



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

February 1988 Volume XVIII Number 2

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

## Over 30 Palestinians killed in demonstrations

At least 38 Palestinians, including several children, have been shot and killed by members of the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) and up to 250 wounded, since widespread violent demonstrations broke out in the West Bank and Gaza in early December 1987. AI is monitoring developments.

There were reports of soldiers severely and often indiscriminately beating demonstrators, including women and children, with clubs and rifle butts, many of whom were hospitalized with fractures and extensive bruising.

On 16 December AI informed the Israeli Defence Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, of its concern at the killings and urged: "These actions by the armed forces should be urgently and thoroughly investigated... such activities even in response to stone throwing would seem to go well beyond what might be considered reasonable force". AI called for urgent steps to be taken by the Israeli Government to ensure that all members of the armed forces were clearly instructed not to use unreasonable force and that failure to observe such instructions would result in investigation and punishment.

Subsequently, at least 2000 people, including minors aged between 12 and 17 years old, were arrested and detained. Many were reportedly held incommunicado for up to two weeks. Up to 300 were tried before military courts, convicted and sentenced to between 20 days and two-and-a-half years' imprisonment for allegedly throwing stones and petrol bombs, burning tyres or participating in illegal demonstrations.

AI again expressed its concern to Defence Minister Rabin on 5 January about arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention, summary trials and allegations of ill-treatment. AI had received reports that soldiers were carrying out arrests without warrants or giving any reasons and that no one was being released on bail; that defence lawyers were not being allowed to defend their clients properly and some defendants in Gaza, including minors, were be-

ing tried and convicted without being represented in court at all.

AI also expressed concern over reports that lawyers and families were facing extreme difficulty in getting permission to visit detainees, or in finding out their whereabouts, and that lawyers' complaints to the court or the IDF about allegations of ill-treatment had been ignored.

AI recommended several measures to ensure detainees were protected from violations of their basic rights under international human rights law including giving relatives and lawyers accurate information about detainees'



An Israeli soldier kicks a demonstrator seized after troops stormed Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

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whereabouts and prompt and regular access to them; giving all defendants adequate time and facilities to prepare their defence;

granting bail in general to people awaiting trial; and investigating all complaints of torture impartially and effectively. □

BURMA

## Security forces torture and kill civilians

**Hundreds of unarmed civilians, including prisoners of conscience, have been arbitrarily arrested, tortured or unlawfully executed by Burmese security forces.**

These violations have occurred since 1984 when fighting intensified between government forces and insurgents in several of Burma's minority areas, most notably the Karen State.

AI's interviews with over 70 Karen, Kachin and Mon refugees, and dozens of testimonies given by other independent investigators, have produced over 200 names of mainly Karen but also Kachin, Mon, Kayah and Shan civilians reported to have been arbitrarily executed on political grounds or tortured, sometimes to death. The victims include a number of people detained, killed, tortured or otherwise ill-treated apparently because of their non-violent political opinions or activities, their ethnic origins or language.

Those most frequently named as responsible have been regular

Burmese army troops engaged in counter-insurgency operations or on routine patrol in zones suspected of being under rebels' influence. Members of the Military Intelligence Service, the Special Branch and, less frequently, the People's Police Force have also been named.

Eye-witnesses describe numerous instances in which Burmese troops shot and killed unarmed villagers on suspicion of association with the insurgent Karen National Union (KNU). Sometimes this suspicion was apparently based on nothing more than the quantity of rice or money found in the victim's house or their having been outside after dark. In many cases people were apparently killed on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations from informers.

Other first-hand accounts described summary executions of

Karens, who had been taken by army units either at random or as punishment for suspected political offences or sympathies, to work as porters or guides.

Refugees also described torture they had suffered or witnessed while held by the Burmese army or other security agencies. They said that torture usually takes place during prolonged periods of incommunicado detention without charge or trial during interrogation to extract "confessions" or as punishment for suspected political offences. It most frequently consists of sustained beatings and kickings, but may also include electric shocks, near-drowning, burning with cigars, and rolling bamboo or iron bars over the shins until and/or even after the skin falls away.

AI was also told that suspected political offenders have been unfairly tried in the Karen, Kachin and Mon States in 1987 and earlier as a result of military pressure on the courts.

AI has on several occasions written to the Burmese authorities about these and other concerns but has received no reply. □

# CAMPAIGN FOR PRISONERS OF THE MONTH



Each of the people whose story is told below is a prisoner of conscience. Each has been arrested because of his or her religious or political beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin or language. None has used or advocated violence. Their continuing detention is a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. International appeals can help to secure the release of these prisoners or to improve their detention conditions. In the interest of the prisoners, letters to the authorities should be worded carefully and courteously. You should stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. In *no* circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner.

## CHINA

**Liu Shanqing: a 35-year-old electronic sales engineer from Hong Kong, he is serving a 10-year sentence for "counter-revolutionary offences", imposed in February 1983.**

Liu Shanqing was arrested after leaving Hong Kong on 25 December 1981 for a trip to Guangzhou (Canton). He was a supporter of the "democracy movement" of the late 1970s, and had planned to visit the relatives of prominent activist Wang Xizhe, detained in Guangzhou since April 1981.

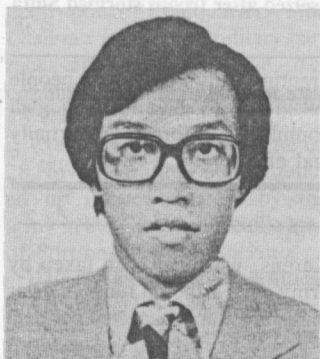
Liu Shanqing's family received no official confirmation of his detention until his father went to Guangzhou in March 1982 to inquire about his son's "disappearance". He was told by the municipal public security bureau that

"Higher People's Court had upheld his sentence of 10 years' imprisonment with three years' deprivation of political rights. However, in 1987, court officials told Liu Shanqing supporters that he could apply for a retrial and have his sentence reduced "if he pleaded guilty", and that representation by a Hong Kong lawyer "would be discussed".

Liu Shanqing is imprisoned in Meizhou city in Guangdong province.

Reports in late 1987 indicated that he had been recently moved to solitary confinement and was undergoing a program of "re-education".

■ Please send courteous letters appealing for his immediate and unconditional release to: His Excellency Li Peng/Acting Prime Minister/Guowuyuan/Beijingshi/People's Republic of China. □



**Liu Shanqing**

his son was under arrest, but was not informed of the charges against him or his whereabouts and was denied permission to visit him. Only in March 1983 did officials of Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court tell him that Liu Shanqing had already been tried and sentenced. The PRC authorities consider ethnic Chinese resident in Hong Kong to be citizens of China and therefore subject to its laws.

On 10 August 1983, the Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court wrote to the Students' Union of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, which had campaigned for Liu Shanqing's release, claiming that he had been publicly tried and convicted of collaboration with other "counter-revolutionary elements" to "attack the socialist system and the people's democratic dictatorship", and of "counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation".

On appeal, the municipal

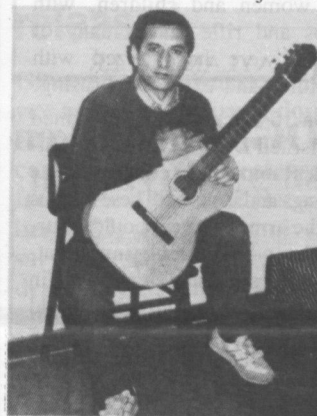
## TURKEY

**Hasan Fikret Ulusoydan: a 32-year-old editor, he faces up to 36 years' imprisonment on charges which include making communist propaganda and insulting the state authorities.**

Hasan Fikret Ulusoydan has been on trial continuously since 1976. For nine months in 1975 and 1976 he was editor-in-chief of the periodical *Halkin Sesi* (People's Voice). *Halkin Sesi* was published legally in the mid-1970s. It was affiliated to a political group called *Aydinlik* (Enlightenment). Members of this group later formed the Turkish Workers' and Peasants' Party (TIKP). After the military coup of September 1980 the TIKP was banned like all other political parties. Many party members were prosecuted and sentenced, some to long terms of imprisonment. The TIKP was strongly opposed to the political violence of the late 1970s in Turkey and many of the imprisoned TIKP members were adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience.

Hasan Fikret Ulusoydan was not arrested until 25 March 1980.

He was released on 5 July 1980, but rearrested on 17 November. He was charged under Article 142 of the Turkish Penal Code with making communist propaganda, and under Article 159 with insulting the state authorities, for 23 different articles of the journal.



**Hasan Fikret Ulusoydan**

Most of his trials have taken place at civilian courts in Istanbul, but his sentence of eight and a half years' imprisonment imposed on 27 October 1982 by Istanbul Military Court No.2 has not been confirmed by the Military Appeal Court. He is therefore imprisoned in Metris Military Prison, Istanbul.

His sentences add up to a total of 75 years' imprisonment. Once they have all become legally binding, they will be combined to the maximum sentence of 36 years.

Over 30 journalists have been tried and sentenced on similar charges. Their sentences have been among the harshest imposed since the military coup.

■ Please send courteous letters appealing for his immediate and unconditional release to: Prime Minister Turgut Özal/Başbakanlık/Ankara/Turkey. □

## Death Penalty

**AI has learned of 38 people being sentenced to death in 10 countries and of 39 executions in nine countries during November 1987.**

## MALAWI

**Jack Mapanje: a 43-year-old poet, he was arrested on 25 September and has since been detained incommunicado and apparently without charge, probably in Mikuyu prison near Zomba in the south.**

Jack Mapanje is Malawi's most famous poet. As well as publishing his own poetry, he has edited collections of African verse and is head of the University of Malawi's Department of Language and Literature.

Precisely why he was arrested is not known. However copies of his collection of poems, *Of Chameleons and Gods*, were promptly confiscated, and his imprisonment coincided with the banning of the book.

He is not thought to have been politically active, but recently his verse has become more political, and at the time of his arrest he was preparing another volume of poetry. He belonged to the Writers' Workshop, the country's sole forum for critical verse. Another of its members had previously been detained.

Indefinite detention without tri-

al is legally permitted in Malawi, and it is an offence to publish anything likely "to undermine the authority of, or public confidence in the government".

All publications in Malawi have to be passed by the Censorship Board, and although *Of Chameleons and Gods* (published in London in 1981) had not previously been banned, it was unobtainable in Malawi bookshops.

Jack Mapanje is married with three children. He has not been detained before and is apparently imprisoned because of the views expressed in his poetry.

■ Please send courteous appeals for his immediate, unconditional release to: His Excellency the Life President/Ngwazi Dr H Kamuzu Banda/Office of the President and Cabinet/Private Bag 388/Capital City/Lilongwe 3/Malawi. □





# FOCUS

amnesty  
international

## Human rights now!

**Human Rights Now!, the largest campaign ever organized by AI to support the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, begins on 3 March 1988.**

Throughout the year, AI will distribute copies of the Declaration to all the world's countries. While informing individuals of their inviolable human rights and collecting signatures on an appeal endorsing the Declaration, AI will press governments to respect human rights and to protect activists who promote these rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly 40 years ago, proclaims fundamental and equal rights "for all peoples and all nations". Drafted in the wake of vast human suffering during World War II, it calls upon "every individual and every organ of society" to promote respect for human rights. It provides a worldwide standard for preserving human dignity.

In today's world, however, governments have not translated the principles they accepted in 1948 into global reality; many governments in all regions claim that they value human rights while in practice they violate human rights. Unjust imprisonment and denial of fair legal treatment occur daily. At least 60 governments have tortured prisoners in their

custody during the 1980s, and over 120 governments still permit use of the death penalty.

By mobilizing public opinion this year for support of the Universal Declaration, AI calls upon governments to monitor and enforce the standards which they have set for themselves.

In addition to focusing public attention on the general principles proclaimed by the Universal Declaration, AI is stressing in 1988 the need to uphold international and regional human rights agreements designed to give these principles legal precision. By becoming party to the agreements, governments affirm to the international community their determination to respect human dignity. They also help to ensure that future administrations will be obliged to guarantee specific and fundamental rights.

AI bases its 1988 campaign activities on several rights agreements, including two international covenants which give legal form to the Universal Declaration and legally bind all nations party to them:

■ **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, which protects *inter alia* fun-



A human rights march in Colombia; the children's placard calls on the government to disband paramilitary death squads. To be a human rights activist in Colombia is to put one's life at risk, and scores have been gunned down in cold blood. Nevertheless, men and women continue courageously to defy threats, intimidation, even the prospect of a brutal death, to work for the protection of human rights.

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damental rights to life; freedom of conscience, expression and association; freedom from arbitrary arrest and torture or ill-treatment; and the right to a fair trial. The **Optional Protocol** to this Covenant provides individuals with a means to report complaints of human rights abuse. By the end of 1987, 87 states were party to the Covenant and 39 were party to the Optional Protocol.

■ **The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, which promotes *inter alia* rights to work, fair wages and trade union participation, as well as rights to health care and education. By the end of 1987, 91 states were party to this Covenant.

Only half the world's governments have signaled their commitment to human rights by becoming party to the Covenants. AI seeks adherence by all governments.

Other agreements on which AI's campaign will focus include:

■ **The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**, a significant step towards worldwide eradication of torture. Twenty-five states had become party to the Convention by

the end of 1987, and are therefore bound to its terms under international law, while 40 others had registered their intention to become party by signing the Convention.

■ **The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees** and its 1967 **Protocol**, which grant refugees freedom from being returned to territory where their basic rights may be denied.

■ **The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide**, which establishes an international legal system restraining governments from mass extrajudicial executions.

AI will also address regional agreements which specify basic human rights. The organization recognizes adherence to international agreements as central to the human rights struggle, unifying the world community through accepted norms and creating a legitimate basis for the efforts of human rights activists within individual countries.

Their action is crucial. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its supporting agreements are invested with urgent meaning by men, women and children now struggling to preserve their lives and their dignity. □



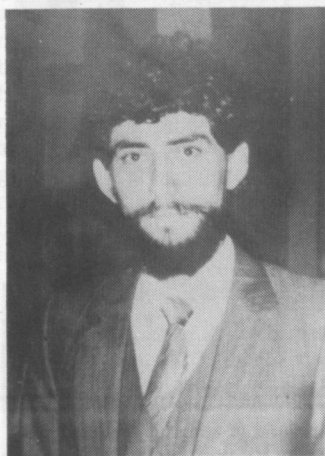
Men, women and children throughout the world are taking a stand to make the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a reality in today's world.



# Human rights activists need your help

Men and women in every region of the world are now risking arrest, torture, and death to protect the basic human rights guaranteed in international law. These people stand at the front line of the human rights struggle, embracing the responsibility to protect the rights of others and working to hold government authorities accountable for their actions.

Human rights activists in many countries must be prepared to pay an enormous personal price for collecting and publicizing facts, defending victims of human rights



**Ramiro Olivares Sanhueza**

abuse, and demanding freedom of conscience. Others can support these efforts by becoming fellow activists — that is, by speaking out for the protection of everyone's human rights.

A primary goal of AI's 1988 campaign, Human Rights Now!, is expansion of the international human rights constituency. AI's grassroots force is now being mobilized to help protect citizens who defend human rights. AI is also seeking to support the efforts of domestic human rights organizations which mount appeals on behalf of human rights activists

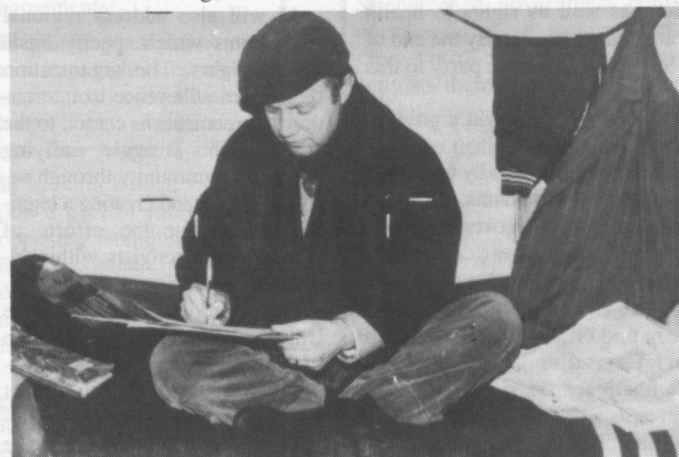
who are jailed, who have "disappeared", or who have become victims of extrajudicial executions.

The list of human rights activists who have suffered abuses grows each week. While the numbers of victims are themselves compelling, the plight of the individuals who suffer provides greater motivation for immediate action.

The cases of some activists on whose behalf AI has recently worked are detailed here. Amid protests by the international community and diplomatic efforts made in response to concern about human rights abuses, several of them have been released from detention or have experienced improvement in their conditions of imprisonment.

Ramiro Olivares Sanhueza, a Chilean physician working with the church human rights organization *Vicaría de la Solidaridad*, was arrested and imprisoned in December 1986 for "concealing terrorist activities". The charge was based on the fact that he had treated an injured man. According to AI's information, the physician was imprisoned solely for rendering professional and humanitarian services. He has been released.

Elizardo Sánchez Santa Cruz, a professor and vice president of the Cuban Committee for Human

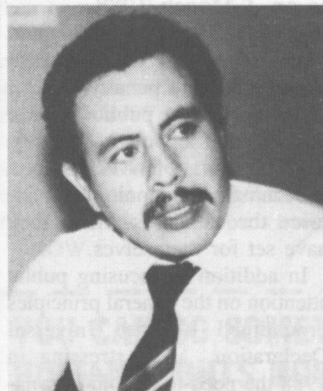


**Ismail Besikçi**



**Liu Qing**

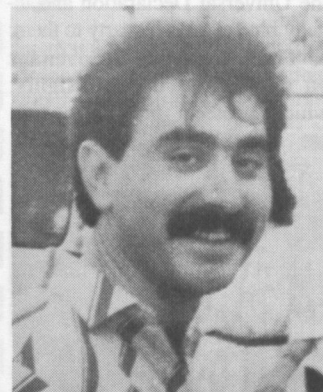
Rights, was arrested in September 1986 after two foreign journalists interviewed him. He has been released.



**Herbert Ernesto Anaya Sanabria**

Ervin Motl, a fireman, was a signatory of the unofficial human rights document Charter 77 in Czechoslovakia. A court sentenced him to three years' imprisonment in November 1986 for "subversion", a charge reportedly resulting from activities which included criticizing government policies and listening to broadcasts which the government considered hostile.

Herbert Ernesto Anaya Sanabria was the coordinator of the



**Ghazi Shashtari**

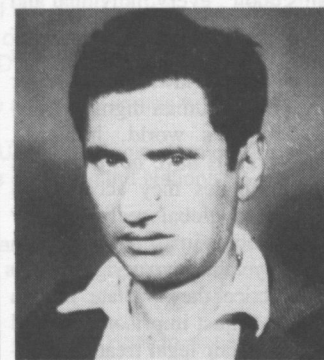
non-governmental Human Rights Commission of El Salvador. He was killed by plainclothes gunmen in "death squad" style in October 1987.

Ghazi Shashtari, a fieldworker for the West Bank human rights organization Al Haq, was placed under administrative detention in 1985 after he collected informa-

tion about prison conditions from former prisoners held under security regulations. The Israeli authorities claimed he was active in a faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He has been released.

Pandav Raj Ghimire, a farmer and convenor of the Human Rights Protection Forum in Nepal, was arrested in July 1986 and held under a public security act after he attempted to begin a petition campaign for political prisoners. He has been released.

Liu Qing, an editor and member of the "Democracy Movement" in the People's Republic of China, was imprisoned in November 1979 after his arrest in Beijing for selling the transcript of a political prisoner's trial. He was first sent to a labour camp and



**Pandav Raj Ghimire**

is reported to have been brought to trial in August 1982 in Beijing and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. He was a founder of an unofficial journal which sought respect for the democratic freedoms guaranteed in the then constitution. He is still in prison.

Ismail Besikçi, a sociologist and writer, was sentenced in 1980 to 10 years' imprisonment after writing to the Swiss Writers Union about the persecution of Kurds living in Turkey. He has been released.

Nicholas Ndebele, an official of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe, was arrested in May 1986 after he documented the detention and torture of government opponents. He has been released.



# Take action now

AI will highlight the cases of several human rights activists during its worldwide 1988 campaign. Current information indicates that concerted action on their behalf may be especially effective at this time. Not only the victims or their survivors, but also human rights activists around the world may benefit from calls for government accountability. The case histories of five activists, on whose behalf AI members are now working, follow.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Ntombazana Gertrude Botha

Ntombazana Botha was a field-worker for the Council of Churches in South Africa's Eastern Cape at the time of her arrest on 18 March 1987. She belonged to a support group for detainees and their families, according to reports, and was a member of the United Democratic Front, a broad-based coalition of groups opposed to the South African Government's *apartheid* policies.

South African authorities have arrested Ntombazana Botha, aged 44 and the mother of two children, several times amid the civil unrest occurring in the Eastern Cape area. Recent information indicates that she is now held without charge in solitary confinement at the Fort Glamorgan Prison in East London. Following a five-day hunger-strike by prison detainees in 1986, the National Medical and Dental Association of South Africa called for the investigation of prison conditions. The Association cited grave concerns about overcrowding, poor food and inadequate medical care.

## COLOMBIA

### Héctor Abad Gómez

Dr Abad Gómez was one of two leading human rights activists shot dead in Medellín, Colombia on 25 August 1987. He was en route to the wake of a trade unionist, who had been murdered earlier that day, when unidentified gunmen opened fire.



Dr Abad Gómez

A wave of killings in Medellín followed death threats and publication of a "death list" in local newspapers. The victims include university students and a senator, as well as two human rights workers. Dr Abad Gómez was a medical professor and had served as vice president of a human rights committee based in Medellín. He had worked for many years to protect human rights in Colombia.

AI has called on Colombian authorities for a thorough, impartial investigation of his death and for measures to ensure protection of other human rights workers in the country.

## UGANDA

### Lance Seera Muwanga

Lance Seera Muwanga, the Secretary General of the non-governmental Uganda Human Rights Activists (UHRA), was arrested on 25 February 1987 after an interview was published in a foreign magazine criticizing the government's human rights record.

The UHRA has monitored and publicized human rights abuses under successive governments since the early 1980s. Since the present government of President Yoweri Museveni took power in January 1986 it has continued to inform Ugandan citizens of their rights and issue regular reports on human rights abuses in the country.

Lance Seera Muwanga is currently held without charge or trial in indefinite detention at Luzira Upper Prison under the Public Order and Security Act. AI is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

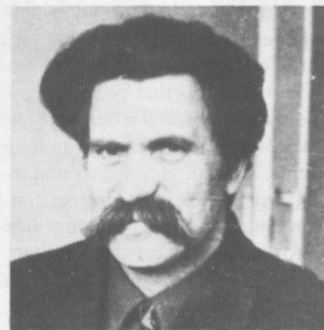
## USSR

### Levko Lukyanenko

Levko Lukyanenko, a 60-year-old Ukrainian lawyer, is now spending his twenty-sixth year in prison for exercising his right to free expression. Soviet authorities most recently arrested him in December 1977, one year after he joined a non-governmental group formed to monitor Soviet compliance with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Accords.

For several years the Ukrainian Helsinki monitoring group attempted to document human rights abuses and issue appeals on behalf of individual prisoners of conscience. Along with most members of the group, Levko Lukyanenko was arrested and convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". He received the maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment, followed by five years of internal exile.

Levko Lukyanenko is now imprisoned in a Perm region labour colony reserved for "especially dangerous recidivists". The colony regime there is the harshest permitted by Soviet law.



Levko Lukyanenko

**"I pay tribute to all those who stand up to defend human rights: their own and those of their fellow human beings. They have a right to be helped and protected in their crusade for human dignity."**

Javier Pérez de Cuellar,  
Secretary General of the  
United Nations; New York,  
10 December 1986

## SYRIA

### 'Abd al-Majid Manjouneh

A lawyer and former minister of state, 'Abd al-Majid Manjouneh was among a group of lawyers arrested in April and May 1980 after Syrian professional groups

## IF WE WANT HUMAN RIGHTS NOW, WE MUST ACT NOW

You can help these people and other human rights activists by joining in AI's 1988 human rights campaign. As a first step, please sign and post the appeal appearing on the next page. Then contact the AI section in your country or the International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom for additional ways to participate in the campaign.

staged a one-day general strike. Lawyers, physicians and engineers participated in the strike, calling for an end to the state of emergency which had been declared in 1963. The strikers also called for the release or fair trial of all political prisoners and for the establishment of a human rights commission to ensure observance of political and legal rights.

'Abd al-Majid Manjouneh remains in detention without charge or trial at the Adra Civil Prison in Damascus. His health had deteriorated significantly by late 1985, according to AI's information, and he has been denied adequate medical care. He reportedly suffers from several ailments, including diabetes and rheumatism.

'Abd al-Majid Manjouneh, born in 1938, is married and the father of three children. He has served as a member of the Higher Executive Committee of the Arab Socialist Union, and he was elected several times to the Aleppo Council of the Syrian Bar Association.

**Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world . . . The General Assembly proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.**

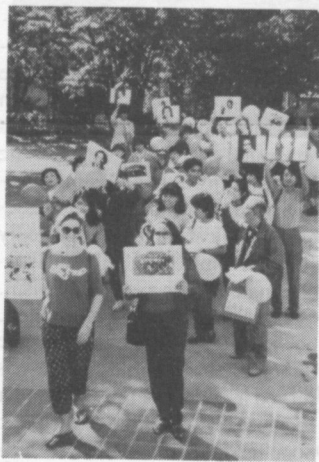
From the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948

# Appeal for rights

A worldwide appeal for governments to uphold international human rights standards spearheads AI's 1988 campaign, **Human Rights Now!**. The appeal, accompanied by the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, states signatories' support for victims of human rights abuse who have been "seized and silenced". It also calls on all governments to stop abuses and to implement human rights treaties.

By collecting signed appeals throughout the year, AI will gather evidence that people everywhere support human rights. On behalf of signatories, the organization will present appeals to the United Nations and to representatives of individual governments in December, during the international observance of Human Rights Day.

In addition to distributing the appeal and providing local communities with information about both their own rights and current human rights concerns, AI representatives throughout the world are meeting officials of their governments. They are urging the officials to promote human rights by taking specific steps, which include:



By raising a poster, lighting a candle, or joining in countless other activities, individuals become activists. These activists spread the word about human rights and pressure governments to stop abuses.

■ Adhering to international and regional human rights treaties and ensuring respect for international standards articulated in relevant agreements;

■ Marking genuine commitment to human rights treaties by taking steps such as introducing public human rights education programs into their national culture;

■ Making human rights protection a goal of foreign policy by opposing violations abroad, promoting human rights through diplomatic channels and in other appropriate fora, and acting to help victims of abuse.

Ordinary citizens can influence government policies AI has found in 27 years of international experience, by translating personal commitment into campaign ac-

tion. A goal of AI's 1988 campaign is to oblige individual governments not only to respect human rights within their own territories, but also to monitor other governments' human rights records and to participate in international efforts which protect rights whenever and wherever they are threatened.

AI maintains that each government must develop a comprehensive program to promote human rights. The country's laws and legal procedures must protect fundamental rights. Police, law enforcement officers and military personnel who enforce law must receive proper training.

In addition, complaints of torture and other human rights abuses should be thoroughly in-



vestigated by impartial bodies. Efforts also should be undertaken to inform citizens of their rights and of means to report alleged abuses. Strengthened government commitment to these measures increases protection of human rights activists themselves.

AI is addressing abuses against human rights activists and other individuals by disseminating information about inviolable rights and facts about the abuses now occurring. The organization challenges governments which attempt to conceal facts and silence their critics.

AI's 1988 campaign will take place in the climate of change created by over 1,000 independent human rights groups throughout the world. The efforts of these



Demonstrations are one way of drawing attention to the plight of prisoners of conscience.

groups have intensified public demand for governments to act on their human rights commitments.

Legal and medical associations, religious groups, trade unions, and other organizations are joining in AI's 1988 campaign, working with AI members and supporters in 150 countries towards the common goal of making human rights a reality in all people's lives

— NOW. □

**"We have waited long enough. Our demand and the demand of all those for whom we work is Human Rights Now."**

Franca Sciuto,  
Chairperson of AI's  
International Executive  
Committee;  
São Paulo,  
9 December 1987

## YOU CAN DO SOMETHING TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS NOW

Please sign this appeal and send it by 31 October 1988 to Amnesty International/International Secretariat/Campaign and Membership Department/1 Easton Street/London WC1X 8DJ/United Kingdom. Your signature, along with those of people living around the world, will be presented to the United Nations and to representatives of individual governments in observance of Human Rights Day, 10 December 1988.

ALL HUMAN BEINGS are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

THIS is the historic promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by governments in the United Nations 40 years ago.

WE, the undersigned, add our names to this great declaration, demanding that it be respected by all governments throughout the world.

IN COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY even the right to speak up in defence of human rights is being crushed. Thousands have been jailed and tortured for demanding and exercising their rights. Many have "disappeared" or been killed.

THESE ABUSES MUST STOP. We call on all governments to ratify the world's human rights treaties, to bring their own laws and practices into line with them, and to act to protect human rights worldwide.

ON BEHALF OF THE VICTIMS who have been seized and silenced, we appeal to every government and to the United Nations to protect all those, wherever they may be, who raise their voices in defence of human rights.

(name)

(address)



## MAURITANIA

## Three executed for alleged plot

Three military officers were executed in Mauritania on 6 December 1987. They had been sentenced to death three days earlier by a special security court for plotting to overthrow the government. These were the first executions reported since the present government came to power in 1984.

Lieutenants Saïdy Ba, Amadou Sarr and Saidou Sy were among 51 members of the black population, all but four of them members of the armed forces, arrested on 22 October. They were charged with plotting to kill the head of state and senior government ministers and to overthrow the government. Eighteen of the defendants were sentenced to hard labour for life, nine to 20 years' hard labour, and others to shorter prison terms. Seven were acquitted, including Colonel Anne Amadou Babaly, a former government minister and the most senior officer on trial, who had been charged with failing to inform the authorities about the plot.

The trial took place *in camera* at a military barracks outside the capital, Nouakchott, before a special court which has jurisdiction over state security cases. In other political cases, defendants have not been allowed access to lawyers during pre-trial investigations, and defence lawyers have only been able to consult the prosecution dossier immediately before the trial. Those convicted by such courts have no right of appeal.

Protests against the executions are reported to have led to further arrests in the black community.

Widespread arrests occurred in late 1986 following the conviction

of 21 black community leaders sentenced to long terms of imprisonment and internal exile after distributing a document which accused the predominantly Arab-Berber military government of discrimination against the black population. □

## SINGAPORE

## POCs released

Five prisoners of conscience detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) were released conditionally on 20 December 1987.

They are businessperson Chia Boon Tai, advertising executive Kenneth Tsang, publisher Theresa Lim, and sub-editors William Yap and Tay Hong Seng.

They were among 22 people detained in May and June accused of involvement in a "Marxist conspiracy" intended to subvert the social and political order of Singapore. However, AI considered them prisoners of conscience. The Internal Security Act allows for indefinite detention without trial.

Only one of those arrested in 1987, Vincent Cheng, the Executive Secretary of the Singapore Justice and Peace Commission, remains in detention. □

## Five executed in PDRY

Five people were executed by firing-squad in al-Mansura Prison in Aden on 29 December 1987, two days after their death sentences were ratified by the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, the head of state.

All were sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of the Republic on 12 December after having been convicted of treason and other charges relating to the fighting in January 1986 between rival factions of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party.

The five are Faruq 'Ali Ahmad, Hadi Ahmad Naser, 'Alawi Husayn Farhan and Ahmad Husayn Musa, former top government, military and party officials, and Mubarak Salem Ahmad, a bodyguard of former head of state 'Ali Naser Muham-

mad. Another 24 people were sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of the Republic in the same trial, but their sentences were commuted on 27 December to 15 years' imprisonment.

AI sent urgent appeals to Aden following the announcement of the verdict on 12 December 1987, urging the commutation of all death sentences on humanitarian grounds. After the sentences were confirmed AI appealed for the executions not to be carried out. □



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# DETAINED

## 19 picked up in swoop

Reports on  
Pages 2 & 3



In the aftermath of the arrests in Malaysia, three national newspapers had their licences withdrawn for publishing material "prejudicial to national security". They included *The Star*, which featured some of those detained on 27 October, when the arrests started, in its last issue before it was banned.

## MALAYSIA

## Detentions without trial

Thirty-three of 106 people detained without trial between late October and mid-November 1987 had their detention extended in December when the Malaysian Government imposed detention orders on them.

They include seven members of parliament of the opposition Democratic Action Party; members of the opposition *Parti Islam Se-Malaysia*; prominent educationalists and environmentalists, and members of social and religious action groups.

Fifty-five people are believed to have been released unconditionally and a further 10 to have been released conditionally with restrictions imposed on their freedom of movement and association. The others are still held for investigation.

The Internal Security Act (ISA) provides for unlimited detention without trial for anyone whose actions are deemed by the government to be "prejudicial to the security of Malaysia or any part thereof". The Prime Minister told parliament that the arrests were necessary to prevent the outbreak of race riots. Those detained were

initially held for police investigation for the 60 days permitted under the Act, at the end of which the Prime Minister issued detention orders for those not released.

On 24 November the Kuala Lumpur High Court rejected applications for *habeas corpus* filed *in absentia* by eight of the detainees challenging their detention, stating that the arrests did not contradict the Federal Constitution as they were made under a valid legal power, and that the onus was on the detainees to show that the authorities had acted in "bad faith" by arresting them.

Appeals to the Supreme Court by three applicants were dismissed on 23 December after one of them, Chandra Muzaffar, President of the social reform movement ALIRAN, had been released prior to the hearing, and three other applicants had withdrawn their appeals. AI sent observers to both hearings. □

## HAITI

## Unarmed civilians summarily killed

At least 30 people were killed by *tontons macoutes* in Port-au-Prince alone on 29 November when scheduled elections were called off after only three hours of voting.

AI called urgently on the Haitian authorities to prevent further killings of unarmed civilians and to investigate reports that armed *tontons macoutes* had killed voters in polling booths with the active support of uniformed security personnel who appeared to be acting under orders from high-ranking army officers. The *tontons macoutes* militia, created in 1958 by former President François Duvalier, were officially disbanded when the National Council of Government (CNG) came to power in February 1986.

AI also expressed concern at reports that dozens of people arrested in the weeks leading up to the elections were secretly imprisoned without charge or trial in detention centres in the capital, including the Criminal Investigations Department based at the main police headquarters, the *Casernes Dessalines* military barracks and Fort Dimanche. According to an eye-witness, at least 46 young people were summarily executed at Fort Dimanche on 28 November, after being rounded up indiscriminately by the army in the Carrefour Feuille area of Port-au-Prince.

AI's concerns about political imprisonment in Haiti are described in *Deaths in detention, torture and inhuman prison conditions*, a report based mainly on the testimonies of three people imprisoned during 1987. Brothers Yves and Carl Auguste, and Daniel Narcisse, testified that dozens of prisoners, including children, were detained at the Criminal Investigations Department for weeks or months without charge and without access to family or lawyers.

Daniel Narcisse said that 43 people had died in detention, as a result of beatings or injuries or from malnutrition, dehydration and diarrhoea, over a six-week period between August and October 1987. Another more recent report suggests that as many as 200 people died between mid-September and mid-November.

The testimonies also contain al-

legations consistent with information from other sources that top army officials from the Criminal Investigations Department and the *Casernes Dessalines* are involved in the "death squad" style activities that have been occurring in the past few months. AI has addressed the Haitian authorities on many occasions recently about these and other concerns but has received no response. □



These two women were among at least 30 people killed by militia in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, during elections which were called off after three hours of voting. © AP

## AI mission to Egypt

An AI mission visited Egypt at the end of December for wide-ranging talks with government officials. Delegates met the Ministers of Justice and Interior, who both expressed willingness to cooperate with AI and to facilitate follow-up talks in the near future between AI and officials in their ministries.

AI's delegates also met the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and the Prosecutor General, both of whom ex-

## EL SALVADOR

## Death in prison

Gerardo Hernández Torres died at Mariona men's prison, San Salvador, in the early hours of 16 December 1987, apparently as a result of torture. His death is the first in a recognized detention centre to be reported to AI for several years.

The judge who certified Gerardo Hernández' body for burial found that he had died from "blows". According to the testimonies of two fellow inmates, Gerardo Hernández was severely tortured after his arrest on 12 December firstly by army personnel and then by the National Police.

The inmates said he was beaten while bound and blindfold, constantly threatened, and forced to take pills, after which he began

to hallucinate and babble incoherently; they said they also heard noises as if he were being choked or drowned. AI has asked for a full investigation into his death.

Gerardo Hernández' death followed the release from prison in November of over 400 untried political detainees in fulfilment of an amnesty promulgated under the terms of the Central American Peace Agreement signed by El Salvador in August. □

## KENYA

## Prisoners released

Gibson Kamau Kuria, a lawyer and law lecturer adopted by AI as a prisoner of conscience, was released from detention on 12 December 1987, the 24th anniversary of Kenya's independence. He had been held in administrative detention without charge or trial since 6 March 1987.

Following his release Gibson Kamau Kuria told reporters that during four days in Special Branch custody he had been interrogated naked, made to do physical exercises, abused and threatened with death. After he was placed in administrative detention, his conditions gradually improved. He attributed this partly to the work of AI and other human rights groups on his behalf.

Two other political detainees were released with him: Gacheche wa Miano, who had been in administrative detention since April 1986, and an unnamed former Kenya Airforce officer, believed to have been detained secretly since a coup attempt in August 1982.

Announcing the releases on 12 December, President Moi also criticized AI's work and threatened the organization's representatives with arrest in Kenya. AI has welcomed the releases but expressed concern at the President's remarks.

On 11 January two representatives of United States human rights organizations were arrested while observing an inquest into the death in custody of a political prisoner. They were questioned for seven hours, then released.

### Prisoner News

AI learned in December 1987 of the release of 109 prisoners under adoption or investigation. AI took up 49 cases.