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MYANMAR

Nobel prize for prisoner of conscience

BURMESE prisoner of conscience Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been awarded the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize. Members of her family accepted the award on her behalf at the official ceremony in Oslo on 10 December 1991, international Human Rights Day.

Aung San Suu Kyi, aged 46 and mother of two children, is the daughter of Myanmar's independence hero, General Aung San, who was assassinated in 1947. Held in almost complete isolation in her home in Rangoon since July 1989, she is the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), a party which she helped to create during the 1988 pro-democracy movement in Myanmar. Although the NLD won over 80 per cent of the parliamentary seats in the May 1990 elections, the ruling military State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) has not handed over power to the elected civilian government.

Aung San Suu Kyi is detained under the administrative detention provisions of the 1975 State Protection Law, which concerns supposed threats to state security. In August 1991 the SLORC extended the period of detention without charge or trial which may be imposed under this law from three to five years.

In an essay published in July 1991 Aung San Suu Kyi wrote: "It is not power that corrupts but fear.... Within a system which

denies the existence of basic human rights, fear tends to be the order of the day. Fear of imprisonment, torture or death..." □



Aung San Suu Kyi, detained without charge or trial in Myanmar since July 1989
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WORLDWIDE APPEALS

THIS month's *AI Newsletter* introduces a new regular feature on page 2 — "Worldwide Appeals" — in an attempt to get people throughout the world to send appeals on behalf of victims of a range of human rights violations. It replaces the "Prisoner of the Month" appeal page which focused solely on prisoners of conscience.

Every month you, the readers, will be asked to send appeals on behalf of the victims whose stories are told in "Worldwide Appeals". You can help free a prisoner of conscience or stop torture. Your appeal can bring liberty to a victim of "disappearance". You may prevent an execution.

The victims are many, the violations wide-ranging. Every appeal counts. See page 2 for details. □

MOROCCO

Latest releases from Tazmamert

MOST of the military detainees who had been held incommunicado at a secret detention centre at Tazmamert for 18 years have been released, following the centre's reported demolition in September 1991.

Prison sentences imposed on some of those recently released actually expired 17 years ago: Abdelkrim Chaoui and Abderrahmane Sadki were each sentenced to three years' imprisonment in 1972. Abdelaziz Binbine, who was also released, had been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in 1972.

Of the 61 members of the armed forces said to have been taken from Kenitra Central Prison to Tazmamert on 7 August 1973, at least 30 are believed to have died in custody, many of them as a result of the harsh conditions there. Hamid Bendourou was the last to die in Tazmamert; he died in March 1991.

AI has also received confirmation that the three Bouequat brothers, who "disappeared" in 1973, were held at Tazmamert for a time. However, they were not released and their current place of detention is unknown. Two other prisoners, Mohamed Raiss and Achour Ghani, both serving life sentences, have been returned to Kenitra Central Prison and permitted access to their families. They are reported to be in poor health. □

AI representatives visit Bolivia

TWO AI representatives visited Bolivia from 23 September to 3 October 1991 to assess the human rights situation there. They met members of human rights organizations and trade unions and interviewed relatives and lawyers of political prisoners arrested in 1989 and 1990 to gather information on the prisoners' complaints of ill-treatment and torture.

AI's representatives presented these cases to the Minister of Interior and reiterated AI's concerns about other cases of human rights violations which had not been

investigated. These included allegations of torture of short-term detainees, extrajudicial execution and the denial of medical attention to a female political prisoner. The Minister said he would review the cases and reply to AI's concerns.

The AI representatives also collected new information on developments in the *Juicio de Responsabilidades* (responsibilities trial) of former president General Luis Garcia Meza and 54 co-defendants accused of gross human rights violations between 1980 and 1981. □

Please help!

WORLDWIDE APPEALS

An appeal from you to the authorities can help the victims of human rights violations whose stories are told below.

You can help free a prisoner of conscience or stop torture. Your message can bring liberty to a victim of "disappearance". You may prevent an execution.

The victims are many, the violations wide-ranging. Every appeal counts.

SAUDI ARABIA

'Ali Hassan al-Amrad: aged 23 and from Khuwaldiyya in al-Qatif, he is believed to be held without charge or trial in al-Mabahith al-'Amma Prison in al-Dammam.

'Ali Hassan al-Amrad is a Shi'a Muslim and is believed to be detained as a suspected sympathizer of the banned *Munadhamat al-Thawra al-Islamiyya fil Jazira al-'Arabiyya*, the Organization of the Islamic Revolution in the Arabian Peninsula (OIRAP). He was arrested on 1 July 1991 at the passport office in al-Dammam in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia and initially detained in al-Mabahith al-'Amma (General Intelligence) Prison in al-Qatif.

OIRAP was founded in 1975 and is the principal organized Shi'a opposition group in Saudi Arabia. It has defined its goal to be primarily that of "educating and enlightening the masses". It



'Ali Hassan al-Amrad

has stated that the Shi'a in Saudi Arabia are discriminated against and has urged that they be granted equal rights. AI is not aware of any calls to violence or armed action in any of OIRAP's publications or statements. Appeals by AI to the Saudi Arabian authorities about other prisoners of conscience suspected of being OIRAP members remain unanswered. Since 1979, hundreds of alleged members

or sympathizers of OIRAP have been detained without charge or trial.

AI believes that 'Ali Hassan al-Amrad is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for the non-violent expression of his political beliefs.

■ Please send courteous appeals for his immediate and unconditional release to: The Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines/King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz/Office of the Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines/Riyadh/Saudi Arabia. □

SRI LANKA

Kandasamy Sivasithamparanathan, his wife, Pushparani, their two children aged four and two, and three other members of Pushparani's family: they "disappeared" after being arrested on 26 November 1990 at a police check-point at Valathapiddy, near Amparai in eastern Sri Lanka.

The family, Tamils living in Ninthavur, Amparai District, were on their way to Colombo to attend a wedding when the bus in which they were travelling was stopped by police. According to unofficial information received two weeks later by relatives, the family were taken away to an army camp at Kondavattavan, near Amparai. However, by August 1991, the authorities still had not informed relatives of their exact whereabouts despite repeated appeals.

AI recently learned that Mr Dharmasingham, the bus driver who witnessed the arrest and had made a statement to the Amparai police, was himself abducted by a group of unknown men from a bus stop at Amparai in May 1991. His whereabouts remain unknown. Other witnesses to the family's abduction are believed to fear reprisals if they provide information to the police.

Camille César and Paul Camille Bazile: they were reportedly arrested on 2 October 1991. On 7 October their bullet-riddled bodies were reported to be at the Port-au-Prince morgue but by 9 October the bodies had been removed and have never been found.

Camille César, Director of the Port-au-Prince cemetery, and Paul Camille Bazile, who ran a community day care centre in Carrefour, were members of the National Front for Change and Democracy (FNCD), a political party which supported President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in the December 1990 democratic election. Following a coup on 30 September 1991, which overthrew President Aristide's

government, the security forces have carried out hundreds of extrajudicial executions, as well as beatings and arbitrary arrests. The victims have included members of his cabinet, FNCD members, and real or perceived supporters of President Aristide, including residents of poor areas and members of grassroot and church organizations.

According to eye-witnesses, Camille César and Paul Camille Bazile were arrested by seven or eight armed men, some reportedly wearing military uniform, on 2 October 1991, in the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. Five days later staff at the Port-au-Prince morgue recognized the body of Camille César and informed his family. However, by 9 October, when relatives went to the morgue to make funeral arrangements, the bodies of Camille César and Paul Camille Bazile had reportedly been removed. It is believed that their bodies may have been taken from the morgue at the behest of the security forces and buried in mass graves.

Fighting in the north and east of Sri Lanka between Sri Lanka Government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) broke out in June 1990. Since then, government forces have regained control of certain areas in the north and east, but the LTTE remain in control of the Jaffna peninsula. Serious human rights abuses have been reported from both sides. Government forces are believed to have been responsible for several thousands of "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions of Tamil civilians, including many from eastern Sri Lanka.

■ Please send courteous letters appealing for an impartial investigation into the "disappearance" of Kandasamy Sivasithamparanathan and six members of his family to: President Ranasinghe Premadasa/Presidential Secretariat/Republic Square/Colombo 1/Sri Lanka. □

■ Please send courteous letters appealing for an immediate and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding the killing of Camille César and Paul Camille Bazile, urging that the results of the investigation be made public and the perpetrators of the killings be brought to justice to: Maître Jean-Jacques HONORAT/Premier Ministre, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères/Présidence de la République de Haïti/Palais National/Port-au-Prince/Haïti. □



FOCUS

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Freedom of information

On 8 July 1991 Luis Antonio Morales Ortega, a journalist well known for his investigations into human rights abuses in his native Peru, announced via *Radio Wari*, a local radio station, that he had received death threats from the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Command, a paramilitary group believed to be linked to the security forces. Just five days later, two young men in a passing car shot Luis Morales dead as he tried to escape into the house of a relative in the city of Huamanga in Ayacucho department.

During the previous month the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Command had threatened staff at *Radio Wari*, leading them to broadcast death threats against two other journalists who had accused the security forces of committing human rights violations in Ayacucho. The text of the threats included the following: "We tell this rat, delinquent, terrorist, disguised as a journalist, this bloody dog Magno Sosa Rojas...that he will die like a be-headed dog...we are following his steps very closely, his days are numbered...".

Since 1982, when Ayacucho was first placed under military control, journalists who have brought human rights abuses to national and international attention have been targeted by the security forces or allied paramilitary groups. At least 15 journalists have been killed by the security forces or groups linked with them in Ayacucho department in the last nine years.

Journalists in other parts of Peru are also at risk. In August 1991 the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Command issued death threats against Jorge Chávez Morales, a journalist on *La República*, a Lima daily newspaper which has given extensive coverage to human rights issues.

In countries around the world, journalists attempting to expose human rights violations have themselves become victims. Some have been killed outright, others have been silenced by being imprisoned or threatened with imprisonment. Also, writers,



Journalists film a trade union demonstration in the Philippines, May Day 1987. According to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

novelists and poets whose work is deemed critical of the authorities risk detention, imprisonment, torture and in some cases death. Some of these journalists and writers are prisoners of conscience, jailed because of their professional activities or for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

In Malawi, Jack Mapanje, the internationally renowned poet and a prisoner of conscience since 25 September 1987, was released on 10 May 1991 after nearly four years in detention without charge or trial.

Under Malawi's Public Security Regulations, the official reason for his detention was never disclosed, but it is widely believed that the increasingly political themes of his poetry had incurred the disapproval of the authorities.

In Colombo, Sri Lanka, in the early hours of 18 February 1990, Richard de Zoysa, a journalist, broadcaster and actor, was dragged from his home by six armed men, one or two of whom were reportedly wearing police uniform. The following day his naked body was washed up on a nearby beach. An autopsy found that Richard de Zoysa had died

instantly from gunshots through the neck and the head fired at close range.

The Sri Lankan and international press has speculated about the possible reasons for the abduction and murder of Richard de Zoysa. His killing may have been linked to the "disappearance" in January 1990 of Lakshman Perera, who had produced a play written by Richard de Zoysa called "*Me Kauda? Mokada Karanne?*" ("Who is he? What is he doing?"), a phrase used to describe President Ranasinghe Premadasa during the presidential elections in December 1988. Other reports suggest that Richard de Zoysa was killed in retaliation for his news reports on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

In June 1990 Richard de Zoysa's mother, Dr Manorani Saravanamuttu, and Batty Weerakoon, the lawyer appearing on her behalf at the magisterial inquiry into the abduction and killing of her son, received a series of death threats telling them to stop pursuing the case. Dr Saravanamuttu, who had witnessed her son's kidnapping, had named a Senior Superintendent of Police as one of the abductors.

The magisterial inquiry was discontinued on 30 August 1990 and no action has been taken against the police officer allegedly involved.

Foreign and national journalists in Guatemala continue to receive threatening messages, apparently from members of the security forces or those acting with their acquiescence. Some of those threatened have felt obliged to leave the country for their own safety. Others have been openly attacked.

Byron Barrera Ortiz, a Guatemalan journalist, was shot by two men on a motorcycle while driving in his car in Guatemala City in October 1990. His wife, Refugio Araceli Villanueva, also in the car, was killed instantly; Byron Barrera and a friend who was with them were wounded. Shortly after the attack, Byron Barrera Ortiz and his two children went to live abroad.

Byron Barrera later stated that his life was saved only because he was wearing a bullet-proof vest. He said that he had been followed by two men on a motorcycle the day before the attack, an incident he reported to the Secretary of Public Relations of the Presidency

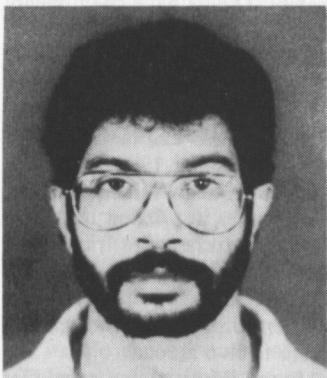
of the Republic of Guatemala, who promised to investigate.

Byron Barrera had returned to Guatemala in 1985 after several years in exile. He was the director of the Central American News Agency, and vice-president of the Guatemalan Journalists Association. Byron Barrera had been the editor of the weekly newspaper, *La Epoca*, which had published many articles critical of the government, until June 1988 when the newspaper's offices were fire-bombed reportedly by members of the security forces. The newspaper never reopened.

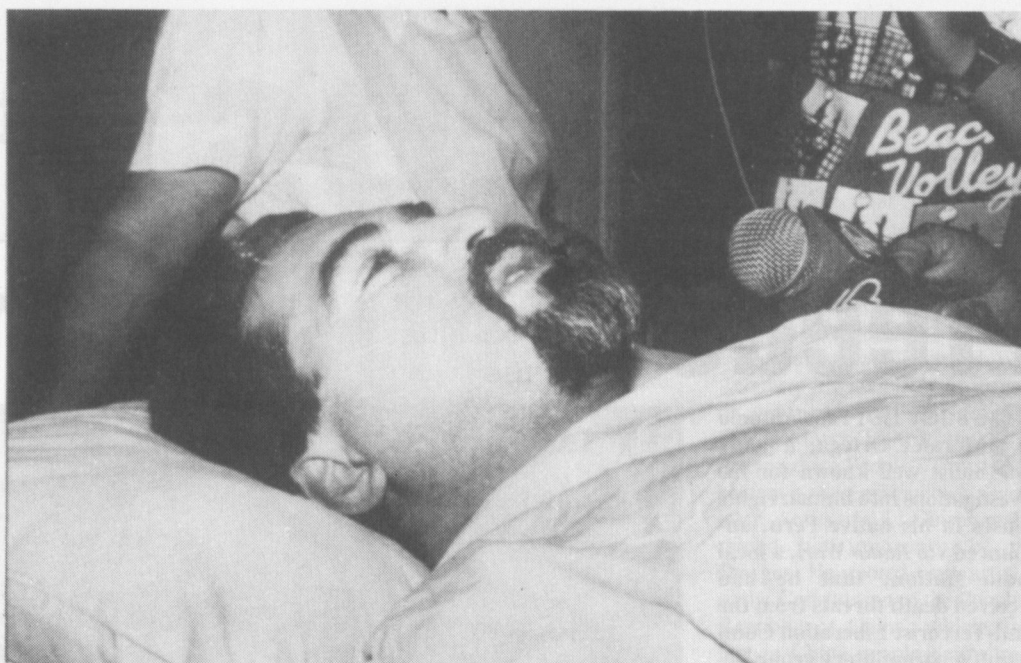
In an open letter dated 1 November 1990, Byron Barrera stated that "Guatemala continues to be a land for no one, a land of impunity, death and desolation". He added, "I have had to explain the truth to my children: the people of their country who are conspicuous for their ideas of freedom are assassinated."

On 10 August 1991, Byron Barrera returned to Guatemala to present evidence to the Fifth Court of Penal Justice in Amatitlán, department of Guatemala, which was investigating the case. While there he gave a news conference declaring that he believed members of the armed forces were involved in the attempt on his life.

Guatemalan journalists were anonymously warned not to continue publishing information on the case. In August 1991, Juan Carlos Ruiz of the weekly magazine, *Crónica*, Hugo García of the daily newspaper, *Gráfico*, and Silvino Velásquez of the daily newspaper, *Prensa Libre*, received anonymous threatening telephone calls, warning them to stop reporting on well-publicized cases concerning the alleged involvement of military personnel in human rights violations, including the attack on Byron Barrera. The Prosecutors Office at the Public Ministry which was investigating



Richard de Zoysa, journalist, broadcaster and actor, was abducted and killed in February 1990 in Sri Lanka by armed men reportedly including an identified police officer. Some reports suggest he was killed because of his reporting of human rights violations in Sri Lanka



Byron Barrera, a Guatemalan journalist, in hospital after he was shot in Guatemala City in October 1990. His wife was killed in the same attack. He later stated that he believed members of the armed forces were involved in the attempt on his life

the case reportedly received similar threats. Two lawyers hired by Byron Barrera were also threatened and have since withdrawn from the case.

According to Byron Barrera, the authorities have shown little determination to proceed with the investigation into the attempt on his life and the killing of his wife despite evidence implicating members of the armed forces.

Some countries bring criminal charges against those who publish real or implied criticism of the authorities. Such charges include "showing contempt", "spreading false information" and "sedition".

Two well-known journalists in Cameroon were convicted in January 1991 of publishing an article criticizing the government. Pius Njawé, editor of *Le Messager*, a Douala newspaper, and Célestin Monga, author of the article, were charged with showing contempt for Cameroon's head of state, the courts and members of the National Assembly. Despite nationwide protests, the two were convicted of "showing contempt for the National Assembly": they were given suspended prison sentences and fined.

In December 1990 the Cameroon Government had introduced laws aimed at tightening press censorship. The legislation enables the government to seize or ban newspapers "in case of conflict with the principles of public policy". On a number of occasions in early 1991 the authorities seized copies of *Le Messager*. One such confiscation followed the publication in April of the names of all those convicted or held in administrative detention in connection with a 1984 coup

attempt in Cameroon. The article described the grossly unsatisfactory conditions in which the prisoners had been held and named the prisoners who had died in Nkondengui prison since 1984. In September the Cameroonian authorities banned *Le Messager* and four other newspapers.

In South Korea, Chang Ui-gyun, a publisher specializing in books on ancient Korean history, is serving an eight-year prison sentence under the National Security Law. In 1982 his publishing licence was withdrawn after he published a book of poetry which was critical of the government. Chang Ui-gyun then spent two years in Japan where he studied ancient Korean history at Kyoto University. While there he is said to have discussed North Korea's proposals for the reunification of the Korean peninsula. In May 1986 he organized a meeting on Korean unification, where a song which he had written on the subject was performed.

Shortly after his return to South Korea in 1987, Chang Ui-gyun was arrested and charged on several counts under the National Security Law, including that of transmitting state secrets. He denied all charges of espionage but was convicted by the court and jailed. AI believes that Chang Ui-gyun is detained for his peaceful political views and activities and that the charges of espionage against him have not been substantiated.

In Rwanda at least 30 people accused of offences related to freedom of expression and association were tried between March and October 1990. Further arrests and trials of journalists occurred in 1991. Although many newspapers

have begun publication over the past two years, the government has been unwilling to tolerate open criticism of government officials or policies. Rwabukwisi Vincent, the editor of *Kanguka* newspaper, was arrested in July 1990 and charged with "endangering the security of the state", apparently because he had travelled to the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, and met Rwandese exiles, including the former King of Rwanda. The State Security Court twice failed to convict him due to lack of evidence. But in October 1990, after Uganda-based Rwandese exiles attacked Rwanda's northern border, the same court sentenced him to 15 years' imprisonment, apparently without hearing any new evidence. In May 1991 Rwabukwisi Vincent was released by order of the *Cour de Cassation* (Supreme Court), pending a new trial by the State Security Court. A month later he was one of four journalists arrested for



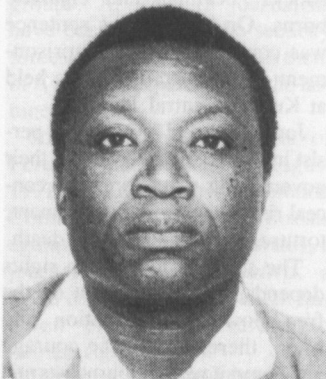
Gitibu Imanyara, editor of *The Nairobi Law Monthly*, was charged in March 1991 with publishing a seditious publication. The February edition of the magazine had included a manifesto of a new political party and criticized the government for tribalism

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publishing articles critical of the authorities. Rwabukwisi Vincent was charged with endangering the security of the state, apparently because the authorities said what he had written for publication expressed support for the rebels. He was released in September 1991 but the charges against him reportedly were not dropped. It is not clear whether or not he will be brought to trial.

AI continues to be concerned by the Iranian Government's endorsement of threats against the life of Salman Rushdie, the British author of *The Satanic Verses*. In February 1989 Ayatollah Khomeini issued a *fatwa* (religious edict) stating that the book was blasphemous and that it was the duty of Muslims everywhere to put the novelist to death. AI is not aware of any direct attempt by agents of the Iranian Government to kill Salman Rushdie, but the repeated endorsement of Ayatollah Khomeini's edict by Iranian Government authorities indicates that they would condone his extrajudicial execution. AI has repeatedly called on the Iranian authorities to withdraw their support for any threat to Salman Rushdie's life.

Kenyan writers and journalists have been imprisoned for advocating multi-party democracy. Gitobu Manyara, editor of *The Nairobi Law Monthly*, was arrested at his office on 1 March 1991. In the February edition of the magazine he had published a manifesto of a new opposition political party and an editorial criticizing the government for tribalism. Gitobu Manyara was held incommunicado until 5 March 1991, when he was taken to court and charged with publishing a seditious publication. He was refused bail and held in harsh conditions in Kamiti prison near Nairobi. A month later he collapsed from a severe migraine headache at the Nairobi Law



Edward Oyugi, a writer and professor of Educational Psychology, was sentenced with three others in July 1991 to seven years' imprisonment for holding a "seditious" meeting. The sedition laws in Kenya have frequently been used to jail government opponents

Courts, where he was awaiting a ruling on an application for bail. He was returned to prison and held in a cell with no bed, mattress or other furniture. He was later admitted to hospital, where he was kept chained and under armed guard. He was released on 28 May, in improved health, and the sedition charges against him were dropped.

Gitobu Manyara received the Golden Pen of Freedom award from the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers in early 1991. He resumed his work at *The Nairobi Law Monthly* despite continuing police harassment. He was rearrested on 15 November 1991, with other pro-democracy activists and may be tried for a "public order" offence.

Edward Oyugi, a writer and Professor of Educational Psychology at Kenyatta University, was sentenced on 11 July 1991 with three others to seven years' imprisonment for holding a "seditious" meeting. He has been a consultant with the office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Council of Churches and has written books and articles on philosophy, sociology and psychology.

Edward Oyugi and the three others had been arrested one year earlier following public debate on the issue of multi-party democracy in Kenya which led to widespread unrest on 7 July 1990. The four have each lodged an appeal to the High Court following the six-month trial — Kenya's longest sedition trial. AI expressed concern about the fairness of their trial and, in particular, that no steps were taken during the trial to investigate the prisoners' allegations that they had been tortured. No evidence was brought by the prosecution that the four had discussed or planned violence against the government. The sedition laws in Kenya have frequently been used to jail government opponents.

Following their conviction Edward Oyugi and the three others were transferred to Naivasha maximum security prison where conditions are very harsh. They are reportedly allowed only one visit of three people, including their lawyers, each month.

In 1990 the Vietnamese authorities arrested several critics of the government — including journalists and writers — beginning a crackdown on intellectuals and dissenters which continued into 1991. Duong Thu Huong, a prominent Vietnamese writer and dramatist, was arrested in April 1991, reportedly for trying to send "sensitive documents" out of the country. These documents report-



Duong Thu Huong, a prominent writer and dramatist, she was detained in Viet Nam between April and November 1991, reportedly for trying to send "sensitive documents" out of the country. These reportedly included papers and letters written by Vietnamese writers to leaders of the Communist Party of Viet Nam in preparation for the seventh party congress scheduled to take place in June

edly included papers and letters written by Vietnamese writers to leaders of the Communist Party of Viet Nam in preparation for the seventh party congress scheduled to take place in June. She was reportedly detained in a residence belonging to the Interior Ministry until her release in November.

Duong Thu Huong is the author of many novels, poems, articles and plays and has emerged as one of the most significant writers in post-war Viet Nam. She was a member of the Communist Party of Viet Nam for 20 years but left the party in 1990 and has since become one of its sharpest critics.

Salih al-'Azzaz, a prominent Saudi Arabian writer and journalist, was arrested in November 1990, reportedly while taking photographs of a women's demonstration. He was reportedly arrested on suspicion of being one of the organizers of the demonstration, in which dozens of Saudi women drove cars in convoy through the streets of Riyadh in protest against the country's prohibition of women drivers.

Salih al-'Azzaz was, at the time of his arrest, editor-in-chief of the magazine of the Saudi Arabian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. AI considered him to be a prisoner of conscience, detained because of his involvement with a peaceful demonstration. He was denied access to his family until the end of December 1990 and was released on 4 March 1991, after four months of detention.

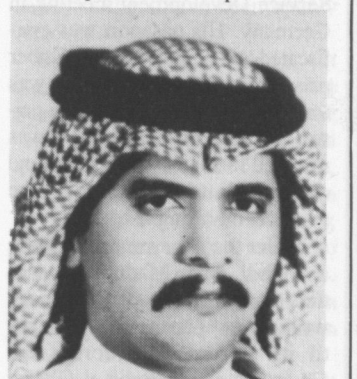
In many countries journalists sympathetic to prohibited political parties or organizations, or working for publications aligned with them, have also been subjected to human rights violations.

Marwan Hamawi is one of a

group of Syrians arrested in the mid-1970s on suspicion of having links with the pro-Iraqi wing of the Ba'ath Party. At the time, he was Director of the Syrian news agency, SANA. He has been detained without charge or trial in al-Mezze Military Prison, Damascus, since his arrest in March 1975. He has been adopted as a prisoner of conscience by AI. The Syrian authorities have not responded to any of the appeals made by AI on his behalf.

Prior to his appointment as Director of SANA he had served as press relations attaché in the New York office of the Arab League and as the League's acting observer at the UN. He is held under state of emergency legislation which has been continuously in force in Syria since 1963.

'Abd al-Karim Qutaifan, a playwright and actor, has also been detained without charge or trial in Syria since July 1983. AI has adopted him as a prisoner of



Salih al-'Azzaz, a former prisoner of conscience in Saudi Arabia. He was arrested in November 1990, reportedly while taking photographs of a peaceful women's demonstration. He was released in March 1991, after four months in detention

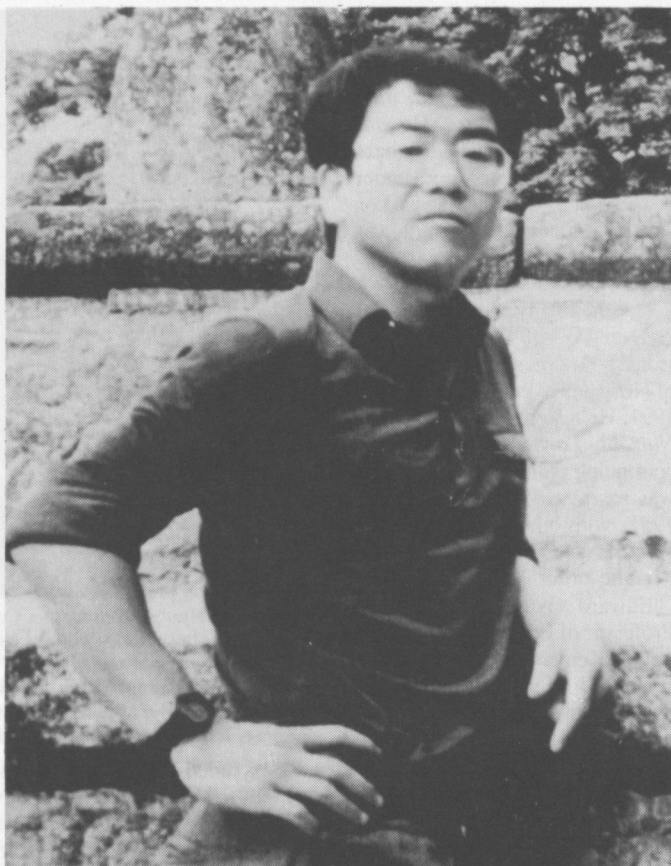
conscience. He was arrested on suspicion of being a member of the Party for Communist Action (PCA), a prohibited political party in Syria. Members of the PCA have frequently been imprisoned and tortured because of their opposition to the government, their demands for more democratic freedom in Syria and for the release of all political prisoners.

Hamadi Jebali, editor of the Tunisian weekly *al-Fajr* (Dawn), was sentenced by the military court in Tunis in January 1991 to one year in prison, with immediate effect, for publishing an article calling for the abolition of military courts in Tunisia. Mohammed Nouri, a Tunisian lawyer, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for writing the article. Both men were charged with "defamation of a judicial institution". Although Mohammed Nouri's sentence has expired he remains in prison, apparently under investigation for new charges. *Al-Fajr*, now banned, was the organ of an Islamic organization, *al-Nahda*, which does not have official recognition from the state. Members, sympathizers and suspected sympathizers of *al-Nahda* have recently been targeted for arrest, detention and torture.

Dozens of writers and journalists were detained without charge or trial in Sudan after a military government, backed by the National Islamic Front, seized power from the elected civilian government of Sadiq al-Mahdi on 30 June 1989. They were imprisoned because of their peaceful opposition to the military government. Most were released after a general amnesty for political prisoners was announced in April 1991.

Arop Madut Arop, Head of the Information Centre at the Sudan Council of Churches, was arrested in March 1990 after requesting a visa to attend a Church Service Development meeting in Germany. His passport was confiscated and he was taken to Kober prison. In October 1990 he was transferred to Halfa al-Jadida prison in eastern Sudan. He was released in May 1991. At no time during his detention was he charged or brought to trial.

Under the government of Sadiq al-Mahdi, Arop Madut Arop was the editor of the English language weekly newspaper, *Heritage*, until its closure by order of the Governor of the Bahr al-Ghazal province in 1988. *Heritage* had called for an end to the conflict in southern Sudan between the government and the armed opposition Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and had published a long interview given to



Chang Ui-Gyun, a South Korean publisher, is serving an eight-year prison sentence. AI believes he is detained for his peaceful political views

Arop Madut Arop by the SPLA leader, John Garang. Shortly after the June 1989 coup, the first part of the interview, by now translated into Arabic, was reproduced in *al-Sudan al-Hadith* newspaper.

Publication of the second part of the interview was stopped. Arop Madut Arop's arrest is

While detained they were blindfolded and interrogated about their sources for articles they had written about the Kurdish conflict in the southeast of Turkey. Some were tortured: one said he was stripped naked, suspended by the wrists, and given electric shocks.

The main charges against the eight were soon dropped but they

The rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of belief are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in legal form, in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The ICCPR has been ratified in many of the countries in which journalists have been the victims of human rights violations. Governments which deny civil and political rights to journalists flout international law and often flout their own constitutions.

thought to have been related to the government's disapproval of the article.

Journalists in Turkey are frequently targeted for abuse while pursuing their professional activities. In September 1991 the Turkish Press Council reported that during the first eight months of the year 44 journalists had been physically assaulted, in most cases by state employees, including police officers. AI has received numerous reports of journalists being tortured in police custody in Turkey.

In March 1991 eight journalists working for the weekly political review, *Yüzyıl* (Century), were arrested in Ankara and charged with membership of the Kurdish Workers Party, an illegal organization.

continue to stand trial for alleged possession of firearms which they say they obtained for their personal protection after receiving anonymous death threats.

Journalists and writers working in countries where governments face civil unrest have been particular targets for the authorities. In China many writers who supported the 1989 pro-democracy movement have been imprisoned.

Li Guiren, editor-in-chief of the Hua Yue Literature and Art Publishing House in Shaanxi Province, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment by a court in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, in March 1991 for activities relating to the pro-democracy protests in June 1989.

During 1989 Li Guiren had

written and published a preface to a collection of essays by the exiled Chinese dissident writer, Liu Binyan. When martial law was declared on 20 May 1989, Li Guiren sent a telegram to Zhao Ziyang, then General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, urging that the People's Liberation Army not be used against demonstrators. He reportedly posted a copy of this telegram on a wall of the Hua Yue building.

Li Guiren was charged with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement". His trial began in March 1990 in the Xi'an Intermediate People's Court. The sentence was announced a year later. At his trial Li Guiren maintained his innocence of the charges. He quoted from articles of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, which state that in China people enjoy freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession and of demonstration.

In Kuwait Osamah Suhail Hussain, a Palestinian, was sentenced to death by the Martial Law Court in mid-June 1991, after an unfair trial which did not conform to international standards. Osamah Suhail Hussain and 23 others were accused of "collaboration with the Iraqi authorities" because they continued to work for the newspaper, *al-Nida'*, during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. A Kuwaiti newspaper, *al-Qabas*, was taken over by the Iraqi authorities and renamed *al-Nida'* shortly after the Iraqi invasion in August 1990. It was the only newspaper allowed to publish during the occupation.

At the trial the identity of the chief prosecution witnesses was concealed and the defence was not allowed to cross-examine them. Trial documents presented to the court were not made available to the defendants or to their lawyers.

Osamah Suhail Hussain was reportedly tortured with electric shocks, beatings and cigarette burns. On 26 June his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. He is currently being held at Kuwait Central Prison.

Journalists and writers who persist in publishing information their governments would prefer to conceal risk detention, imprisonment, torture, and in some cases death.

The struggle for human rights depends to a large extent on the free flow of information and often, therefore, on the courage and commitment of journalists and writers. Those who become victims of human rights violations because of their efforts to expose violations by governments deserve the full support of the international human rights movement. □

MALAWI

Detentions without charge or trial continue

TWO prison warders held for smuggling letters from political prisoners are among those arrested and detained without charge in Malawi in recent months. The government's review of detainees' cases, which led to the release of 88 political prisoners in the first half of 1991, appears to have stopped. No long-term detainees have been released since May 1991 when poet Jack Mapanje was freed after nearly four years in detention without charge or trial.

Mr Kumwenda and Mr Chigwenembe, two warders at Zomba Central prison, were arrested in May 1991 after they had allegedly been caught smuggling correspon-

dence from political prisoners, who are often denied the right to send letters. Mr Chigwenembe is believed to be held at Chichiri Prison, Blantyre; Mr Kumwenda is apparently being held in incommunicado detention in an underground cell at Kanengo Prison, Lilongwe, with two other men who are also alleged to have been involved in the smuggling.

The author of some of these letters was apparently prisoner of conscience Orton Chirwa, who is serving a life sentence for treason, imposed after a grossly unfair trial. After the letters were intercepted he was confined to his cell for two days with both legs and

arms in irons and forced to squat on the floor with the irons chained to a metal rod behind his knees. Orton Chirwa is 72-years-old and still suffering from the effects of this ill-treatment.

Nineteen long-term detainees are still held at Mikuyu Prison near Zomba and an unknown number elsewhere. Mary Sikwese, held at Maula Prison, Lilongwe, was arrested in 1989 for alleging that police were responsible for her brother's death in custody. She was apparently promised that she would be released in February 1991 if she retracted her allegations but refused to do so. □

ECUADOR

Criminal Investigation Service accused of torture

ON 2 September 1991 President Borja Cevallos ordered the immediate dissolution of the Criminal Investigation Service (SIC) following publication, on the same day, of the Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the "Disappearance" of the Brothers Santiago and Andrés Restrepo Arismendi. The report stated that Santiago Restrepo, detained with his brother on 8 January 1988, had been severely tortured by SIC agents. Both were killed and their bodies disposed of.

The Commission documented other cases of torture perpetrated by the SIC police and named seven officers who had repeatedly tortured detainees. The report concluded that "the investigative methods of the SIC included and include a practice of systematic torture, arbitrary detention and the use of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment".

Also on 2 September President Borja extended the powers of the Commission to include the investigation of other cases which are referred to it. However, by the end of November 1991 the extended commission had apparently not commenced its work and its exact terms of reference had not been made public.

While welcoming the dissolution of the SIC, AI remains concerned that the authorities have repeatedly failed to investigate thoroughly and independently allegations of the widespread use of torture by the SIC. In cases where investigations have been initiated those responsible have not been convicted. □

First AI visit to Mongolia

FOR the first time ever, AI representatives visited Mongolia from 7 to 19 September 1991. They attended an international conference on Mongolia's draft Constitution, met government ministers, and conducted the first substantive AI research on Mongolia, which had been closed to AI until the country's democratization in 1990.

At the international conference AI presented a memorandum, originally submitted in August to Mongolia's standing parliament, concerning human rights provisions in the draft Constitution.

During the visit, AI's representatives concluded that there are currently no prisoners of conscience in Mongolia. They also learned of past human rights violations, including the enforcement until 1990 of internal exile without trial for non-violent opponents of the former communist regime.

Mongolia retains the death penalty for offences including treason, espionage, murder and rape. According to official statistics given to AI's representatives, 118 executions took place in Mongolia between 1980 and 1990 and a decrease in the annual number of executions was reversed in 1991 because of a soaring crime rate. At meetings with government officials and others the AI representatives urged that the death penalty be abolished in the new Constitution or in a new Criminal Code due in early 1992. □

SOUTH KOREA

Artists imprisoned

THREE members of *Somiryon*, the Seoul Regional Alliance of National People's Fine Art Movement Organizations, have been adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience. Chong Son-hee and Oh Chin-hee, both painters, and Choi Ik-kyun, an art critic, were arrested in March 1991 and have been sentenced to prison terms of 18 months to two years.

They were convicted under the National Security Law of carrying out activities benefiting North Korea, such as organizing lectures on popular art theory and on the North Korean *Juche* ideology, painting a banner advocating Korean reunification and publishing articles considered by the authorities to reflect Marxist-Leninist views and to advocate class struggle.

Somiryon's declared aims are to practice and promote realism in art. The works of its members

depict scenes of ordinary working people and often contain political messages, particularly in support of Korean reunification.

AI believes that Chong Son-hee, Oh Chin-hee and Choi Ik-kyun are detained for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release. □



Oh Chin-hee

MADAGASCAR

Troops kill peaceful demonstrators

ON 23 October at least 12 people were shot dead and at least 70 others wounded when troops threw tear-gas and opened fire, apparently without provocation, on peaceful demonstrators as they approached the residence of the provincial governor in the northern town of Antsiranana. The demonstration included supporters of an opposition alliance, *Hery Velona*, Active Forces Committee.

On 10 August at least 30 other supporters of *Hery Velona* were killed and some 200 wounded while walking to the presidential palace near the capital, Antananarivo, when the Presidential Guard threw grenades and fired on the crowd of thousands. The demonstrators were calling for the resignation of President Didier Ratsiraka, who has been in power since 1975. President Ratsiraka subsequently denied that the Presidential Guard were responsible for the killings, although some reports suggested that he had ordered them to fire on the crowd. On the same day at least 10 demonstrators were reported to have been killed by security forces in the town of Mahajanga in the north.

AI has called on the Malagasy authorities to curb the use of lethal force by the security forces and to investigate fully the circumstances of these killings and woundings. □

BRAZIL

AI calls for thorough investigation into deaths in custody

AI wrote to the Brazilian Government in October 1991 to urge a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of 24 prisoners and the injuries from beatings reportedly suffered by at least 18 others, in October, at the maximum security prison of Ary Franco, Rio de Janeiro.

The 24 men died during a fire which prison officials initially said was started by the inmates during a prison riot. Other sources later alleged that an incendiary device was thrown into a cell and that prison guards may have been involved.

Two prison guards have reportedly been arrested and charged in connection with the 24 deaths. □

SYRIA

Released after 20 years in detention

SALMAN al-'Abdallah, a prisoner of conscience and former member of the National Command of the Ba'th Party in Syria, was released on 28 September 1991 after more than 20 years in detention without charge or trial in al-Mezze Military Prison, Damascus.

Salman al-'Abdallah was living in Beirut, Lebanon, when he was abducted by Syrian security forces in April 1971 and taken to Syria. He was among dozens of people arrested in 1970 and 1971 following the November 1970 coup which brought President Hafez al-Assad to power. Seventeen others still remain in untried detention. They all served in, or were closely connected with, the 1966 to 1970 government of the Ba'th Party in Syria. Some of these prisoners were reportedly tortured after their arrest and all are said to be in poor health due to inadequate medical attention.

Thousands of political prisoners, including hundreds of prisoners of conscience, continue to be held in prolonged detention without charge or trial under state of emergency legislation which has been continuously in force in Syria since 1963. □

PRISONER NEWS

AI learned in October 1991 of the release of 61 prisoners under adoption or investigation. AI took up 63 cases.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER is published every month in four languages to bring you news of AI's concerns and campaigns worldwide, as well as in-depth reports. Available from Amnesty International (address below)



TURKEY

AI calls for investigation into killings in southeast

AI has appealed to the new Turkish Government, formed after elections in October, for an impartial and independent investigation into reports of extrajudicial executions and "disappearances", including those of 18 villagers in the Midyat/Nusaybin area of southeast Turkey since May 1991.

The 18 were residents of villages which had refused to participate in the system of government-appointed village guards. Among those killed was Beşir Algan, a farmer and father of five children, who was reportedly ambushed and shot by members of the security forces shortly after leaving his house in the village of Budakli on 21 May.

According to eye-witnesses, a soldier fired a shot directly into his head after he had been brought to the ground with an initial shot in the thigh. Beşir Algan's family made an official complaint but the public prosecutor ruled that the case should be dropped.

On the night of 3 October, five men, armed and dressed in civilian clothes, entered the village of Bahçebaşı, near Nusaybin, by car and reportedly killed three people. The five men called at the home of Süleyman Aslan and asked him to take them to the house of Mehmet Selim Aslan, a relative who lived nearby. Mehmet Selim Aslan was reportedly shot dead when he appeared at the

window of his house. Süleyman Aslan was forced to the ground and also shot dead. Abdul Aziz Güçlü, who saw the men leaving the village, was also killed.

Eye-witnesses say the five men drove towards the local commando post about one kilometre away. They heard the car running on the rim of the wheel as if the tyre had been punctured. The car stayed at the commando post for some time, apparently while the wheel was being changed. However, soldiers at the commando post later denied seeing the vehicle. The families of the three men killed have received no information indicating that an official investigation is being carried out. □

AUSTRIA

Safeguards fail to stop ill-treatment in custody

ON 9 January 1990 AI published a report on the unwarranted and deliberate use of physical violence against people held in police custody in Austria*. The consistency and regularity of the allegations received by AI suggested that the problem was not limited to a few isolated incidents.

Two weeks after the report was published the Austrian Government announced a number of measures intended to safeguard detainees in police custody. In May 1990 the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, set up under the European Con-

vention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, visited Austria and in November submitted a report to the Austrian Government. This report, which confirmed many of AI's findings, was published in October 1991, together with the Austrian Government's comments on it.

In December 1991 AI issued an update describing these developments and reiterating its concerns. The organization continues to receive allegations of police ill-treatment, in some cases amounting to torture. AI continues to be

concerned at the lack of adequate safeguards against ill-treatment of detainees, the lack of public confidence in the mechanism by which complaints can be made about ill-treatment by the police and the insufficient implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

* Austria: *Torture and ill-treatment* (AI Index: EUR 13/01/89); Austria: *Torture and ill-treatment (update to report of January 1990)* (AI Index: EUR 13/04/91) □

CAMEROON

Torture and ill-treatment

ADVOCATES of multi-party democracy in Cameroon are increasingly being held in short-term detention and ill-treated in police custody, AI said in a report published in November 1991*.

In September 1991 at least 15 leaders of newly-formed opposition groups were tortured or ill-treated when they were detained for approximately 24 hours in Douala. Charles Tchoungang, a lawyer and founder of a new human rights organization, alleged that he and other detainees had been beaten on the soles of their feet with an iron bar and whipped with wire encased in a rubber tube. "They carefully avoided hitting us on the face",

he said, "because they said one had to be able to recognize our faces even in our coffins." Samuel Eboua, leader of a new opposition party, said that he was stripped to his underwear, locked in a small, darkened cell with 40 other people and beaten.

Many other detainees, who also appear to have been arrested because of their support for multi-party democracy in Cameroon, have been held in similar circumstances in recent months.

AI has called for impartial investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment and for safeguards to prevent future torture and ill-treatment of prisoners.

* (AI Index: AFR 17/09/91) □