



# Amnesty International

## newsletter

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### 12 AI-ADOPTEDS FREE

## Reports Cast Doubt on Bolivian Amnesty

Only 30 of the 71 persons released in an amnesty declared by Bolivia in December were truly political prisoners, according to reports reaching *AI* in January. At the time of the amnesty, permission was also granted for nine political exiles to return to Bolivia.

Twelve *AI*-adopted prisoners were among those released. They included MIRNA DEL RIO, one of 30 trade unionists detained in July 1975, who was on the *AI Prisoner of the Month Campaign* in December 1975. Most of the detained labour leaders remain in prison without charge or prospect of trial, or have been forced into exile.

Many of those released were either criminals or ex-prisoners not imprisoned at the time of the decree. In addition *AI* learned that 13 of those released were ex-prisoners detained only one week before the amnesty when, under probation regulations, they made their weekly visit to the Ministry of the Interior.

*AI* groups continue to work for over 40 Bolivian prisoners unaffected by the partial amnesty ■

### ZAMBIA DETAINS LECTURERS AND STUDENTS

Five lecturers and 17 students at the University of Zambia were reported detained between 31 January and 11 February. This followed President KENNETH KAUNDA'S decision to place Zambia under a full state of emergency on 28 January.

Dr LIONEL CLIFFE, a British political science lecturer, was the first to be arrested, on 31 January. His detention led to a storm of academic and student protest. Students staged a campus demonstration in support of Dr Cliffe on 7 February, and during the following two days four more academics, including lecturers GEORGE SIEMENSMA, DARIO LONGHI, and ROBERT MOLTENO, were arrested and detained, along with the total of 17 students. The university was officially closed on 9 February by the Zambian authorities ■

### W GERMANY SENTENCES TURKISH FRONT MEMBERS

Four members of the Turkish Liberation Front (PEF), YUKSEL UGURLU, HATICE YURTAS, OMER OZERTURGUT and MUSTAFA TUTKUN were sentenced on 30 January in Cologne, West Germany, to prison terms ranging from 18 months to 2 years. They had been accused of "participation in a criminal organization" (December 1975 *Newsletter*).

ELISABETH ZIEGLER-MULLER, the Swiss lawyer who attended the trial on *AI*'s behalf, has now submitted her report to *AI*'s International Executive Committee.

The sentences dated from their initial imprisonment on 4 May 1974, and the four were due for release at the end of the trial. However, three of them are still being held in detention since they are also under order of expulsion from the Federal Republic of Germany ■

### SOUTH KOREA JAILS JOURNALISTS

Two former journalists on the *Dong-A Ilbo* newspaper in South Korea have been given heavy prison sentences according to reports reaching *AI* recently.

LEE BU-YONG, aged 33, was sentenced on 31 December 1975 to 8 years' imprisonment with 8 years' suspension of civil rights to follow. SONG YU BO, aged 32, was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment with 4 years' suspension of civil rights.

Both men had been found guilty of violating Emergency Regulation Number 9 (a special presidential decree which severely limits the dissemination of information in South Korea), the Anti-Communist Law and the National Security Law.

Mr Lee is already adopted by *AI* and Mr Song is being adopted immediately ■

### AI PROBES 'IRREGULARITIES' IN COLOMBIA TRIAL

*AI* began inquiries in February into Colombian press reports of serious irregularities in a political trial held in January by a military court in Bogota.

Four men were convicted of participation in the assassination in September 1975 of the Inspector General of the Army, General RAMON ARTURO RINCON QUINONES. *AI* will support appeal measures in the civil courts which are scheduled to be introduced when the state of siege is suspended and constitutional guarantees are resumed.

At the time of his death, General Rincon was engaged in an investigation into corruption within the army's armament and munitions corporation, *Indumil*. The defence stressed the possibility that his assassination was carried out by members of the military itself, thus presenting the need for scapegoats.

According to press reports, one of the accused was proved by the defence to have been in a psychiatric hospital at the time of the event. A principal witness for the

### AI ASKS EGYPT FOR CLEMENCY

*AI* sent cables to President ANWAR SADAT of Egypt on 23 and 28 January requesting that the death sentences passed on SAMIR BASILI and IBRAHIM SAID SHAHIN, a Palestinian, be commuted on humanitarian grounds. The second cable also commended the president's decision to release Mr Shahin's Egyptian wife, INSAH ALI MOUSSA.

All three were charged with spying for Israel. Mr Basili was sentenced to death in January 1975. However, he alleged that he had been tortured in prison, and the date of his execution was postponed on the orders of the prosecutor general so that a medical investigation could be arranged.

Ibrahim Said Shahin and Inrah Ali Moussa were both charged in November 1975 and were sentenced to death. President Sadat ordered the release of Inrah Moussa to allow her to bring up her children.

*AI* is also investigating the cases of four left-wingers detained without trial since 3 July 1975 in Cairo. They are accused of forming a communist organization aimed at overthrowing the government. They were among a group of 20 who were originally arrested (December 1975 *Newsletter*).

Sixteen prisoners have been released pending trial. The four remaining detainees are two Iraqi nationals, MUZAHIM MUHYI HABIB AL TAKRITI and ABDUL KAZEM SHAKIR MAHMOUD, both former school-teachers in Baghdad, and two Egyptians, RASHAD MOUSTAFA MANSOUR and MAHMOUD AL SAYYID MAHMOUD, both workers in a textile company ■

prosecution, RICARDO QUIROGA, claimed that he had met fellow conspirators on the previous Sunday in a Bogota cafe, that the defence proved was closed on Sundays. He also claimed that he was told at an identification parade to point at the prisoner "in the red sweater".

The defence also produced medical evidence that another prosecution witness was a pathological liar. Fingerprints found in the assassins' car were shown not to belong to the accused.

Major GENARO NUNGO MENDEZ, the prosecutor, was sharply criticized for statements to the court in which he said that "to the military, everyone is guilty until proven otherwise . . . [It is] better to condemn an innocent man than to acquit a guilty one, as among the innocent one might be guilty".

He also stated that in military courts suspicion should be adequate for conviction and that there should be no appeals ■

## REPORTS OF DEATH SENTENCES AND EXECUTIONS IN IRAQ

*AI's* Secretary General wrote to Foreign Minister SA'ADOUN HAMMADI of Iraq on 10 February to express concern at a number of reports of death sentences and executions in the country. The Iraqi ambassador in London later dismissed the reports as "sheer fabrication".

The reports mentioned the execution of 150 Kurds, either political prisoners or members of the Kurdish armed forces, since the Iran/Iraq agreement in March 1975.

Death sentences also were reportedly passed on 70 political prisoners in Abu Ghareib prison in Baghdad and on a large number of Kurds in Mosul prison.

In a reply to Mr Ennal's letter the Iraqi ambassador, ABDUL MALIK AL YASIN said on 23 February that "the government of Iraq, having recognised the national rights of the Kurdish people, . . . has declared *general amnesty* in respect to those who had taken part in Kurdish armed movement in the north part of Iraq" ■

## YUGOSLAVIA TRIES FOUR 'COMINFORMISTS'

An *AI* observer Dr M.J. BROEKMEYER of Amsterdam University, was unable to attend a political trial which began in Belgrade on 9 February because of a decision to hold the trial *in camera*.

The four defendants, DUSAN BRKIĆ, MILOVAN STEVANOVIC, RADOVAN ZIGIC and LJUBOMIR RADULOVIC were charged with committing "crimes against the state" between 1968 and 1975 in connection with the "cominformist" criticism of developments in Yugoslavia since 1948. Mr Brkić was formerly prime minister of the Croatian Republic and Mr Stevanović was once editor of the national news agency *Tanjug*.

Dr Broekmeyer was, however, able to discuss the case with Dr DUSAN COTIC, the Federal Deputy Minister of Justice and Dr VUCO GOCETIC, the Federal Public Prosecutor.

As this *Newsletter* goes to print the final outcome of the trial is not known ■

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## Fourth death sentence for HRKAC

*AI* national sections sent telegrams in February to President JOSIP BROZ TITO of Yugoslavia urging commutation of the death sentence recently passed, for the fourth time, on the alleged terrorist MILJENKO HRKAC. On the three previous occasions the death sentence was commuted.

Mr Hrkać, a 28-year-old Croatian, was accused of involvement in three terrorist actions, including a bomb explosion in a Belgrade cinema in 1968, and of belonging to the terrorist organization, *Ustasha* ■

## AI OBSERVER ATTENDS TRIAL IN SOUTH AFRICA

An *AI* observer CHARLES T. DUNCAN, Dean of the Howard University Law School in the United States, was in South Africa

from 3 to 13 February to attend the trial of nine members of the South African Students Organization (SASO) and the Black Peoples' Convention (BPC). The trial, which started in April 1975, resumed in Pretoria on 2 February. The defendants, who face maximum sentences of death if found guilty, are being charged under the Terrorism Act (November 1975 *Newsletter*) ■

## AI PROTESTS SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN UK

An Irish-born prisoner, whose long period in solitary confinement had aroused *AI's* concern, died in Britain's Wakefield Prison on 11 February while on hunger strike.

The prisoner, FRANK STAGG, had been serving a 10-year prison term passed on him in November 1973 for alleged "conspiracy to commit arson and criminal damage", a charge connected with the troubles in Northern Ireland.

He had been in solitary confinement for 11 months as punishment for refusing to work under what he maintained were intolerable conditions. His conditions for ending his hunger strike were that he be sent to a Northern Ireland prison and that, as a "political" prisoner, he be exempted from work and receive a guarantee that he would not be put in solitary confinement.

*AI* Deputy Secretary General HANS EHRENSTRALE wrote to the United Kingdom Home Secretary ROY JENKINS on 23 January urging him on humanitarian grounds to "give assurances to Mr Stagg that he will not be returned to solitary confinement".

Mr Jenkins replied to *AI* on 28 January stating that "cellular confinement" is a form of punishment laid down in the prison rules and approved by parliament. Mr Jenkins also stated that political status could not be granted to any convicted prisoner in Great Britain ■

## PHILIPPINE PRISONERS GO ON HUNGER STRIKE

Fourteen political prisoners in the Philippines began a hunger strike on 5 January in Camp Olivias, Pampanga.

Father EDICIO DE LA TORRE and 13 other detainees are protesting against the authorities' refusal to grant them bail. If bail is not granted they want two nursing mothers among them released or at least placed under house arrest and other prisoners transferred to the Youth Rehabilitation Center at Fort Bonifacio. They claim they are ill-treated at Camp Olivias and wish to be near their families in Manila.

The group was arrested in December 1974. The government alleged they had been inciting people to disregard lawful order and conspiring to commit rebellion ■

## AI URGES BENIN TO COMMUTE DEATH SENTENCES

*AI* Deputy Secretary General HANS EHRENSTRALE sent a cable to President MATHIEU KEREKOU of Benin (formerly Dahomey) on 4 February urging him to

commute the death sentences passed by the Revolutionary Council on 11 persons on 1 and 2 February.

Four other people were imprisoned for periods ranging from 20 years to life. Another four were acquitted. At least nine of the 15 persons sentenced were not present at the trial and were sentenced *in absentia*.

The accused were charged with involvement in an alleged plot to overthrow the government of President Kerekou. According to the government, the plot was organized on behalf of Dr EMILE ZINSOU, a former president of Benin now living in exile in Europe. Dr Zinsou was sentenced to death in his absence in March 1975 for his alleged involvement in an abortive coup attempt in January 1975 ■

## AI QUERIES REPORTS OF EVICTIONS FROM PORTUGAL

Major RORIGO MANUEL LOPEZ DE SOUSA E CASTRO of the Portuguese Revolutionary Council, replying to a letter from *AI*, assured the International Secretariat in January that its concern at the reported ill-treatment of a number of young foreigners in Portugal had been considered. The Portuguese Communist Party also wrote to *AI* on 21 January that no measures had been taken to return foreign residents in Portugal to their countries of origin.

*AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS had written to Major Sousa e Castro and to the four major Portuguese political parties on 23 December 1975 and 9 January respectively. The first letter followed reports of official investigations into the "counter-revolutionary" activities of foreign "leftists".

Mr Ennals expressed the hope that, if steps were taken to expel non-Portuguese citizens from the country, "the greatest care would be taken to avoid returning South American or other political refugees to any country where they might be subjected to persecution".

The second letter was sent after further reports in early January that legislation would be drafted to evict non-Portuguese leftwing activists from Portugal ■

## FRANCE COMMUTES DEATH SENTENCE

President VALÉRY GISCARD D'ESTAING of France commuted on 11 February the death sentence passed on a 17-year-old minor, BRUNO T. to a sentence of life imprisonment.

Following confirmation of the death sentence by the Court of Cassation (the French supreme appeal court), *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS cabled an appeal for commutation on 15 January to President Giscard d'Estaing. This was followed by a letter explaining *AI's* opposition to the imposition and infliction of the death penalty. Several *AI* national sections have written in similar terms to the president.

Bruno T. had been found guilty of the murder of an elderly woman and was sentenced to death by the court of Beauvais in October 1975. Because he is a minor, his full name is not published ■



# Prisoners of the Month Campaign

Participants in the Campaign are reminded that appeals must only be sent to the officials named at the end of each case. In *no* circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner.

## Vassilius RAFTUDIS, Greece

VASSILIUS RAFTUDIS is one of many Jehovah's Witnesses in Greece who are imprisoned because of their refusal to perform military service. He was sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment by a military court in October 1974, but this sentence was subsequently reduced to 4 years' imprisonment.

The right to conscientious objection does not exist in Greece. The new Greek constitution, which was ratified by the national parliament on 7 June 1975, reaffirmed that "every Greek capable of bearing arms is obliged to contribute to the defence of the Fatherland as provided by law". It also states that "No person shall be exempted from discharging his obligations to the State or may he refuse to comply with the laws by reason of religious convictions". The only imprisoned conscientious objectors in Greece known to AI are Jehovah's Witnesses, whose religious beliefs prevent them from performing military service.

*Please send courteously worded appeals for the release of Vassilius Raftudis and all imprisoned conscientious objectors in Greece to: Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis, Athens, Greece: and to: Mr Constantine Stephanakis, Minister of Justice, Socratous and Zenonos, Athens, Greece.*

## Vladimir Y. MAKAROV, Bulgaria

VLADIMIR YURIEVICH MAKAROV, aged 61, a former researcher in chemistry and recently retired, was arrested in September 1973 for "ideological subversion against the interests of Bulgaria and the Soviet Union". His trial took place in Sofia and he was sentenced on 13 February 1974 to 5 years' imprisonment and a fine of 1,000 leva. He was tried with THEODOSSI BELYAKOVSKI and a French citizen, CATHERINE LVOFF, who were sentenced to 3 and 4 years respectively. French diplomatic intervention resulted in the release of Catherine Lvoff three weeks after the trial (May 1975 Newsletter).

Vladimir Makarov, like Theodossi Belyakovski, was born in pre-revolutionary Russia and his parents emigrated to Bulgaria. After World War II Mr Makarov applied for Soviet nationality. His Russian connections played a substantial part in the official accusation which charged him with having formed an anti-state group whose aim was the destruction of the socialist order in Bulgaria and the Soviet Union.

He was also accused of disseminating "slandorous fascist literature and propaganda material" which presumably referred to the

publications found in the possession of the three accused. These included writings, printed in emigré publications, by dissident Russian and Soviet authors such as Berdyaev, Bukovsky, Sakharov and Solzhenitsyn.

All three defendants rejected the charge that they were working for foreign intelligence agencies and, although this false accusation was published in the Bulgarian press, it was never mentioned during the trial itself. Vladimir Makarov was also accused of maintaining contact since 1966 with his relatives in Belgium, from whom it was alleged he was receiving subversive literature.

*Please send courteously worded cards asking for Vladimir Makarov's release to: His Excellency Todor Zhivkov, Chairman of the State Council, Sofia, Bulgaria.*

## Abdelaziz MENEHBI, Morocco

ABDELAZIZ MENEHBI, then in his early twenties, was among a number of students arrested in the spring of 1972 following demonstrations in Morocco and the distribution of leaflets which the government considered subversive. His trial took place in August 1973 in Casablanca, together with that of 80 leftwing students and intellectuals. He was one of 30 tried *in absentia*. Since he was president of the Moroccan student's union (UNEM) and an obvious leader of the protest movement, Abdelaziz Menebhi was sentenced to life imprisonment.

At the time of his trial the authorities claimed that he had escaped from detention. In fact he was still being held by the police, along with several other student leaders, and was probably too ill as a result of torture to appear in court. In February 1974 he was transferred from police detention to Casablanca prison and placed in solitary confinement. He has not yet received a fair trial.

Twice during 1975 he went on hunger strike as a protest against being tried *in absentia* and against prison conditions. After 35 days on hunger strike he was taken to hospital in a very serious condition. Subsequently he has had to spend further periods in hospital because his health is seriously impaired.

Abdelaziz Menebhi has still not been brought to trial. He remains in solitary confinement although it is thought that he has been allowed a few visits from his family and is receiving slightly better care.

*Please send courteously worded appeals asking for his release to: Sa Majesté le Roi Hassan II, Rabat, Morocco.*

## News of Past Campaigns

### Zouheir Al Shulak, Syria

The International Secretariat has received a message of thanks from ZOUHEIR AL SHULAK in Syria who was on the *AI Prisoner of the Month Campaign* in November 1975 and is still in prison. It is the first time a message has been received from a Syrian prison as a result of an *AI* campaign.

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MARTIN SOSTRE, the American prisoner of conscience (May 1975 Campaign), was released from prison on 6 February. He had been granted executive clemency by Governor HUGH CAREY of New York on 24 December 1975 (February Newsletter).

## LIBYA ARRESTS SEVEN FOR POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

*AI* in February took up the cases of seven Libyans, six of whom were arrested on 3 September 1975 and one in January 1976 for alleged membership of a secret political organization. They are said to be former members of the now disbanded Ba'ath Party and Arab Nationalist Movement. Four are employees, or members of the board, of Occidental Petroleum Corporation. The others are a businessman, a lawyer and a geologist.

They are reportedly held in a farmhouse in the village of Tajura, about 10 kilometers from Tripoli. As far as is known, none have been charged or tried. Under the recently amended penal code, they could face the death sentence.

In the wake of the "Popular Revolution" large numbers of Libyans were arrested in April 1973 for their alleged membership of illegal political parties — all political parties were banned in 1970 except the Arab Socialist Union. About 40 remain in detention without trial and their cases have also been taken up by *AI*.

## GABON PRESIDENT GRANTS AMNESTY

President OMAR BONGO of Gabon granted an amnesty on 31 December 1975 to seven political prisoners who were sentenced in July 1975 to prison terms of 2 to 8 years for alleged subversive activities. Four of the prisoners were *AI* investigation cases.

The seven were arrested in 1972 and held without trial for almost three years. Their trial followed a major *AI* campaign, launched in February 1975, to appeal for a general amnesty for Gabonese political prisoners (March 1975 Newsletter).

Under a presidential clemency on 17 August 1975, President Bongo reduced the prison sentences by one year. The amnesty of 31 December 1975 appears to have freed all the convicted prisoners.

**PRISONER RELEASES AND CASES**  
The International Secretariat learned in January of the release of 119 *AI*-adopted prisoners and took up 109 new cases □

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BRIEFING ON SINGAPORE

*AI* on 29 February criticized violations of human rights in the Republic of Singapore, pointing out that some political prisoners had been detained without trial for more than 13 years.

In a 12-page briefing paper – the first of a series *AI* is producing to summarize the available information on political imprisonment and other violations of human rights in individual countries—the organization expresses concern at the use of internal security legislation and complex citizenship and banishment laws in Singapore as means to repress legitimate, non-violent political opposition.

The paper also expresses concern at: – “the use of caning, which leaves permanent scars, as punishment for certain criminal offences”; – “Singapore’s frequent imposition and carrying out of the death penalty, as punishment for certain crimes”; – “the control and intimidation of the press by the government, which has led to the arrest and detention of journalists”.

The paper estimates that the Singapore government is presently detaining without trial about 40 men and women as political prisoners, including three—SAID ZAHARI, Dr LIM HOCK SIEW and HO TOON CHIN—who have been held untried since February 1963. The detainees include a number of opposition politicians, journalists, trade unionists, students and others.

The paper, which explains the legal framework under which they are held, also describes the detention centers and refers to allegations by ex-detainees and detainees’ families that political prisoners are subjected to “mental and physical tortures”.

*AI* wrote to Prime Minister LEE KUAN YEW on 28 January, urging that all political prisoners be brought to a fair trial or released immediately and that the use of caning and the death penalty cease. But no reply had been received to date from the Singapore government.

*Amnesty International Briefing on Singapore* (see above) launches a new series of *AI* publications on the infringement of human rights in individual countries. Concise and factual, these reference papers summarize the available information on political imprisonment, torture and capital punishment in each country.

These briefing papers on countries from varying geographical and political groupings are available from Amnesty International Publications, 53 Theobald’s Road, London WC1X 8SP, England. The price for the individual paper is 40p (US \$1.00) plus 20% for postage. The inclusive subscription for the 10 papers is £6 (US \$15).

## Feature

### Argentina’s ‘Trelew Massacre’ Leaves Legacy of Violence

*AI* is concerned at reports received in February of the abduction of MARIA DEL VALLE SANTUCHO from her parents’ home in Argentina on 19 December 1975 by security forces. The next day they returned her to a relative’s house where the signs of beating were seen on her body. She was then taken away again. She has not been seen since.

A writ of *habeas corpus* was presented on her behalf on 26 December 1975 by her family to the national and provincial tribunals but, despite the evidence of witnesses, the writ failed because the security forces denied that she was in detention.

Maria del Valle Santucho is the latest member of the Santucho family to be abducted or detained because of a connection with victims of the “Trelew Massacre”. Other families of the dead and of survivors of the “Trelew Massacre” have been similarly victimized and some have been killed.

The events surrounding the “Trelew Massacre” began on 15 August 1972 when a group of guerrillas escaped from Rawson prison in Argentina. Nineteen were quickly recaptured and imprisoned in the Trelew Naval Base but, within a week, 16 of them had been killed by the guards, including ANNA MARIA VILLAREAL SANTUCHO. Her husband MARIO ROBERTO SANTUCHO, secretary general of the Workers’ Revolutionary Party, *Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores* (PRT) and a leader of the Peoples’ Revolutionary Army, *Ejercito Revolucionario del Pueblo*, escaped from Trelew.

Official statements claimed that the dead were shot while attempting to escape. In view of the tight security conditions and the evidence of survivors, this claim was not believed by the relatives of the dead or by political, legal and human rights groups.

Shortly after this, the *Alianza Argentina Anticomunista* (AAA), an organization responsible for many of the politically motivated assassinations, threatened to eliminate the families of those who had died

at Trelew and of those who had escaped from Rawson prison.

Since early 1975, the Santucho family has been subjected to extreme harassment. AMILCAR SANTUCHO, Mario Roberto Santucho’s brother, was a defence lawyer for political prisoners. He and his wife, MANUELA, were threatened by the AAA early in 1975. He is now believed to be imprisoned in Paraguay.

GRACIELA NOEMI SANTUCHO his 18-year-old daughter was arrested on 31 May 1975 in a mass roundup in Buenos Aires. Then OFELIA RUIZ DE SANTUCHO, the widow of Mario Roberto’s brother ASDRUBAL SANTUCHO who had been killed in an armed clash in Tucuman, and her four children, nine other adults and a small baby were arrested on 8 and 9 December 1975. Ofelia and the children have been released although the remainder of the adults are apparently still in detention.

Members of the immediate families of two other Trelew victims, MARIANA PUJADA and CLARISA ROSA LEAPLACE, have been killed.

Through the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture, *AI* members throughout the world have sent telegrams on various occasions to the Argentine authorities urging them to intervene in order to protect the families of the “Trelew Massacre” victims against possible violence.

## AI PROMOTION CAMPAIGN OFFICE ESTABLISHED IN LUXEMBOURG

Headquarters were established in Luxembourg in February for the worldwide promotion and fundraising campaign which *AI* will conduct in 1977 (February *Newsletter*).

GUY BINSFELD of the Luxembourg Section, whom the International Executive Committee has named campaign organizer, began talks with national section and IEC members and at the International Secretariat in London aimed at building an infrastructure for the campaign.

Until his appointment, Mr Binsfeld, aged 39, headed Luxembourg’s largest advertising and public relation firm which he himself founded. He has been a member of *AI* since 1972 and was the architect of the 1974 and 1975 section fundraising campaigns that all together raised more than 3 million Belgian francs.

The address of the new campaign headquarters in Luxembourg is Amnesty International, Promotion Department, P.O. box 1341, Luxembourg, 3 rue de Glacis, phone: 26946, telex: 1369 (INTER LU).

## AI News in Brief

**Ghana Arrests Author.** *AI* prepared in February to take up the case of Dr KOFI AWOONOR, a prominent Ghanaian author who was arrested on 31 December 1975. Dr Awoonor was spending a sabbatical year at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana after teaching in the USA. He was arrested at the university and taken to Accra for questioning. He was still being held without charge or trial in mid January.

**Syria Releases AI-Adoptee.** *AI* learned in February of the release in January of *AI*-adopted prisoner MUHAMMAD BASAL in Syria. Mr Basal was imprisoned on 5 June 1972 for his political opinions.

**Changes of Addresses.** The address of the Canadian Section is now: PO Box 6033, 2101 Algonquin Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1T1.

**Amnesty International of the USA.** The telephone and telex numbers of the United States section are: Telephone 212 787 8906; Telex 66628.

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amnesty international

## campaign for the abolition of torture

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MONTHLY BULLETIN



### *Soviet Doctors Accused* **PLYUSHCH DESCRIBES TREATMENT**

The released dissident Ukrainian mathematician LEONID PLYUSHCH (February *Newsletter*) accused Soviet doctors from the Dnepropetrovsk psychiatric hospital of assisting police interrogations and of systematically ill-treating political detainees with punitive injections of drugs and sulphur.

Speaking at a news conference in Paris on 3 February, he thanked the numerous individuals and organizations, including *AI*, involved in the intensive international campaign which resulted in his release from the special psychiatric hospital on 8 January.

Mr Plyushch described the conditions in the special psychiatric hospital, where he had been detained since July 1973. Among the mentally ill and the violent criminals held there were some 60 political internees arrested for "anti-soviet actions" or for having tried to leave the USSR, he said. In addition to their constant seclusion with deranged and often violent patients, political detainees were singled out for particularly vindictive treatment by the doctors.

He told how he arrived at the hospital with a group of convicted thieves who had thought the psychiatric hospital an easy option after prison, but who had demanded to be returned to prison after only one day there. The overcrowded wards were filled with patients in all stages of derangement and suffering.

Many patients were writhing in pain and screaming from injections of haloperidol or of sulphur which raises the body temperature to 40° centigrade. These injections were administered as punishment by ward orderlies, who were often convicted criminals. Other inmates were constantly begging to use toilet facilities, which were denied them for supposed misdemeanours.

Beatings were commonplace. Before Mr Plyushch's arrival, a number of inmates, including one political prisoner, had been beaten to death by orderlies. Punishment was arbitrarily administered on the most petty pretexts, and prisoners were often afraid to protest to their doctors for fear of receiving sulphur injections.

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## *AI* Launches Worldwide Campaign Against Torture in Uruguay

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL launched a major international campaign against torture and other gross violations of human rights in Uruguay on 20 February. To support these charges of brutal repression of dissent, *AI* issued a list of 22 persons who reportedly died at the hands of Uruguayan torturers between May 1972 and November 1975. Events have overtaken the publication of the list: since its completion in November 1975, *AI* has learned of the death of two more persons under torture.

In January *AI* estimated that the number of political prisoners in Uruguay was nearly 6,000—a ratio of one prisoner for every 450 citizens. One out of every 50 Uruguayans belongs to the military or police forces.

The most sinister aspect of Uruguay's repressive apparatus is the widespread and systematic use of torture which is routine practice in political cases. The torture practices include the "sawhorse" (placing the victim with legs apart on a sharp bar which is rocked), the "planton" (prolonged standing in a fixed position, hooded, without food or water), burning with cigarettes, electric shocks, especially on sensitive parts of the body, the "submarine" (near-drowning by submersion of the head in water which is often filthy), the "dry submarine" (near-suffocation by tying a plastic bag over the head), thirst, hunger and the prevention of sleep, the use of drugs such as pentothal and hallucinogens and various forms of psychological torture.

Of the 600-700 persons detained in a wave of arrests at the end of 1975 (most of them members or supporters of the banned Communist Party), at least 10 were reportedly transferred later to a military hospital suffering from serious injuries. Some were in a critical condition.

The political prisoners in Uruguay include workers, students, doctors, former parliamentarians, trade unionists, lawyers and teachers. They are held in overcrowded prisons, police stations and military barracks that often lack the most basic necessities. Their civil and legal rights are violated by the system of military justice. Trade union rights have been totally suppressed and several trade union buildings have been confiscated and turned into police stations and interrogation centers.

Although communists appear to be the main target of persecution, socialists, Christian Democrats and members of the traditional right-of-center *Colorado* (Red) and *Blanco* (White) parties have also been victimized.

During March *AI* will be conducting one of its biggest ever international campaigns to draw the attention of world public opinion to the use of torture and other human rights

violations in Uruguay. A petition is being circulated worldwide calling for an independent international investigation into repression practised by the regime. *AI* sent the list of torture victims to President JUAN MARIA BORDABERRY in December 1975 and requested permission for such an impartial investigation, but no reply has been received.

Another objective of the campaign is to stimulate—despite conditions of strict censorship—a dialogue about these problems with a broad spectrum of Uruguayan officials. *AI* members and groups in more than 60 countries throughout the world are writing to individual military and civilian authorities informing them of the concern of the international community and of the hope that fundamental rights will be restored in Uruguay. Support is also being sought from many other individuals and organizations, including professional bodies, churches, trade unions, businessmen, teachers, students, parliamentarians and journalists.

*Tortured to Death in Uruguay: 22 Known Cases*, 8 pages, may be obtained free of charge in English, Spanish and French from Amnesty International Publications, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England. See petition form overleaf. ■

### ALLEGED TERROR PROMPTS NIGERIAN REPATRIATION

An estimated 50,000 Nigerian immigrant workers have returned to Nigeria from Equatorial Guinea where they were allegedly subjected to torture, death, imprisonment and loss of property, according to a report received at the International Secretariat in January. Returning as part of a Nigerian government-sponsored repatriation scheme, the evacuees say that in some cases their wives were prevented by Equatorial Guinean soldiers from accompanying them. ■

# appeals

## PARAGUAY

A number of people have disappeared and are feared dead following the arrests of nearly 300 persons in Paraguay during December 1975. Some of those arrested were suspected members of the Communist Party, but many were not involved in political activities and included social scientists working among the indigenous population, as well as relatives of suspects or prisoners.

Most of the prisoners are held incommunicado, and numerous reports claim that at least some of them are being subject to severe torture. Relatives allegedly must pay bribes to get information about the imprisoned members of their families, even to find out if they are still alive.

Among those whose arrests have been denied but who have completely disappeared are HELIDORO VELAZQUEZ a textile worker, MARTIN BARROS a metalworker, PEDRO BARUA a builder and his wife DINA DE BARUA, NILO BENITEZ an agricultural worker, FEDERICO MALLORQUIN a student and HUGO MAGEREGGER.

Torture, prolonged detention without

trial and assassination are common in Paraguay. *El Sendero*, a publication of the Paraguay Episcopal Conference and the only surviving publication active in denouncing violations of human rights reported allegations that several unnamed pregnant women, who were among those arrested last December, had been tortured. Other sources have named SELVA RAMIREZ, a 25-year-old housewife who is six months pregnant and is reportedly held incommunicado at a police station in Asunción (*Comisaría 12 - Fernando de la Mora*). Her mother, MARIA LINA RODAS, has been in prison for eight years.

Another woman held incommunicado in an Asunción police station (*Comisaría Policial de Santísima Trinidad*) is 60-year-old PETRONA DE GONZALEZ, a woman of delicate health and the mother of seven. Her son RUBEN OCTAVIO GONZALEZ, a carpenter, is among those arrested and reportedly tortured.

Please write courteously worded letters, asking for an investigation of the disappearances, the lifting of incommunicado detentions and the release of all prisoners against whom there are no charges, to: President Alfredo Stroessner, Palacio de Gobierno, Asunción, Paraguay; and to: General Samaniego, Minister of Defence, Asunción, Paraguay. ■

## UN COMMISSION CALLS FOR ARREST OF CHILEAN TORTURER

GHULAM ALI ALLANA of Pakistan, chairman of a UN special committee on Chile, called in February for the arrest and trial of OSVALDO ROMO, who is mentioned as a torturer in many testimonies received by *AI*. The call came during the discussion of the working group's report by the UN Commission on Human Rights.

Ghulam Ali Allana, who heads the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to Inquire into the Present Situation of Human Rights in Chile, described Osvaldo Romo as "the master torturer of Chile". He said that the working group, which heard testimony from numerous victims, has massive evidence against him which "would shock the whole world if it was revealed".

Oswaldo Romo, also known as *Guaton* or "The Fat Stomach" is said to have worked for the Chilean secret police, DINA (*Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional*) from mid-1974 and to have been implicated in murder as well as torture and rape. Unlike other torturers who disguise their identities, Señor Romo has reportedly been known to introduce himself to his victim and to boast of his accomplishments.

One of the most notorious examples of his activities, reported to *AI*, was the death under torture of LUMI VIDELA MOYA, in November 1974. Her tortured body was tossed into the grounds of the Italian Embassy in Santiago. Señor Romo has been mentioned repeatedly as the agent responsible for her death under torture. It has been alleged that, before her death and the unconfirmed death of her husband SERGIO PEREZ MOLINA, their four-year-old son was maltreated in front of them. ■

## Plyushch Describes Treatment, continued from page 1, column 1.

For some political prisoners the "treatment" was more systematic. They were punished for any protest, whether actual or supposed, and were deliberately isolated from other sane inmates. Three political detainees in a neighbouring ward to Mr Plyushch had been heavily injected with barbamy, a barbiturate similar to pentothal, after being suspected of "plotting". They were so heavily dosed that they were left in a comatose state, despite simultaneous painful injections of sulphur.

In addition to being isolated from other sane prisoners, Mr Plyushch was subjected to constant denigration by his doctors. He was removed to an intensive surveillance ward with extremely violent inmates. Nurses and orderlies were not allowed to talk to him, and he was denied exercise in the courtyard.

The doctors questioned him on his human rights activities before his incarceration and described his actions as "schizophrenic". They also insinuated that his wife and children were suffering from the same illness. The aim appears to have been to get him to recant his former dissident activities, and to confess to his mental illness as diagnosed by the state. This he refused to do.

Mr Plyushch said he was able to observe his own moral, intellectual and emotional deterioration under the influence of neuroleptic drugs. He gradually lost all interest in political and scientific matters, and eventually in his own family, whom he came to fear and distrust. His memory disintegrated, and his speech became

disordered. He retreated into intense apathy, never moving from his bed. His sole remaining emotion was fear that this condition might prove irreversible.

Mr Plyushch appealed to those who had supported the campaign for his release to continue their activities on behalf of other Soviet political prisoners, including those in the special psychiatric hospitals. ■

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

### CAMPAIGN FOR THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE

"We, the undersigned, call upon the Government of Uruguay to allow an independent international body to investigate allegations of torture".

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

You can sign your name to this petition, which will be handed to the government of Uruguay in June 1976. Please send your signature to the Amnesty International section in your country, or to: Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England.