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### *Prisoners killed in Equatorial Guinea*

## APPEAL TO MACIAS NGUEMA

National Day in Equatorial Guinea has been observed every year on the fifth of March for the past decade. On that date in 1969, President MACIAS NGUEMA assumed absolute power, after announcing that he had uncovered a plot to overthrow him.

During his 10 years of absolute rule, the total number of arbitrary arrests in the country is believed to run into thousands. However, the death rate among prisoners is extremely high and few long-term prisoners are believed to be still alive.

Numerous deaths from torture and summary executions have taken place and thousands of Equatorial Guineans have gone into exile.

In an appeal coinciding with the country's National Day this year, *AI* has urged the President to release all prisoners held in the country for political and religious reasons.

*AI* also asked the President to order the release of Roman Catholic priests from detention. Spanish-born priests were expelled from Equatorial Guinea in June 1978 but local priests have been arrested and detained without trial, apparently for performing ceremonies such as baptisms and funerals. Such church services are now banned in the country.

The names of the individual priests have not been publicized by *AI* for fear that they might face reprisals.

Several hundred prisoners are believed to be held without trial in harsh conditions at prisons in the

country's capital, Malabo, and in the provincial city, Bata.

In an appeal to the Organization of African Unity in October 1978, *AI* pointed out that at least one out of every 500 of the country's 300,000 citizens had been executed in the past decade, most of them without trial.

Following President Macias Nguema's assumption of power in March 1969, a large number of the country's most prominent citizens were summarily executed. They included Foreign Minister, Atanasio NDONGO, and Equatorial Guinea's representative at the United Nations, Saturnino IBONGO. Both were claimed by official sources to have committed suicide shortly after their arrest.

In a statement on 3 October 1978, Ondo Obiang ALOGO, Equatorial Guinea's representative at the United Nations, said that "in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea there are no problems of human rights and far less any persistent violation of them" □

## Former officials are executed in Iran

More than 45 military officers and former members of the administration of the Shah of Iran, have now been executed in the country after trials by Islamic revolutionary courts.

*AI* has appealed to Ayatollah Ruhollah KHOMEINI and Prime Minister Mehdi BAZARGAN to halt all executions in the country.

In a statement issued on 22 February, *AI* urged the Iranian authorities to give careful consideration to the special need for open trials and adequate appeal procedures in cases which might result in the passing of death sentences.

*AI* has consistently opposed torture, executions, unfair trials and imprisonment of prisoners of conscience in Iran over the past 17 years. It opposes the death penalty in all cases □

## STOP PRESS

A Reuter news agency report on 16 March said that Ayatollah Khomeini had ordered the suspension of all political trials in Iran.

### TRIAL BEGINS IN TAIWAN

*AI* learned in early March that the trial of Yu Teng-fa and his son Yu Jui-yen, charged under the Statute for Punishment of Sedition (March Newsletter), was due to start in Taipei on 9 March.

Professor Toshiyuki Nishikawa of Waseda University in Tokyo left Japan for Taipei on 8 March to attend the trial as an *AI* observer.

Yu Teng-fa, a former magistrate aged 77, has been active in an opposition group calling for liberalization and an end to martial law in Taiwan.

## Algeria

### Ben Bella now in 14th year of detention

Former Algerian President Ahmed BEN BELLA is still in detention 14 years after his arrest was ordered by his successor, President Houari BOUMEDIENNE, who died in Algiers on 27 December 1978.

Ben Bella is now among the longest serving prisoners of conscience currently detained in the Middle East.

Following the 1965 coup which removed Ben Bella from power, President Boumedienne announced that a White Book listing Ben Bella's

"crimes" would be drawn up and that he would be tried on the basis of its findings. The book has never appeared and the trial has never taken place.

Ben Bella lives under house arrest with his wife in a small apartment heavily guarded by soldiers and police. He is not allowed to receive or send mail.

On 15 February, *AI* wrote to Algeria's newly-elected President, Colonel Benjedid CHADLY, urging him to consider the early release of former President Ben Bella from house arrest □

## Peru

### New briefing paper

Widespread short-term detention has emerged as a recurring pattern in the political life of Peru, according to information published by *AI* in a 12-page briefing paper in March.

The briefing paper is based on the April 1978 visit of an *AI* mission to Peru and contains information received early this year.

During demonstrations in May 1978, security forces killed 38 people and arrested an estimated 6,000.

The government regards public demonstrations and workers' strikes as disruptive of public order and "subversive", and has enacted stricter legislation during the past year.

The most recent arrests took place during the first week of January 1979 when the military government suspended constitutional guarantees and declared a state of siege in order to defuse a general strike planned for 9-11 January.

The military have promised a return to constitutional government in 1980, but preliminary elections of a Constituent Assembly in June 1978 were seriously hampered by mass arrests and selective deportations. Many candidates were in detention or hiding at the time of the elections, and 10 candidates of major leftwing parties were temporarily exiled by the government.

*AI*'s current concerns in Peru also include:

- The routine practice of trying civilians in military courts for a broad range of offences. During 1977 and 1978, over 2,000 civilians were brought before military courts and classified as "political-social" prisoners. *Habeas corpus* is ineffective, and *AI* knows of no cases in which the jurisdiction of the military courts has been challenged.
- Allegations of severe maltreatment of prisoners charged with guerrilla activities during interrogation by Peruvian Investigative Police. The Minister of the Interior expressly forbade the *AI* mission to have any meetings with political prisoners.
- Poor prison conditions for both common-law criminals and political prisoners.

*Amnesty International Briefing on Peru*, 12 pages, is published in English by Amnesty International Publications, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England, and can be obtained from *AI*'s national sections. A Spanish version is also available.

## Pakistan

### Two jurists sent on urgent mission

Two distinguished jurists have presented a report to *AI* setting out legal grounds for mitigation of the death sentences passed against former Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali BHUTTO and Mian Muhammad ABBAS, Arshad IQBAL, Ghulam MUSTAFA and Rana Iftikar AHMAD, who have been condemned with him.

The two jurists, Turkish constitutional lawyer Mümtaz SOYSAL and English barrister Louis BLOM-COOPER Q.C., attended the opening hearing of the Supreme Court which in mid-February reviewed its earlier judgement upholding the verdict and sentence of death against Bhutto (March *Newsletter*).

In a statement cabled by *AI* to the Supreme Court and made public on 28 February, the two jurists argued:

- On 6 February 1979 the Supreme Court of Pakistan upheld the verdict of guilty and the sentence of death in the case of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Mian Muhammad Abbas by a split decision (four to three and five to two respectively).
- The existence of a minority view among the judges should be a "powerful, if not overwhelming

factor" in determining the grant of a commutation of the death penalty.

- The dissenting judges found that the prosecution had "failed to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt".
- Had the ultimate decision lain with these three judges, the conviction of two of the five accused "would have been quashed".
- The dissenting judges held that the prosecution's case rested entirely on the evidence of two accomplices who were pardoned in return for turning state evidence, and that their testimony was proved wholly or in part to be false, or lacked any sufficient corroborative evidence.

In their report, Soysal and Blom-Cooper declared, "Where, therefore, there is a scintilla of doubt about the guilt of the accused, the practice has been to commute the sentence either by the exercise of judicial discretion or by executive clemency."

"Throughout the history of the debate on capital punishment abolitionists and retentionists alike have agreed that an execution should not be carried out in any case where there is a risk that an innocent man would hang," they said □

## South Yemen

### Former ministers still detained

Eleven years after the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen achieved independence, ministers and officials of the country's pre-independence government are still in prison.

Three ministers tried in 1968 on charges of high treason and corruption have completed 10-year prison sentences handed down in 1968 but they have not been released.

Two officials, sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, should be eligible for remission, but they also remain in prison.

Three other officials have never

been brought to trial.

On 28 February, *AI* wrote to the newly-elected Chairman of the Presidential Council, Abdul Fattah ISMAIL, urging that the government announce a general amnesty for all political prisoners in the country. *AI* also expressed concern for 12 people who are known to have been detained without trial and for nine others who disappeared between 1972 and 1975. All 21 cases have been taken up by *AI*. *AI* asked the government to inform the families of those disappeared people who are not in detention since they must, therefore, be presumed dead □

#### Change of Address

Amnesty International  
Section of the Federal Republic  
of Germany  
Heerstrasse 178  
5300 Bonn  
Federal Republic of Germany

**Prisoner Releases and Cases**  
The International Secretariat learned in February of the release of 80 prisoners under adoption or investigation and took up 69 new cases.

# 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.

## Jassim HADDAD, Bahrain

Jassim HADDAD, a poet, has been held without charge or trial in Bahrain since August 1975. He was first arrested in 1973 after participating in an Arab Writers' Conference in Beirut, Lebanon, and was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by AI at that time. He was released under an amnesty in 1974.

In August 1975 Jassim Haddad was again arrested, a few days before the Emir of Bahrain issued a decree which dissolved the country's National Assembly on 26 August 1975. The arrests were apparently intended to stifle any protest about the dissolution, which followed the Assembly's refusal to pass a general security law permitting the government to imprison any citizen whose acts or statements it found objectionable. The National Assembly is still dissolved.

Jassim Haddad was detained until recently at Safra Prison, where most of the country's political prisoners are held. While a prisoner, he has required two medical operations and on 12 January 1979 he was transferred to hospital for treatment of a recurrent ear infection which is reported to be causing him great pain and affecting his general health. It is not known whether he is still in hospital, or if he has been returned to prison. During his last period of imprisonment, Jassim Haddad was reported to have suffered serious injuries as a result of maltreatment.

*Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Jassim Haddad, to: His Excellency Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sulman al-Khalifa, Prime Minister, Bahrain, Arabian Gulf.*

## Edival Nunes DA SILVA, Brazil

Edival Nunes DA SILVA is a 29-year-old member of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Roman Catholic church in Recife, Brazil's northeast coastal city.

He was detained without a warrant on 12 May 1978 when armed men

kidnapped him in the street on his way home from a church meeting. He was taken to the Federal Police headquarters and held incommunicado for more than a month. During this time he was subjected to electric shock torture, forced standing, and beatings by members of the Operations Section of the *Departamento de Ordem Política e Social*.

Five bishops visited him in prison on 7 June 1978, after which the Justice and Peace Commission of Olinda and Recife issued a statement condemning the authorities for the brutal treatment of the prisoner and stating that he had never been involved in illegal activities. Subsequently, 3,000 students at the University in Recife went on strike in protest against the detention.

Nunes da Silva has been charged with attempting to re-organize a political party, the *Partido Comunista Revolucionario*. Police claim to have found incriminating documents in his prison cell but Nunes da Silva has denied the charges and has claimed that the documents were planted after his arrest.

Nunes da Silva is being held in incommunicado detention in the *Quartel de Cavalaria da Polícia Militar de Pernambuco*, a military prison. He is reported to be suffering from intestinal problems. Writs of *habeas corpus*, presented to the Superior Military Tribunal requesting an end to his preventive detention, have been rejected.

*Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Edival Nunes da Silva, to: Presidente da República Federativa do Brasil, General João Figueiredo, Gabinete do Presidente, Palacio do Planalto, 70.000 Brasilia D.F., Brazil.*

## BUI Tuong Huan, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

BUI Tuong Huan, a former Vietnamese university professor and political figure, has been held in a "re-education" camp in the Socialist

Republic of Vietnam since the autumn of 1975.

During the 1960s, Bui Tuong Huan, who was closely identified with the Buddhist cause, was jailed on several occasions by successive governments in South Vietnam for protesting against religious and political repression in the country. In 1970, however, he was elected a member of the Senate and shortly afterwards he was instrumental in promoting a movement called the National Reconciliation Force, which advocated a negotiated settlement to the war.

On 29 April 1975, when the armed forces of the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) were surrounding Saigon, the administration of President Nguyen Van Thieu was replaced by a new cabinet of which Bui Tuong Huan was a member. The following day, this cabinet handed over power to the PRG. The cabinet members were later reported to have been congratulated by the PRG for peacefully turning Saigon over to the new authorities.

After the change of government, the new authorities issued a decree instructing all military personnel and civil servants of the former administration to register for "re-education". It was originally announced that "re-education" would last for a maximum of three years, but in most cases would be considerably shorter. Four years have now passed. AI has received reports that tens of thousands of people, including both former members of the armed forces and civilians, are still detained in "re-education" camps.

Bui Tuong Huan has now been undergoing "re-education" for 3½ years; he was last reported to be in poor health. The camp in which he is detained is in the northern province of Thanh Hoa.

The former law professor is 54 years of age and is married with three children.

*Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Bui Tuong Huan, to: His Excellency Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister, Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.*

Is the protection of human rights relevant to the urgent need for economic and social development in third world nations? Earlier this year, representatives of a number of African bar associations met in Dakar, Senegal, to discuss ways in which human rights could be better protected in their societies. The conference was attended by Amnesty International's Regional Liaison Officer for Africa, Kwadzo Gaglo Gu-Konu. The following article, based on his report from the conference, presents some of the major questions the jurists confronted.

## *African jurists launch human rights program*

Leading jurists from six French-speaking African nations have laid the groundwork for a pan-African training center for the study of human rights.

The center was launched at an International Colloquium of French-speaking African Bar Associations on Human Rights and the Right to Legal Defence, held in Dakar, Senegal, from 13 to 17 January this year.

The new center, which will be known as the Institute of Human Rights Education of the African Bar Associations, was created in response to what one participant at the colloquium termed a "profound crisis" in the judicial system of the French-speaking world. The Institute will be the first of its kind in Africa and, it is hoped, will offer seminars, as well as library and information services to its member bar associations.

Approximately 50 delegates were involved in the work of the colloquium which dealt with three key human rights issues:

- human rights during police investigation and examination, and the right to defence in the administrative process;
- human rights during trials and appeals, and during and after imprisonment;
- the role and protection of lawyers in relation to human rights and within the judicial system, and the protection of human rights through institutions and regional organizations.

### **provisional office**

A provisional office has been created to improve contact among the French-speaking African bar associations and to help carry out the recommendations of the Dakar colloquium. The provisional office has also been given responsibility for creating an Inter-African Union of Bar Associations.

In the final resolution of the colloquium, the delegates affirmed that free and independent bar associations were essential to the securing of human rights. The independence of the bar associations and the rights of the defence should be ordered and



Delegates to the African jurists' colloquium attending the opening of the Institute for Training in Human Rights which was inaugurated in Dakar, Senegal, on 16 January. Speaking at the colloquium Moustapha Seck, President of the Senegal Bar Association (second from the right, front row) said: "The task which still remains to be accomplished is to make this ideal [*of human rights*] a reality. Throughout the world, people of good will, of all ideologies, races and creeds, have pledged themselves to this long drawn out task."

protected by law. The delegates expressed the hope that autonomous national bar associations throughout Africa would have disciplinary power with regard to their members and that all African lawyers, upon being admitted to the bar, would swear under oath to contribute always to the defence of human rights.

The colloquium was convened by Africa's oldest French-speaking bar association, the Bar Association of Senegal, with the support and assistance of UNESCO's Division of Human Rights and Peace.

The aim of the colloquium was to "examine conditions for the exercise of human rights by the lawyer and the violence to which he or his client might be subjected". The colloquium was also intended to recommend mechanisms within the judicial process to ensure that defence lawyers and defendants alike would be free from constraints and coercion in the course of the administration of justice.

Among those attending the conference were members of the bar associations of Senegal, Central African Empire, Mali, Ivory Coast, Morocco,

Niger and France. UNESCO was represented by Karel VASAK, Director of UNESCO's Division of Human Rights and Peace. Also present was Keba M'BAYE, Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and also Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Senegal. The meeting was also attended by Maître Louis PETTITI, President of the Bar Association of Paris and founder of the Paris Institute for the Study of Human Rights.

At the colloquium, the delegates dwelt at length on the universal discrepancy between the incorporation of human rights in national constitutions and the violation of those rights in everyday life.

Maître Moustapha SECK, President of the Bar Association of Senegal and one of the main planners of the colloquium, told the delegates in his opening remarks that a profound crisis existed in the judicial system of the French-speaking world, resulting from an imbalance between the extent to which defence lawyers could be independent and the relative security enjoyed by judges.

# Declaration

At the conclusion of the Dakar colloquium, the delegates adopted a detailed resolution proposing measures for the protection of human rights in Africa. The preamble to the resolution set forth the principles upon which its recommendations were based. The text of the preamble is reproduced below:

The representatives of the African Bar Associations, together with judges, university professors and delegates from several jurists' organizations, meeting in a colloquium at Dakar from 13 to 17 January 1979 at the invitation of the Senegal Bar Association and under the auspices of the Director General of UNESCO, represented by the Director of the Division of Human Rights and Peace;

REAFFIRMING the fundamental principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and implemented by different international legal instruments, among which the principle ones are the United Nations Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

CONSIDERING that respect for human rights is of prime importance for Africa as much for peace throughout the continent as for the internal peace of each State;

CONSIDERING that human rights thus defined are respected according to the extent to which they are known and can only be known, if they are taught;

CONSIDERING moreover that human rights are in them-

selves a condition of the full development of Africans and that as a consequence the right to this development must constitute an actual human right;

CONSIDERING that the legal profession and principally the judges and lawyers are at the same time guarantors, defenders and agents of the implementation of human rights and that it is essential under these circumstances that they benefit from appropriate training and protection permitting them to fulfil this role completely in all societies, whatever the actual level of development;

EMPHASIZING that human rights cannot be respected without true independence of the judiciary and that the judiciary cannot in turn be independent unless the defence enjoys complete independence;

DEPLORING the increasing lack of respect for human rights in numerous African countries in spite of the solemn proclamation of these rights in their constitutions and notably the obstacles all too often encountered by lawyers in their role as defenders of human rights; . . .

*The decisions of the colloquium, contained in the body of this resolution, are presented in detail in the accompanying article.*

African jurists launch human rights program (continued from previous page)

## benefits of freedom

Maître Seck said that although the enjoyment of liberty had been one of the major objectives of post-colonial African governments (and was still the main objective of subjugated peoples) and although respect for human rights had been proclaimed in most African constitutions, in fact political and judicial independence had not always been translated into "the consecration of human rights in reality".

Because of this failure, he said, it had often been the case that human rights had been severely restricted or simply suppressed. Such actions had been justified by invoking the tradition which gives precedence to the collectivity over the individual, the necessity to maintain stability in the institutions of a young country and the "permanent state of war" which has characterized the struggle for development and national liberation.

But, he said, if it is true that under-

development is an obstacle to the immediate enjoyment of economic rights such as the right to work, to social security and to an adequate standard of living, nevertheless, underdevelopment could not justify assaults upon liberties.

"On the contrary", he declared, "the dictator who is blind is a brake on development. We can hope for everything from a people who have lost neither their dignity nor the sense of human value."

"What makes this colloquium unique," said Maître Seck, "is that it will lay more emphasis on the right of defence as an essential factor of human rights." The independence of lawyers is absolutely indispensable if they were to exercise their mission, he proposed.

"An independent defence is in fact the true key to the rights and freedom of the individual, whose defence becomes absurd when he is alone and confronted by an anonymous and impenetrable judicial system, or by

political or administrative powers whose prerogatives are excessive and practically unlimited", he said.

## training essential

Training of lawyers in human rights is essential to a good legal defence, proposed Karel Vasak. He argued that human rights had been neglected by judges and lawyers alike because of uncertainties about how to translate rights into practical judicial legal procedures. However today, he said, as a result of conventions, treaties and international agreements, human rights had acquired a judicial force "at least equivalent to any national laws".

Readers who wish to learn more about the work of the Institute of Human Rights Education of the African Bar Associations should contact: Maître Moustapha Seck, Le Bâtonnier, Ordre des Avocats, Cour d'Appel du Sénégal, Palais de Justice, Dakar, Sénégal □

## **El Salvador** **Public order law** **repealed**

The government of El Salvador has announced the repeal of the country's Law for the Defence and Guarantee of Public Order.

In a press conference at the end of February, President Carlos Humberto ROMERO is reported to have said that the law was repealed because it had failed to stop "subversion".

Initial reports indicate that 48 prisoners currently held under the law will be affected. But the repeal decree provides for the transfer of certain Public Order cases to criminal courts. It is therefore possible that some prisoners held under the Public Order Law will not now be freed.

Announcing the repeal of the law, President Romero expressed the hope that henceforth political parties and the church, which have been critical of the government's human rights practices, could enter into dialogue with the government.

Relations between the government and the church have been severely

strained since the machine-gun murder of a priest and four catechists by Salvadorean security forces on 20 January. In protest, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo ROMERO suspended religious services in the country.

The government move may also pave the way for the possible release of three foreigners who have been held by left-wing guerrillas for nearly five months.

The guerrilla group, called the Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN), had reportedly made repeal of the law, which prohibits public gatherings, demonstrations, or any political activity without government permission, one of several conditions for the release of British bankers Ian MASSIE and Michael CHATTERTON and Japanese businessman Takakazu SUZUKI. Massie and Chatterton were abducted on 30 November 1978, and Suzuki was abducted on 7 December.

In a statement issued in December 1978, *AI* appealed to FARN to spare the lives and release the kidnap victims saying that it opposed without reservation arbitrary detention and execution for the purposes of political coercion, whether by government agencies or by others □

## **Greece** **Jehovah's Witness** **to serve 10 years**

Vassilis SPANOYIANNIS, a 21-year-old Jehovah's Witness adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on 15 February by a military court in Ioannina because of his refusal on religious grounds to serve in the Greek army.

In October 1977 the Greek government passed a new law which made it possible for Jehovah's Witnesses to perform unarmed military service for 4½ years, a period twice as long as that of armed military service. However, Jehovah's Witnesses will not accept this alternative since their religion precludes any form of military service not expressly commanded by God.

The usual length of sentence imposed on Jehovah's Witnesses since the passing of this law has been 4½ years' imprisonment. Vassilis Spanoyiannis' sentence is subject to appeal □

## **Rhodesia** **New hangings in** **political cases**

The execution in January of two men convicted of political offences confirmed recent suspicions that the Rhodesian government is continuing to use the death penalty.

Sevias HOVE, a father of 10 who was convicted of participation in a civilian killing, was hanged on 22 January. Daniel Madiwa MOYO, who had been convicted of recruiting guerrillas, an offence which carries a

mandatory death penalty in Rhodesia, was hanged on 29 January. Moyo's family first learned of his execution when they went to visit him in prison on 2 February, four days after he had been hanged.

*AI* also learnt in early February that at least 11 other political prisoners held at Chikurubi Prison near Salisbury are under sentence of death and awaiting execution. They appear to be the first group of prisoners sentenced to death under the provisions of the martial law regulations which were introduced in Rhodesia in September 1978. According to these regulations,

which now apply to about 90 per cent of Rhodesia, special military courts martial were established to try people charged with political offences. These military courts were given equal power of sentencing with the High Court, including the authority to impose the death penalty. However, death sentences imposed under martial law are not subject to judicial review by the Rhodesian Appeal Court.

Following the internal settlement agreement on 3 March 1978, it was widely reported that the death penalty would no longer be used against political offenders □

## **Indonesia** **Students on trial**

The trials of 21 student leaders began in five Indonesian cities in late January and early February. Charges against the students include slandering the president and discrediting the state's agencies and institutions. Eleven of the defendants about whom sufficient details are known have been adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience.

The 21 were among the hundreds of students and Moslems arrested in early 1978 for participating in a

campaign of protest against the re-election of Suharto as president. Although most of those detained at that time were subsequently released, at least 10 other students are believed to be still awaiting trial. On 6 February, Attorney General Ali SAID announced that three of the most prominent of the Moslems still being held will be brought to trial soon. The three—Mahbub DJUNAEDI, SUTOMO and Professor Ismail SUNY—have all been adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience.

The government's decision to hold the student trials simultaneously has

been seen as an attempt to dissipate the effectiveness of defence efforts. Leading Indonesian lawyers have set up a Cooperative Body for Student Defence (whose sponsors include the Indonesian Lawyers Association and the Legal Aid Institute) to coordinate the defence of the students.

Soon after the hearings had begun, the government ordered a ban on all further newspaper reporting of the trials. In response, a student delegation from Bandung came to Jakarta to complain about the state of the nation's press to the deputy chairman of parliament □


 amnesty international

## campaign for the abolition of torture

## appeals

Amnesty International opposes the torture of prisoners in all cases, wherever and whenever it is practised. Any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a violation of the international human rights standards unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. International appeals can help to alleviate the plight of prisoners being subjected to cruel treatment. Your letters should follow carefully the instructions given below.

### Ecuador

#### Amazon Indians held in murder case

Three members of the Shuar Indians from the jungles of Ecuador are being held on a murder charge in the prison of Macas, the main city of Ecuador's Morona Santiago province. According to reports reaching *AI*, they have been badly beaten and subjected to electrical torture.

The three Indians are members of the same family, the TSAMARAINTS. They are brothers—Cruz, Jorge and Fidel. Fidel, a teacher at the Kaurapi Indian Center, is the elder brother of Cruz and Jorge who are between 15 and 17 years of age.

The three brothers are reported to have had their fingers broken under torture so that they are now unable to use their hands. The two younger brothers have been threatened with being burnt in the main square of Macas and with being sentenced to 70 years' imprisonment for the murder which they say they did not commit.

The murder victim, a cattle dealer, was killed in eastern Ecuador in August 1978. Immediately after his death, all Indians living in the Yawints Community Center were arrested by armed police. Cruz and Jorge Tsamaraint were accused of the murder and released on bail. They are reported to have been tortured during police interrogation before charges were laid against them.

The Tsamaraint family was then obliged to obtain birth certificates for the two youths for presentation to a local juvenile court. Their efforts were obstructed by registry officials, as a result of which Silvia Tsamaraint, acting as bail guarantor, was arrested in October together with her 18-month-old son and kept in a crowded cell in Macas men's prison for three weeks.

After her release, Silvia Tsamaraint

succeeded in presenting the birth certificates to the court. However, on 16 and 17 November, armed police again visited the Indian center and arrested Cruz, Jorge, Silvia and their father Ambrosio Tsamaraint, together with other Indians. They are reported to have been kicked and beaten by intoxicated police officers.

Cruz and Jorge Tsamaraint were kept in detention after the others were released and, on 1 December, their brother Fidel was arrested. It was alleged that his arrest took place after the two younger brothers were compelled under torture to sign blank papers which were later filled in to incriminate Fidel and another family member in the crime.

*Please send courteously worded appeals expressing concern at allegations that members of the Tsamaraint family have been tortured, urging that they be provided medical treatment and requesting that an investigation be carried out into their treatment while in custody.*

*Write to:* Don Victor Veintimilla, Gobernador de la Provincia de Morona Santiago, Macas, Ecuador; *and to:* Contralmirante Victor Hugo Garcés Pozo, Ministro de Gobierno, Ministerio de Gobierno, Quito, Ecuador □

### USSR

#### Physicist confined in hospital

Lev Grigorievich UBOZHKO, a Soviet physicist, has been confined in a series of special psychiatric hospitals since 1972. It is believed that he has been subjected to "treatment" with powerful neuroleptic drugs, as has been the case with others who have been forcibly confined in such institutions.

Ubozhko was arrested in Sverdlovsk in 1970 on charges of possessing and circulating *samizdat* literature. He is alleged to have possessed a copy of an open letter written by dissident Soviet historian Andrei AMALRIK. Ubozhko was sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment in a corrective labour colony near Omsk.

Six months later, while still in the labour camp, he was tried again on charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and declared by a medical commission to be unaccountable for his actions. He was forcibly confined to Tashkent Special Psychiatric Hospital until 1974, when he was transferred to Chelyabinsk Psychiatric Hospital No. 2. In 1975 he escaped from hospital, but in early 1976 was recaptured and placed once more in Tashkent Special Psychiatric Hospital.

Ubozhko is reported to have been told that he faces indefinite confinement unless he renounces his "dissident" views.

*Please write courteously worded letters to the Director of Tashkent Special Psychiatric Hospital urging the immediate release of Lev Grigorievich Ubozhko. Write to:* SSSR, Uzbekskaia SSR, g. Tashkent, Tashkentskaya Spetsialnaya Bolnitsa, Nachalniku □

### IRAQ—GOVERNMENT RESPONDS

Iraqi embassies have responded to letters from *AI* members sent on behalf of Ma'rouf Abdullah FATTAH (November 1978 *CAT Bulletin*). The 29-year-old Kurdish teacher, who was arrested in June 1978, was reported to have become insane following interrogation in which his head was enveloped for several days in a hood filled with flying ants.

The Iraqi embassies responded to

*AI* appeals with the information that Fattah is serving a sentence of 5 years and one month for "violating the national security of Iraq".

*AI* members who receive a reply from Iraqi embassies should write thanking them for their response, stressing once again *AI*'s concern at the torture allegations and urging an official inquiry into the prison treatment of Ma'rouf Abdullah Fattah □

'Completely innocent people imprisoned. . .'

## Former military officer presents testimony of torture in Uruguay

Ninety per cent of Uruguay's officer corps are involved directly or indirectly in the torture of political prisoners, according to a former lieutenant in the Uruguayan armed forces, Julio César COOPER, whose testimony was made public by *AI* on 27 February.

The former officer presented his testimony at a news conference convened in Geneva by *AI*'s Swiss Section. The event coincided with the recent session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights which considered the human rights situation in Uruguay. *AI* had submitted torture testimonies from Uruguay to the Commission.

Although it is not possible to independently substantiate the former lieutenant's estimate, his statement corroborates consistent allegations that torture has become an institution in the country.

Also testifying at the Geneva news conference were two victims of torture in Uruguay, 38-year-old Ana FERREIRA who described her interrogation at a Navy Barracks in early March 1978 and 30-year-old Nelson Eduardo DEAN BERMUDEZ who was tortured by Uruguayan officers in a secret detention center in Argentina in July 1976.

In his testimony, Cooper, who was required to retire from military service in 1977 following his refusal to torture prisoners, said: "In our unit there was a staff of two senior and 13 other officers. Out of these 15, I can state that only two did not take part in torture."

Cooper said that to his knowledge no agent responsible for torturing prisoners has been punished in Uruguay despite constitutional guarantees against the practice, and that military personnel who refuse to torture or who try to prevent others torturing prisoners are harassed and even prosecuted.

"I have witnessed commanders and officers who showed pleasure in applying torture and satisfaction even in tragic cases, such as those resulting in the victim's death. I was able to witness and sense the pleasure of certain

commanders and officers, verging on mockery, in the presence of the dead person", he said.

"The purpose of the torture was purely and exclusively to extort confessions. Although, due to degeneration in the methods and also in the attitude of the different men who applied them, I consider, and can even prove, that there were cases of officers who frequently left aside this aim, or its achievement, and tortured just for the sake of torturing or for the satisfac-

tion of torturing," he said.

"I have always considered, and still consider, that in Uruguay there are a large number of people imprisoned who are completely innocent, since. . . practically no margin is left to the detainee to demonstrate his innocence in any way," he said. "I consider that because of the human condition of the individual, principally, in many cases the detainee preferred to invent and attribute to himself responsibilities which were not real, provided he could be free of torture."

"The most brutal barracks in the application of torture are Armoured Infantry Battalion No. 13 and Infantry Battalion No. 14, both in Montevideo. They are units located on the outskirts of Montevideo, practically in rural areas, and from what I have heard, places that are practically torture chambers have been built. Torture appliances and systems have been assembled. I consider the location of these units in rural areas to be fundamental for the preservation of secrecy," he said.

### Doctors always present

Relating her experience at the hands of a Uruguayan torture unit in March 1978, Ana Ferreira told the news conference: "I was taken to a Navy Barracks, and after asking me about my state of health, what medicines I was taking and about my past illnesses, they began to hit me as they questioned me"

She reported that a medical doctor was always present during the torture sessions. "In the worst moments, when he could see that my heart and my physical capacity to withstand the torture were about to give out, he would shout 'enough', so that they could quickly bring me round and begin another session."

"At one point I begged the doctor to make them leave me alone, to comply with the oath he had taken as a doctor, to put his skill to the service of humanity," she recalled. "He answered: 'I'm just doing my job.' " □

### 'Prisoner's life is at risk' — Gov't

*AI* members and supporters who appealed for the release of a Uruguayan prisoner of conscience, Alberto ALTESOR (August 1978, *Prisoner of the Month Campaign*), have received hundreds of identical replies from the Uruguayan authorities.

The letters have come from the *Oficina Central de Información sobre Personas* (Central Office of Information on Persons), established in March 1978, which operates under the authority of the Uruguayan Defence Ministry.

The Uruguayan authorities state that Alberto Altesor is charged with "subversive association" for his leadership of the Communist Party of Uruguay, which was banned in 1973. The Inter-Parliamentary Union, the world body of parliamentary representatives who have taken up Alberto Altesor's case, have been informed that he was sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment on 31 May 1978.

The Uruguayan authorities report that Altesor suffers from a serious heart condition and that "his life is at risk due to his fragile condition" but that he is receiving "constant and adequate medical treatment" in detention.

Participants of the August 1978 letter-writing campaign are asked to appeal again to the President of Uruguay for the immediate release of Alberto Altesor following the Uruguayan government's acknowledgement of his critical health condition □

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