, Hashim Muhamad, 30, Azura Mohd Yusof (f), Tengku Noriah binti Tengku Abdullah (f), Dr Mansor bin Mohd Nor, Mohammad Abu Bakar, Sheikh Abdul Rahim: Amnesty International has learned that 14 former members of the banned Al Arqam Islamic sect were released on or around 5 February 1997. It is believed that all those named above were possible prisoners of conscience held under the Internal Security Act solely for the peaceful expression of their religious beliefs. Only one of the above, Ahmad Salim Omar, is reported to have been released unconditionally. The others are reported to have been banished to remote districts and have been placed under restriction orders.

Keywords:BANNING / CONDITIONAL RELEASE / DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL / HOUSE/TOWN ARREST / INTERNAL EXILE / LEGISLATION / POSSIBLE POC / RELEASE / RELIGIOUS GROUPS - ISLAMIC / RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE / WOMEN /

MALAYSIA

Al Index: ASA 28/04/97 Network: EXTRA-39/97 Pages: 1

Date: 21 March 1997

Title: Malaysia: Fear of imminent execution

Abstract:Lim Meng Kui, driver, Teh Chai Huat, welder, Ooi Teck Chye, fishmonger, Ismail Samsuddin, farmer, Mustafa Yop Samsuddin, rubber tapper: The five men named above face imminent execution after their appeals against their death sentences were rejected by the Federal Court in Kuala Lumpur on 5 March 1997. They were sentenced in separate cases for firearms and drug offences.

Keywords:DEATH SENTENCE / DRIVERS / DRUG TRAFFICKING / FARMERS / MANUAL WORKERS / SHOP-KEEPERS /

PHILIPPINES

Al Index: ASA 35/03/97 Network: UA-44/97 Pages: 1

Date: 18 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Philippines: Further information on threats /fear for safety

Abstract: Senator Raul Roco, Justice Francis Garchitorena, Justice Jose Balajadia; and human rights lawyers: Jose Manuel Diokno, Efren Moncupa, Arno Sanidad, Alexander Padilla, Theodore Te, Lorenzo Tanada, Wigberto Tanada, Francis Pangilinan: Amnesty International is concerned at reports of continuing death threats being made against those named above, who are involved in the prosecution of 27 Philippine National Police officers.

Keywords: Harassment / Human Rights Defenders / Investigation of Abuses / Judges / Lawyers / Parliamentarians / Police /

SRI LANKA
Al Index: ASA 37/09/97
Network: UA-82/97

Pages: 1

Date: 21 March 1997

Title:Sri Lanka: Rape /fear for safety

Abstract: Velan Rasamma, aged 34, Velan Vasantha, aged 28: On 17 March 1997 Velan Rasamma, a widow, and her sister, Velan Vasantha, were allegedly raped by four soldiers at their home in Mayilampaveli Colony, Batticaloa district. A medical examination was carried out on the women at a local hospital and a complaint was made to the local police at Eravur and to the local Joint Operations Commander. However, to date, no action appears to have been taken against the alleged perpetrators.

Keywords: IMPUNITY / MEDICAL CONFIRMATION / MILITARY / SEXUAL ASSAULT / WOMEN /

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

Al Index: EUR 04/04/97 Network: EXTRA-24/97

Pages: 1

Date: 7 March 1997

Title:Russia/Uzbekistan: Further information on fear of forcible repatriation /possible prisoner of conscience: Albert Kayumovich Musin

Abstract:Albert Musin was released from the custody of the Moscow police on 6 March and is currently at liberty. It is not clear if his release was the result of a formal renunciation by the Uzbekistani authorities that they are seeking his extradition.

Keywords:HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS / JOURNALISTS / RELEASE / RUSSIAN FEDERATION / UZBEKISTAN /

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

Al Index: EUR 04/05/97 Network: EXTRA-32/97

Pages: 1

Date: 11 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Russia /Tajikistan: Fear of refoulement /possible prisoner of conscience: Akhmadzhon Makhmudzhanovich Saidov

Abstract: Akhmadzhon Saidov, a retired army officer and former deputy speaker of the parliament of Tajikistan, is reported to be at serious risk of refoulement to Tajikistan where there are fears he may become a prisoner of conscience. He was arrested in Moscow on 7 February 1997 on the basis of a warrant for his arrest issued in Tajikistan on charges of "abuse of authority" and "embezzlement". There are strong suspicions that the charges are fabricated and that he is being punished for his perceived connection to a group of former senior Tajik government members who have formed a new political group, the

National Revival Bloc. Akhmadzhon Saidov was born in Uzbekistan and had served in the Soviet army in Russia. He is said to be laying claim to Russian citizenship, which if confirmed, might significantly increase his chances of resisting extradition.

Keywords:ETHNIC GROUPS / MILITARY AS VICTIMS / POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIMINAL CHARGES / POLITICIANS / REFOULEMENT / REFUGEES / RETIRED PEOPLE / RUSSIAN FEDERATION / TAJIKISTAN /

ALBANIA AI Index: EUR 11/05/97
Network: EXTRA-16/97

Pages: 1

Date: 28 February 1997

Title:Albania: Further information on fear of ill-treatment /prisoners of conscience /possible POCs: Tirana students

Abstract:There is concern at reports that on 28 February 1997 police officers in Tirana kicked and punched a group of high-school students to prevent them from joining university students taking part in an anti-government protest. Students are also reported to have gone on hunger-strike in Gjirokaster.

Keywords: DEMONSTRATIONS / HUNGER-STRIKE / POLICE / STUDENTS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

ALBANIA AI Index: EUR 11/07/97
Network: EXTRA-16/97

Pages: 1

Date: 5 March 1997

Title:Albania: Further information on fear of ill-treatment /prisoners of conscience /fear of extrajudicial execution

Abstract: Alfred Peza, journalist for Koha Jone, Shpetim Nazarko, owner of independent newspaper Dita Informacion; Zamir Dule, journalist for Koha Jone (released), Anesti Nikolla, driver (released): There is grave concern at further reports of the arrest and ill-treatment of journalists, and fears that with the declaration of a state of emergency on 2 March and the introduction of press censorship, the persecution of the domestic media may worsen. On the night of 2-3 March the offices of the main opposition paper, Koha Jone, were set on fire, allegedly by state security police. On 3 March Zamir Dule and his driver were reportedly beaten and briefly abducted by armed men. Alfred Peza, another Koha Jone journalist was reportedly stopped in the town of Fier on 3 or 4 March and ordered to go into the police station. His present circumstances are unknown. On the night of 4 March the home of Shpetim Nazarko, was attacked by a number of armed men.

Keywords:ATTACKS / CENSORSHIP / CIVIL UNREST / DRIVERS / EMERGENCY LEGISLATION / JOURNALISTS / POLICE / RELEASE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

ALBANIA AI Index: EUR 11/08/97
Network: EXTRA-16/97

Pages: 1

Date: 6 March 1997

Title:Albania: Further information on fear of ill-treatment /prisoners of conscience /fear of extrajudicial execution: Alfred Peza

Abstract: Amnesty International has learned that Alfred Peza, a journalist for Koha Jone, was released by police in Fier and has returned to Tirana. There is concern that he was allegedly severely beaten by police in Fier. There is further concern that other journalists, including Frrok Cupi, a leading journalist for Koha Jone have recently received threats, including death threats. He is said to be among a number of journalists who have gone into hiding after the offices of Koha Jone were set on fire.

Keywords:CIVIL UNREST / HARASSMENT / JOURNALISTS / POLICE / RELEASE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

DENMARK

Al Index: EUR 18/02/97
Network: EXTRA-199/96

Pages: 1

Date: 21 March 1997

Title:Denmark: Further information on fear of imminent refoulement

Abstract: Rabah Hamana, Nassima Hamana and child: The above named and their newborn child continue to face imminent and forcible return to Algeria where they would be at risk of serious human rights violations. Their asylum claim has been rejected on appeal by the Board of Refugees. The family have gone into hiding, and their current whereabouts are unknown.

Keywords:ALGERIA / ARMED CONFLICT / CHILDREN / CLERICAL WORKERS / REFOULEMENT / REFUGEES / SECOND GOVERNMENTS / WOMEN /

 SPAIN
 AI Index: EUR 41/01/97

 Network: UA-69/97

Pages: 1

Date: 14 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title: Spain: Torture / fear for safety / medical concern: Fernando Elejalde Tapia

Abstract:On 11 March 1997 Fernando Elejalde Tapia, a member of the armed Basque group Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA), was arrested for the murder of a prison psychologist. He was held by police under anti-terrorist legislation which allows for extended incommunicado detention for up to five days. On 13 March the police took him to hospital, where it was noted that he had extensive injuries, including a fractured ear drum, four broken vertebrae in his back, bruising all over his body, a kidney malfunction, and he was in a state of semi-consciousness. There is concern that these injuries were the result of torture during interrogation, and Amnesty International is calling for a full investigation. There is further concern that he may be subjected to further ill-treatment once he is released from hospital and returned to police custody.

Keywords:ARMED CONFLICT / EMERGENCY LEGISLATION / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AS VICTIMS / POLICE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

TURKEY

Al Index: EUR 44/13/97
Network: EXTRA-27/97

Pages: 1

Date: 27 February 1997

Title:Turkey: Fear of torture

Abstract:Cuma Meral, held under the name of Hasan Hasgul, Hasan Ozan, held under the name of Ali Berkoglu, Erdogan Ber, held under the name of Kamber Gol, Arif Celebi, Suleyman Yeter, Mukkades Celik (f), Zabit Iltemur, Birsen Kaya (f), Necati Abay, Abidin Ezgin, Ismail Ezgin, Sedat Senoglu, Enver Akca, Ayse Erdogan (f), her son Deniz Erdogan, and her husband Dogan Erdogan, Mustafa Ozturk, Sultan Secik (f), Asiye Zeybek (f), Gonul Karagoz (f), Bayram Namaz: Some 26 people, including those named above, were detained in Istanbul during the night of 22 February 1997 by police. They are being held incommunicado at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters in Aksaray. The prosecutor's office has given the police permission to hold the detainees until 7 March. It is feared that they are being interrogated under torture.

Keywords: EMERGENCY LEGISLATION / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / POLICE / WOMEN /

TURKEY

Al Index: EUR 44/14/97

Network: EXTRA-27/97

Pages: 1

Date: 3 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Turkey: Further information on fear of torture and new concern: torture

Abstract:Cuma Meral, held under the name of Hasan Hasgul, Hasan Ozan, held under the name of Ali Berkoglu, Erdogan Ber, held under the name of Kamber Gol, Arif Celebi, Suleyman Yeter, Mukkades Celik (f), Zabit Iltemur, Birsen Kaya (f), Necati Abay, Abidin Ezgin, Ismail Ezgin, Sedat Senoglu, Enver Akca, Ayse Yilmaz (f) (note corrected name), her son Deniz Yilmaz (note corrected name), and her husband Dogan Yilmaz (note corrected name), Mustafa Ozturk, Sultan Secik (f), Asiye Zeybek (f), Gonul Karagoz (f), Bayram Namaz: At a press conference held on 1 March 1997, Rahime Henden reported that she had been taken to the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters on 27 February and had witnessed the torture inflicted on Sultan Secik, Birsen Kaya and Ayse Yilmaz. She also alleged that Ayse Yilmaz's husband, Erdogan Yilmaz, had been severely tortured and that some of his ribs were broken. They were among some 26 people detained in Istanbul on 22 February 1997.

Keywords: EMERGENCY LEGISLATION / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / POLICE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / WOMEN /

<u>TURKEY</u> AII

Al Index: EUR 44/16/97 Network: EXTRA-31/97 Pages: 1

Date: 7 March 1997

Title:Turkey: Fear of torture /health concern

Abstract:Recep Marasli, publisher, his wife Nuran Marasli (f), Levent Bakanay: Recep and Nuran Marasli were reportedly detained by police at Ankara Airport on 6 March 1997. Recep Marasli, Director of Komal Publishing house and former prisoner of conscience, was reportedly attempting to leave the country under the passport of Levent Bakanay, who is also believed to have been subsequently detained. There are fears that the three may be subjected to torture or ill-treatment in police custody. There is further concern for Recep Marasli's well-being as he suffers from health problems associated with his earlier imprisonment.

Keywords: ILL-HEALTH / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / PUBLISHERS / WOMEN /

TURKEY

Al Index: EUR 44/17/97
Network: EXTRA-33/97

Pages: 2

Date: 11 March 1997

Title:Turkey: Fear of "disappearance" /fear of torture: Fikri Ozgen

Abstract:There are grave fears for the safety of Fikri Ozgen, a 73-year-old Kurd, who is believed to be in detention at the Gendarmerie Headquarters in Diyarbakir. He is said to have been detained by four armed men, believed to be plainclothes police officers, on 27 February 1997. However, the authorities have so far failed to acknowledge that is in their custody.

Keywords: AGED / MINORITIES / PHOTOGRAPHS / UNACKNOWLEDGED DETENTION /

TURKEY

Al Index: EUR 44/19/97
Network: EXTRA-31/97

Pages: 1

Date: 12 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Turkey: Further information on fear of torture /health concern

Abstract:Recep Marasli, publisher, Nuran Marasli (f), Levent Bakanay: Recep Marasli and his wife Nuran Marasli were taken before a judge on 12 March 1997. Recep Marasli was committed to prison, as there was an arrest warrant in force for him in connection with his publications and writings. Nuran Marasli was released. Neither had been ill-treated. According to an unconfirmed report, Levent Bakanay had been released earlier.

Keywords: ILL-HEALTH / PUBLISHERS / RELEASE / WOMEN /

TURKEY

Al Index: EUR 44/20/97 Network: EXTRA-27/97

Pages: 1

Date: 13 March 1997

Title: Turkey: Further information on fear of torture /torture

Abstract:Cuma Meral, held under the name of Hasan Hasgul, Hasan Ozan, held under the name of Ali Berkoglu, Erdogan Ber, held under the name of Kamber Gol, Arif Celebi, Suleyman Yeter, Mukkades Celik (f), Zabit Iltemur, Birsen Kaya (f), Necati Abay, Abidin Ezgin, Ismail Ezgin, Sedat Senoglu, Enver Akca, Ayse Yilmaz (f), her son Deniz Yilmaz, and her husband Erdogan Yilmaz, Mustafa Ozturk, Sultan Secik (f), Asiye Zeybek (f), Gonul Karagoz (f), Bayram Namaz: On 7 March 1997 the detainees named above were taken to court. The following were formally arrested and taken to Gebze Prison to await trial: Hasan Ozan, Arif Celebi, Mukkades Celik, Zabit Iltemur, Necati Abay, Sedat Senoglu, Sultan Secik, Asiye Zeybek, Gonul Karagoz and Bayram Namaz. The others were released. There remains concern at allegations that they were tortured in police custody.

Keywords:EMERGENCY LEGISLATION / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / POLICE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / WOMEN /

TURKEY

Al Index: EUR 44/21/97

Network: EXTRA-36/97

Pages: 1

Date: 13 March 1997

Title:Turkey: Torture /fear of torture

Abstract: Hatun Temuzalp (f), Ali Can Kaya, Arzu Gormez (f), Dilsan Acar (f), Muammer Kalkan, journalists; Tekin Yazar, Ali Ekber, Haydar (family name unknown), Hasan Acan: There is concern at reports that the above people, detained on 7 March 1997, have been tortured in custody, particularly Hasan Acan. Their detentions have now been acknowledged, but they remain incommunicado, presumably at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. They all either work for or subscribe to the Proleter Halkin Birligi, Proletarian People's Union, a fortnightly socialist newspaper. Their arrests appear to be in connection with a possible demonstration to mark the second anniversary of the killing by police of at least 17 people in the Gaziosmanpasa district of Istanbul, during a week of unrest in March 1995.

Keywords:Anniversaries / Demonstrations / Incommunicado Detention / Journalists / Police / Torture/Ill-treatment / Women /

UK Al Index: EUR 45/05/97
Network: UA-46/97

Pages: 1

Date: 18 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:United Kingdom: Further information on cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment /health concern: Roisin McAliskey (f)

Abstract:Amnesty International is continuing to monitor the medical care and conditions in which Roisin McAliskey is detained, which have been improved.

Keywords: POLITICAL PRISONERS / PREGNANCY / PRISON CONDITIONS / WOMEN /

BELARUS Al Index: EUR 49/02/97

Network: UA-266/96 Pages: 1

Date: 14 March 1997

Title:Belarus: Further information on ill-treatment /possible prisoners of

conscience: Peaceful demonstrators reportedly beaten, 100

detained

Abstract: Amnesty International is gravely concerned at reports that about 100 demonstrators were detained, and some allegedly ill-treated by police, following a peaceful protest on 10 March 1997 against President Lukashenko's policies aimed at forging closer ties with the Russian Federation. Amnesty International is calling for the immediate release of any demonstrators held solely for exercising their right to freedom of assembly, and for the authorities to initiate an investigation into all allegations of ill-treatment by police.

Keywords: DEMONSTRATIONS / MASS ARREST / POLICE / REFERENDA / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

TAJIKISTAN

Al Index: EUR 60/07/97

Network: UA-71/97

Pages: 1

Date: 18 March 1997

Title: Tajikistan: "Disappearance"

Abstract:Rizoali Ojiyev, Gadoali Ojiyev: These two brothers have apparently "disappeared" after being detained by people believed to be law enforcement officials on 28 February and 1 March 1997. They are members of the Badakhshani ethnic group and it is believed they may be suspected by the government of involvement with armed opposition groups. Those who know the brothers deny the existence of any such involvement. They have been allegedly under surveillance in Dushanbe and Khujand where they run an import business.

Keywords:ARMED CONFLICT / BUSINESS PEOPLE / DISAPPEARANCES / ETHNIC GROUPS / SURVEILLANCE /

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Al Index: EUR 70/10/97
Network: UA-38/97

Pages: 1

Date: 3 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo province): Further information on fear of ill-treatment /possible extrajudicial executions /death in custody

Abstract: Nait Hasani (most common spelling) and others: Amnesty International has learned that Nait Hasani, whose whereabouts had been unknown since 31 January, is under arrest and is being investigated on charges of terrorism. On 28 February he was brought for questioning before an investigating judge in Pristina, in the presence of his lawyer. According to his lawyer, Nait Hasani stated that he had been taken from the Pristina hospital on 31 January by police to an unknown location and tortured with the aim of forcing him to make self-incriminating statements.

Keywords:ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DETENTION / ARMED CONFLICT / POLICE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

EGYPT Al Index: MDE 12/10/97
Network: EXTRA-14/97

Pages: 1

Date: 4 March 1997

Title: Egypt: Further information on death penalty

Abstract: Abu al-Ma'aty Salah Nasr al-Din, unemployed, and his wife Nabiha al-Sayyid 'Ali: Amnesty International has learned that Nabiha al-Sayyid 'Ali has had her sentence commuted to life imprisonment with hard labour, after review by the Court of Cassation on 22 February 1997. Her husband Abu al-Ma'aty Salah Nasr al-Din, had his sentence upheld by the Court of Cassation at the beginning of February.

Keywords: COMMUTATION / DEATH SENTENCE / UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE / WOMEN /

EGYPT Al Index: MDE 12/12/97
Network: UA-62/97

Pages: 1

Date: 6 March 1997

Title: Egypt: Death penalty: Ibrahim Mohammad 'Allam

Abstract:On 19 February 1997 the Cairo criminal court sentenced Ibrahim Mohammad 'Allam to death, after finding him guilty of murder. The sentence has been passed on to the Mufti, the highest religious authority in the country, for approval.

Keywords: DEATH SENTENCE /

Al Index: MDE 12/13/97

Network: EXTRA-38/97 Pages: 1

Date: 20 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title: Egypt: Death penalty: Ahmad Metwalli

Abstract: Ahmad Metwalli, a 30-year-old hospital worker, was sentenced to death on 15 March 1997 by the West Alexandria criminal court after being found guilty of murder.

Keywords: DEATH SENTENCE / HEALTH WORKERS /

 IRAN
 Al Index: MDE 13/11/97

 Network: UA-33/97

Pages: 1

Date: 27 February 1997

Title:Iran: Further information on prisoners of conscience /death penalty

Abstract: Dhabihullah Mahrami, Musa Talibi: According to media reports the Supreme Court has officially confirmed the death sentences against these two men. Previous reports suggested that both had been convicted of apostasy, however, a report from the Iranian news agency IRNA on 23 February states that the Head of the Revolutionary Court said that both men had been convicted of espionage. It is commonplace for the Iranian authorities to deny that the Baha'i community follows any recognised religion, often accusing them unfoundedly of espionage. Amnesty International believes that both men are prisoners of conscience, held solely on account of their religious beliefs, and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

Keywords:DEATH SENTENCE / ESPIONAGE / PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / RELIGIOUS GROUPS - BAHA'I / RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE /

IRAQ Al Index: MDE 14/01/97
Network: UA-58/97

Pages: 1

Date: 4 March 1997

Title:Iraq: Death penalty

Abstract:Zaban Batah al-Zuweili, Saudi Arabian national, Nasir Hantur al-Ruweili, Jordanian national: There is concern that the two men named above were sentenced to death on 22 February 1997. Both men were arrested in January 1997 and convicted of the murder of 'Omar Ahmad 'Ali Sobh, a Jordanian Government official. They reportedly appeared on Iraqi television on 15 February and confessed to the murder. There is concern that the two men have not have been tried in accordance with international standards for fair trial.

Keywords: DEATH SENTENCE / FOREIGN NATIONALS / TRIALS /

IRAQ Al Index: MDE 14/02/97
Network: EXTRA-30/97

Pages: 1

Date: 5 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Iraq: Fear of imminent execution

Abstract: 'Ali Hassan Hindi Bani Khalid, Sa'id 'Uwaid Freij al-'Anaizi (Jordanian nationals):
Amnesty International has received reports that these two men were reportedly sentenced to death on 21 February 1997 and are facing imminent execution.
The charges against them are unknown.

Keywords: DEATH SENTENCE / FOREIGN NATIONALS /

ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Al Index: MDE 15/11/97 Network: UA-68/97 Pages: 1

Date: 12 March 1997

Title: Palestinian Authority: Death penalty /legal concern

Abstract: Kheireddin al-Bheisi, Faras al-Bheisi, Mohammad al-Bheisi: On 6 March 1997 the above-named Palestinians were sentenced to death after being tried and convicted of murder by a State Security Court in Gaza City in a pre-dawn trial. Kheireddin and Faras al-Bheisi are members of the Palestinian police and the National Security Service. Seven other members of the al-Bheisi family were tried and given prison sentences.

Keywords: DEATH SENTENCE / POLICE AS VICTIMS / TRIALS /

ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Al Index: MDE 15/13/97 Network: UA-205/96 Pages: 1

Date: 13 March 1997

Title:Palestinian Authority: Further information on fear of torture /legal concern

Abstract: Sergeant Muhammad Rif'at, aged 23, Major Ibrahim Farid Shukairi: Amnesty International has received information that both men have now been released.

Keywords:MILITARY AS VICTIMS / RELEASE /

JORDAN Al Index: MDE 16/01/97
Network: UA-267/96

Pages: 1

Date: 21 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Jordan: Further information on death penalty

Abstract: Raya Musa (f), aged 35, Hassan Faleh, aged 45; executed: 'Abd al-Fattah Mustapha Muhammad Freihat, aged 24, and new name: Salim 'Abdullah Abu Sidreh, aged 27: 'Abd al-Fattah Mustapha Muhammad Freihat was executed by hanging at Swarqa Prison on 11 March 1997. Salim 'Abdullah Abu Sidreh was also executed on 11 March. He had been sentenced to death in a separate case by the Criminal Court in July 1996 for murder during an attempted rape. During the week of 17 March, the Court of Cassation ratified the death sentence of Raya Musa. The death sentence imposed on Hassan Faleh in the same case was not upheld and his case was sent back to the Criminal Court to be retried.

Keywords: DEATH SENTENCE / EXECUTION / RETRIALS / WOMEN /

JORDAN Al Index: MDE 16/02/97

Network: UA-276/96

Pages: 1

Date: 21 March 1997

Title:Jordan: Further information on death penalty /torture: Montasser Rajab

Abu-Zaid

Abstract:On 2 March 1997 the Court of Cassation ratified the death sentence on Montasser Rajab Abu-Zaid. There is concern that Montasser Rajab Abu-Zaid has alleged that he and his wife, who was not a suspect, were beaten and deprived of sleep while held in preventive detention in the police station in Salt, during which time he made a confession. This confession reportedly formed the basis for his conviction. The court did not an order an investigation into these allegations.

Keywords:CONFESSIONS / DEATH SENTENCE / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

LEBANON Al Index: MDE 18/06/97

Network: UA-24/97 Pages: 1

Date: 24 March 1997

Title:Lebanon: Further information on death penalty

Abstract:Mounir Salah 'Abboud, Khalid Muhammad Hamed, Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim al-Sa'di, alias Abu Muhjin (all Palestinians), Ahmad Mundhir al-Kasm, Lebanese: Amnesty International has learned that Mounir Salah 'Abboud, Khalid Muhammad Hamed and Ahmad Mundhir al-Kasm were executed by hanging on 24 March at Roumieh prison. Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim al-Sa'di, who was sentenced in absentia, remains at large.

Keywords:EXECUTION / MINORITIES /

 TUNISIA
 Al Index: MDE 30/10/97

 Network: UA-108/95

Pages: 1

Date: 6 March 1997

Al Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Tunisia: Further information on health concern /prisoner of conscience /ill-treatment: Najib El Baccouchi

Abstract:Amnesty International has received information that Najib El Baccouchi was released from prison on 3 March following a presidential pardon.

Keywords: PARDONS / PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / RELEASE / TRADE UNIONISTS /

TUNISIA Al Index: MDE 30/11/97
Network: UA-208/96

Pages: 1

Date: 7 March 1997

Title:Tunisia: Further information on fear of torture or ill-treatment / probable prisoners of conscience /fear of arrest as POC and new concern: "disappearance" /prisoner of conscience: Abdel Moumen Belanes

Abstract: Abdel Moumen Belanes, a student, was arrested by members of the national guard outside Monastir court on 6 March 1997. He had been attending a hearing of the retrial of the 1992 case in which he had been sentenced in absentia to one year and five months' imprisonment for membership of the Young Communists' Union and participating in unauthorized meetings. He is being held in secret detention and his current whereabouts are unknown and there are grave fears for his safety. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Keywords:BANNING / DISAPPEARANCES / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / REARREST / STUDENTS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

TUNISIA Al Index: MDE 30/14/97
Network: UA-208/96

Pages: 1

Date: 12 March 1997

Title:Tunisia: Further information on fear of torture or ill-treatment / "disappearance" /prisoner of conscience: Abdel Moumen Belanes

Abstract: Abdel Moumen Belanes, a student arrested on 6 March 1997, was transferred on 10 March to the 9 Avril prison in Tunis. He was reportedly threatened with torture during secret detention. His lawyer, who saw him for the first time since his arrest on 11 March, had requested that he undergo a medical examination. However, no examination is known to have taken place to date. Amnesty International is continuing to call for his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience.

Keywords:POLICE / STUDENTS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

TUNISIA Al Index: MDE 30/15/97
Network: UA-208/96

Pages: 1

Date: 19 March 1997

AI Index: DOC 34/04/97

Title:Tunisia: Further information on fear of torture or ill-treatment / prisoner of conscience: Abdel Moumen Belanes

Abstract:Prisoner of conscience Abdel Moumen Belanes, arrested on 6 March, began a hunger strike on 17 March in protest at new charges brought against him, which he denies, and at poor conditions of detention. Amnesty International is concerned that the may be at risk of further ill-treatment as a result of his hunger strike.

Keywords:POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / PRISON CONDITIONS / PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / STUDENTS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT /

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