



amnesty

international newsletter

JUNE 1979 Volume IX Number 6

## Central African Empire

### Hundreds of school children arrested

Hundreds of school children have been arrested in the Central African Empire in recent months and subjected to merciless treatment. The most recently reported arrests took place on 18 April when at least a hundred children were detained in four districts of the country's capital, Bangui. Half of those arrested are believed to have died the following night in what is being called the "Easter Wednesday Massacre".

These latest reported arrests took place three months after demonstrations in Bangui in January sparked off by a government order that all school children should buy special uniforms introduced by the government. Foreign troops were brought in from neighbouring Zaire to maintain order. Several hundred people were killed.

In April young people in Bangui are reported to have begun throwing stones at official cars, including the Emperor's personal vehicle. On 18 April the Emperor ordered members of his Imperial Guard to arrest young people in the capital suspected of opposing his regime. That day more than a hundred children are known to have been taken to Bangui's central Ngaragba prison where they were held in such crowded conditions that between 12 and 28 of them are reported to have died from suffocation. Other children are reported to have been stoned by members of the Imperial Guard to punish them for throwing stones at the Emperor's car.

Some were bayoneted or beaten to death with sticks and whips.

AI has received reliable reports that a total of between 50 and a hundred children were killed in prison. One witness counted the bodies of 62 dead children.

The following day Emperor Bokassa, who described himself as "the father and protector of children", said the remaining children in prison would be released.

AI cabled a protest to Emperor Bokassa and brought the case to the attention of the international secretariat coordinating International Year of the Child □

## USSR and USA exchange prisoners

On 27 April five prisoners from the Soviet Union were released in exchange for two Soviet citizens who had been convicted of spying and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment in the United States.

The five were Alexander GINZBURG, Valentin MOROZ, Georgy VINS, Edward KUZNETSOV and Mark DYMSHITS.

Alexander Ginzburg, a 42-year-old human rights activist and Helsinki monitor, and Valentyn Moroz, a 43-year-old Ukrainian national rights activist, had been serving long terms of imprisonment in a special regime corrective labour colony (the most rigorous category of labour camp) in the Mordovian ASSR. Mr Ginzburg had served almost one year of an 8 year sentence and Mr Moroz had completed 9 years of a sentence totalling 14 years.

Fifty-one-year-old religious rights activist Georgy Vins had recently begun a 5 year term of internal exile after completing 5 years' imprisonment in corrective labour colonies.

All three were adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience.

Edward Kuznetsov and Mark Dymshits were among a group consisting mainly of Soviet Jews who were arrested in 1970 and subsequently convicted of attempting to steal an aircraft to enable them to leave the country. Both men received death sentences which were subsequently commuted to 15 years' imprisonment in the Mordovian special regime colony.

A week before the exchanges, five of their co-defendants were released from other camps but three of those convicted in the same case — Yury FYODOROV, Alexei MURZHENKO and Iosif MENDELEVICH — are still serving long sentences in Soviet penal institutions.

AI works for the unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience throughout the world and does not take part in the exchange of prisoners □

## Colombia

### Government replies

Colombia's ambassador to the United Kingdom has defended the legality of recent mass detentions in his country and denied torture allegations (March Newsletter).

In a letter to AI Dr Gustavo BALCAZAR-MONZON quoted article 28 of the Colombian Constitution that empowers the government to detain persons for as long as 10 days without bringing formal charges against them. The ambassador reported that the investigation ordered by President Julio César TURBAY Ayala into the cases of 34 university students who were reported to have been tortured at the *Brigada de Institutos Militares* (BIM) in October 1978 had turned up

no evidence to support the allegations.

AI replied that it was deeply concerned at the continuing mass arrests in Colombia.

The BIM has admitted having officially detained 1,033 people in what it described as "the largest operation carried out by the military forces against subversion in the country."

AI has sent Ambassador Balcázar-Monzón copies of the new testimonies of torture and a medical report indicating that a group of students had indeed suffered torture in detention in October 1978.

Medical professionals who participated in the investigations published their report in the Colombian weekly, *Alternativa*, and asserted that torture had taken place as alleged □

## Uganda

### New government affirms human rights

The new government of Uganda has committed itself to the protection of human rights, the restoration of the rule of law and the rebuilding of the country after the chaos and terror of eight years of military rule.

On 13 April Professor Yusuf LULE was sworn in as President of the Republic of Uganda heading a new government composed of formerly exiled Ugandans. This followed the capture of the capital, Kampala, by the Tanzanian army and Ugandan guerrilla forces the previous day.

The new government publicly rejected a policy of revenge against officials of the former government of President Idi AMIN and offered an amnesty for all soldiers, stating that it would give a fair trial in court to any former official alleged to have committed criminal offences.

The Kenyan government, which has for years given protection to many Ugandan refugees, announced it would expel criminal fugitives to Uganda for trial.

Preparations are now underway to assist the 60,000 or more Ugandan

refugees who are expected to return to their homes.

Hundreds of political prisoners have been released from prisons in Makindye, Luzira and Kampala. However, when the prison cells of the State Research Bureau in Kampala were opened it was discovered that most of the inmates had already been murdered and very few torture victims were still alive.

Large scale massacres of civilians were carried out by the retreating forces of the Amin regime, one prominent victim being Bishop John WASIKYE of Mbale.

AI cabled President Lule on 19 April congratulating him on his installation and on the beginning of a new era in the country. AI expressed full support for the new government's commitment to the restoration of human rights and referred to AI's campaigns against the flagrant violations of human rights under Amin's rule. AI said it looked forward to Ugandan government initiatives to protect human rights in Africa, especially through Uganda's membership of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights□

## Namibia

### SWAPO members detained

More than 30 members of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) have been detained in Namibia. Those arrested include SWAPO's Administrative Secretary, Axel JOHANNES, who has been detained previously for several long periods and whose case was presented in AI's *Campaign for Prisoners of the Month* in June 1976. He was detained in February of this year and brutally assaulted by South African security police.

Most of the detainees are thought to be held under law AG. 26, which provides for indefinite preventive detention. Individuals detained under this law are held incommunicado.

AI protested to South African Administrator-General Marthinus STEYN on 2 May following the detentions and also urged several leading political figures in Namibia, including Dirk MUDGE, leader of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, and Andreas SHIPANGA, leader of the SWAPO Democrats party, to protest the detentions and to help secure release of all detainees□

## USSR

### 50th issue of 'A chronicle' published

Reports compiled by Soviet citizens on the trials of 12 human rights activists now imprisoned on political charges in the Soviet Union were published in English by AI on 16 May.

The reports are contained in the 50th edition of *A Chronicle of Current Events*, the journal of the human rights movement in the USSR. The journal, which started in 1968, is produced in typewritten *samizdat* form and circulated from hand to hand in the country on the chain-letter principle.

On the title page of every issue of the chronicle there appears the text of article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights calling for universal freedom of opinion and expression. "It is essential that truthful information about violations of basic human rights in the Soviet Union should be available to all who are interested in it," state the compilers of the chronicle.

The 50th issue of the chronicle provides previously unavailable details on the political trials that took place in the summer of 1978.

The chronicle covers the trials of 10 men and two women:

- Yuri ORLOV, Anatoly SHCHARANSKY, Zviad GAMSAKHURDIA, Merab KOSTAVA, Alexander GINSBERG, Viktor PETKUS, and Lev LUKYANENKO, members of unofficial groups set up since August 1975 to monitor the record of the Soviet authorities in respecting the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act;
- Ida NUDEL, Vladimir and Maria SLEPAK, and Iosif BEGUN, active campaigners for the right of Jews to emigrate from the USSR;
- Alexander PODRABINEK, the author of *Punitive Medicine*, a book on the abuse of psychiatry in political cases.

Five of the prisoners have been convicted on charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda", and the others on such charges as "anti-Soviet

slander", "malicious hooliganism" and "treason". Alexander Ginzburg was one of the prisoners released on 27 April in an exchange for two Soviet citizens imprisoned for spying in the United States. He had been convicted on charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" (see story on page 1).

The remaining 11 are adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience. "We are campaigning internationally for the immediate and unconditional release of these defenders of human rights," said AI.

"*The Chronicle of Current Events* is a dispassionate, uncensored source of information and documents on political trials, prisoners, forced labour camps, prison mental hospitals and the persecution of ethnic minorities and religious groups in the USSR," said AI. "It remains the most important source of information on violations of human rights in the Soviet Union today."

*A Chronicle of Current Events*, Number 50: 116 pages, is published in English by Amnesty International Publications. It is distributed by Routledge Journals, Broadway House, Newtown Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1EN, England. United States orders can be sent to Routledge Journals, 9 Park Street, Boston, Mass 02108, USA. Price: £1.65 or US \$3.45□

# 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.

## Irzadi MIRWAN—Indonesia

Irzadi MIRWAN is one of more than 30 student leaders currently on trial or awaiting trial in six Indonesian cities on charges of "insulting the Head of State". At the time of his initial arrest in February 1978 he was a member of the Student Council of the prestigious Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB).

On 16 January 1978 the ITB Student Council published the *White Book of the 1978 Student Struggle*, one of whose authors was Irzadi Mirwan. The *White Book* explicitly blamed the leadership of President Suharto for corruption in public life, the decline of state institutions and the growing gap between rich and poor in Indonesian society.

Four days after publication the government closed university campuses, suspended student councils and began arresting student leaders throughout Indonesia. Once President Suharto had been re-elected by the People's Representative Assembly in March 1978 the government began releasing students. Irzadi Mirwan and a number of other Bandung students were released on 17 August 1978. However, on 28 October, 14 Bandung students were re-arrested and charged with "insulting the Head of State" under a law inherited from the Dutch Colonial Code. Three of the students—including Irzadi Mirwan—escaped arrest and refused to surrender themselves until they were guaranteed a trial.

When the first student trials began in January 1979, the three gave themselves up in the hope that their cases would come to court.

Lawyers for students who have already been brought to court in Indonesia have complained to judges about restrictions on press coverage of the trials and the use of a colonial law that usurps the constitutionally-guaranteed freedom of speech.

*Please send courteously worded appeals asking for Irzadi Mirwan's immediate release pending a fair and open trial to: General Ali Said SH,*

Attorney General, Jaksa Agung, Kejaksaan, Jalan Hasanuddin 1, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta, Indonesia.

## Franz KOBOLD—German Democratic Republic

Franz KOBOLD has been in prison since 1975 as a result of making plans to flee the German Democratic Republic (GDR). Although the GDR government has ratified international human rights agreements which proclaim the right of emigration, many GDR citizens are imprisoned for trying to exercise this right.

Mr Kobold, 39, is a specialist in the cultivation of plants in soil and climatic conditions not present in the GDR. He is reported to have been restricted in his work by the extreme difficulty of travelling abroad even for business reasons. Prompted in part by this consideration he decided to try to flee the country in 1975 but a colleague reported his plans to the police and he was shortly thereafter arrested.

Mr Kobold was tried over a year later by a military court in Berlin and sentenced under article 97 of the GDR penal code to 10 years' imprisonment for "espionage". He is also reported to have been stripped of his academic qualifications.

The charge of espionage has frequently been brought against GDR citizens attempting to leave the country who have had access in their professional capacity to sensitive information. The range of information considered sensitive by the GDR authorities is very broad. Mr Kobold had access to information of an industrial rather than a political or military nature.

Franz Kobold is serving his sentence in Bautzen prison. In October 1978 he was reported to be in the prison hospital suffering from depression.

*Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Franz Kobold to: His*

Excellency Mr Erich Honecker, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, Berlin-Niederschonhausen, German Democratic Republic.

## MWARABU Mak Lubia—Zaire

MWARABU Mak Lubia, a former sub-lieutenant in the Zairean Air Force, has been imprisoned since June 1975. He was arrested in connection with a suspected conspiracy to overthrow Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Along with 40 other soldiers and civilians, including high-ranking officers and former government ministers, he was accused of complicity in a conspiracy and tried by a military Council of War in Kinshasa, in August 1975.

The trial was held *in camera* and the defendants were denied legal representation by lawyers of their own choice. The evidence against them is reported to have rested solely on the alleged confession of one of the defendants. The prosecutor alleged that the defendants had received the backing of foreign governments, including the USA and Israel.

At the end of the trial, 32 defendants were convicted of offences including treason, conspiracy and regionalism, and seven were condemned to death. Mr Mwarabu himself was sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment. The death sentences were never carried out, and the five civilians convicted of complicity in the plot were released in a presidential amnesty in July 1978.

*AI* believes that Mwarabu Mak Lubia is a prisoner of conscience imprisoned, like many others convicted at the same time, for political reasons.

Mr Mwarabu is not allowed to receive visits or correspondence from relatives. On several occasions, he and other prisoners who were seriously ill have been denied access to medical facilities.

*Please send courteously worded letters; preferably in French, appealing for the immediate release of Mwarabu Mak Lubia to: Son Excellence Mobutu Sese Seko, Président-Fondateur du MPR et Président de la République, La Présidence- BP 3092, 10220-Kinshasa 2, Zaire.*

Among the political prisoners of many countries are men and women who were at one time constitutionally elected members of legislative assemblies. Many of them are held under emergency legislation without charge or trial. Some have been tortured and some have disappeared after arrest. The Inter-Parliamentary Union, comprising national groups of parliamentarians in 72 countries, has established a special committee to investigate such cases. The following article, based on the latest report of the committee, outlines the recent concerns of the committee.

## Parliamentarians in prison

A special committee of parliamentarians has examined the cases of 39 fellow representatives imprisoned or deprived of political rights in 10 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. The cases include parliamentarians in Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Chile, Indonesia, Kenya, Singapore and Uruguay. In seven of the cases parliamentarians had been deprived of their political rights, four had been given prison sentences by military courts, four were in detention without trial, two had disappeared and one was feared dead. In six of the cases there were allegations of torture.

Details of the cases were made public in April by the Special Committee on Violations of the Human Rights of Parliamentarians set up by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The Union, a non-governmental organization whose headquarters are in Geneva, promotes personal contacts between members of parliaments in order to strengthen and develop the work of parliamentary institutions throughout the world. Membership in the organization, which has functioned since 1889, consists of members of national parliaments.

In 1977 the IPU established a special five-member committee to examine reports of cases of parliamentarians whose human rights have been violated. The committee, which meets at least twice a year, forwards its findings and recommendations to the IPU's governing body, the Inter-Parliamentary Council.

Since the special committee began its work *AI* has regularly submitted cases to it. In April of this year the committee reported to the Inter-Parliamentary Council, describing its work on behalf of 24 parliamentarians and indicating that it was continuing the confidential examination of 15 other cases. In each of the cases under confidential review the committee said it had contacted the parliamentary or government authorities of the country concerned.

In six of the cases examined by the committee the parliamentarians have now been released. After the election of Daniel arap Moi as President of the Republic of Kenya four Deputies, John Seroney, George Anyona, Martin Shikuku and Wasonga Sijeyo were released from detention (February *Newsletter*). Three of them had been arrested within the precincts of parliament. All had been detained under the Preservation of Public Security Act without charge or trial.



RELEASED: Kenyan parliamentarians George Anyona, John Seroney and Martin Shikuku. All were held until December 1978 under the country's Preservation of Public Security Act.

Another released prisoner was Umiharti Sardjono of Indonesia. At the time of her arrest in October 1965 she was chairman of *Gerwani*, the Indonesian Women's Movement. She was detained in Bukit Duri prison in Djakarta without trial. In 1978, after more than 12 years in detention, she was transferred to a new prisoner status and eventually released on 7 October 1978.

The sixth release was that of Manuel Isauro Molina, a member of Argentina's parliament at the time of the coup in March 1976. Sr Molina was held under administrative detention without trial. He was accused of being a "Montonero" and a trade unionist. The IPU had adopted a resolution urging the Argentinian authorities either to try Sr Molina as soon as possible "at a trial which offers all the guarantees set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" or release him immediately. The IPU was informed of Sr Molina's release on 28 November 1978.

Now the IPU has expressed its concern at the fate of another member of the Argentinian parliament, Senator Luis Agustín Carnevali, who was arrested at his home in Buenos Aires on 24

March 1977. He has been missing since then.

The Argentinian authorities have told the IPU they have no information about the arrest or present whereabouts of Senator Carnevali. However the IPU Special Committee has received information from a reliable source indicating that he was arrested by members of the Third Army Corps. The IPU has learned that it is possible that Senator Carnevali has been murdered and the Inter-Parliamentary Council has now urged the Argentinian government to hasten its inquiry into the case.

The case of Deputy Mohsen Marhoun of Bahrain involves the detention of a parliamentarian without trial following the dissolution of the country's National Assembly. The Amir of Bahrain dissolved the National Assembly on 27 August 1975. Deputy Marhoun was arrested under an emergency measure in December 1975 and has remained in detention without trial. The arrests took place despite the fact that the country's constitution provides that under no circumstances can the immunity of members of the National Assembly be interfered with.

Deputies Carlos Lorca Tobar and Vicente Atencio Cortes, both members

of the Chilean Congress at the time of the coup in September 1973, are two of an estimated 1,500 people who have disappeared in Chile. Both cases were listed in *AI's* 1977 publication *Disappeared Prisoners in Chile*. In each case the arrest was conducted by plainclothes officials in the presence of witnesses. The family of Deputy Lorca has brought an action for illegal arrest before the Fourth Criminal Court of Santiago.

The Chilean Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs has informed the IPU that "despite the various investigations carried out by the administrative police and judicial authorities, it has not been

of the IPU since Mr Lee resigned his seat in parliament from prison in 1966. According to the national group of the IPU in Singapore Mr Lee "is no longer a Singapore citizen and he is free to emigrate to any country that may wish to accommodate him".

In April this year the Special Committee was able to inform the Inter-Parliamentary Council that the Singapore government had finally agreed to receive an IPU mission to study the case.

In six of the cases examined by the Special Committee there were allegations that the detained parliamentarians

court. Sr Pérez complained that he was ill-treated after arrest. The military judge, noting that Sr Pérez was unable to name or recognize his torturers since his head was always hooded while undergoing ill-treatment, decided that it was not worthwhile to conduct an inquiry as it could not yield positive results.

Deputy Turiansky has not yet been sentenced although he has been in detention since October 1975. After his arrest he was held incommunicado for four months during which it has been alleged that he was tortured and his health seriously deteriorated.



**DETAINED, MISSING OR IN PRISON:** Senator José Luis Massera of Uruguay is now serving an 8 year prison sentence. His pelvis was fractured under torture. Deputy Lee Tse Tong of Singapore is held under the state's Internal Security Act. Deputy Cuesta Villa of Uruguay, sentenced by a military court to 8 years' imprisonment, is to have his case reviewed by a Supreme Military Tribunal. The IPU will send an observer. Deputy Carlos Lorca, former member of the Chilean Congress is one of an estimated 1,500 people who have disappeared in his country since the coup.

possible to ascertain the whereabouts of Sr Atencio and Sr Lorca." The IPU is continuing its efforts to obtain information about the fate of the missing deputies.

To investigate the case of Lee Tse Tong of Singapore, the IPU has decided to send a mission to approach the competent authorities. Mr Lee was elected in 1963 to the Legislative Assembly of Singapore which was at that time a member of the Federation of Malaysia. Shortly after his election he was arrested under the Internal Security Act and accused of having "actively, knowingly and willingly supported the armed revolution perpetrated by the Communist Party of Malaya". He has been detained ever since without trial and his health is reported to have seriously deteriorated.

In 1978 the IPU requested permission from the Singapore government to send a mission of inquiry to study the case but this was refused. The government is understood to have taken the position that Mr Lee's case is "not within the purview or concern"

had been victims of torture. All were elected representatives in Uruguay—Senator José Luis Massera Lerena, and Deputies Jaime Gershuni Pérez, Vladimir Turiansky, Alberto Altesor Gonzales, Rosario Pietrarroia Zapala, and Gerardo Cuesta Villa.

Senator Massera was arrested in 1975 and held incommunicado for several months. It has been reported that he suffered a fracture of the pelvis as a result of torture. A year after his arrest he was charged with "subversive association" for membership of a banned political party but has not yet been sentenced. His wife has also been detained and in 1976 his daughter and her husband were arrested, tortured and then released.

Deputy Pérez was arrested in 1974. The Uruguayan authorities have described him to the IPU as a "person of unstable personality" with "a schizo-paranoid psycho-type". Other sources state that he was in perfect physical and mental health before his arrest and maltreatment. He is now serving an 8 year prison sentence passed on 16 November 1978 by a military

In August 1976 *AI* listed 132 parliamentarians imprisoned in 14 countries. If the list had been broadened to include political leaders of parties with no parliamentary representation, the number would have been far higher.

Deputy Altesor is also reported to have suffered serious health problems after his arrest in 1975. Less than a year previously he had undergone a major operation after which he required constant medical care. However he was held incommunicado for 12 months without medical care and later transferred to the main military prison for men in the town of Libertad. On 31 May 1978 he was given an 8 year prison sentence on charges relating to "subversive association".

Deputy Pietrarroia Zapala was arrested in January 1976 and held in incommunicado detention for four months. In August 1978 he was sentenced by a military court to 12 years' imprisonment on charges relating to "subversive association".

Deputy Cuesta Villa also received a 12 year sentence in August 1978 on the same charges. His sentence must be examined by the Supreme Military Tribunal which meets in open session. The Inter-Parliamentary Council has agreed to send an observer to attend the tribunal's review of Deputy Cuesta's sentence. Torture allegations have also been made in his case □

## German Democratic Republic

### Professor released from house arrest

The order of house arrest imposed over two years ago by the authorities of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) on the prominent scientist and Marxist philosopher Robert HAVEMANN has been lifted. *AI* learned the news on 9 May.

Professor Havemann, a former inmate of a Nazi prison has been an outspoken critic of the GDR government for a number of years. In 1976 he protested publicly at the expulsion of Wolf BIERMANN, a songwriter who was deprived of his GDR citizenship while on a concert tour in the Federal Republic of Germany. Professor Havemann was arrested shortly afterwards and served with an order of "restriction of stay to his premises" for endangering the "peace and order" of the GDR.

Since that time until the lifting of the order Professor Havemann's house was

surrounded by large numbers of security police. Although much of the time he was allowed to leave his house under heavy police escort the restrictions were tightened in the last few months. He was reportedly prevented from seeing a doctor, despite a serious heart and lung condition.

In April this year he made an appeal for help to *AI* and other organizations stating that he and his wife were not allowed to leave their premises, even to buy food. Groceries were obtained for them by neighbours, with whom they were allowed to communicate over a garden fence. He stated further that he was being subjected to house searches and prolonged interrogations by security police.

On 2 May *AI* appealed to the GDR authorities to lift the order of house arrest. Professor Havemann was adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience □

## Rhodesia/Zimbabwe

### Appeal for amnesty

*AI* appealed on 27 April to Bishop Abel MUZOREWA, leader of the United African National Council (UANC), to honour the party's pre-election pledges by granting amnesty to political prisoners and by ending the practice of detention without trial in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. *AI* made this appeal following the first majority rule election in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe held from 17 to 21 April, in which the UANC won a majority of seats.

*AI* also urged Bishop Muzorewa to act immediately to prevent further political executions. Since the beginning of the year, executions are believed to have taken place involving people convicted of political offences by the High Court and people sentenced to death by special courts martial, which were established when martial law was introduced throughout much of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe in late 1978 □

## Israel

### Death penalty renewed

A recent Israeli Cabinet decision has paved the way for renewed use of the death penalty in the country. The decision taken on 29 April reversed the policy initiated by the Labour government in 1967 not to carry out the death penalty.

On 4 May *AI* cabled Israeli Prime Minister Menahem BEGIN expressing its grave concern at the Cabinet decision

to permit the carrying out of the death penalty for "acts of inhuman cruelty".

*AI* opposes the death penalty in all cases. In its cable *AI* called upon the Israeli Cabinet to rescind its decision and requested the government to take the necessary steps to eliminate the death penalty from the Israeli legal system □

## Trinidad

### Stanley Abbott hanged

Stanley ABBOTT, a political colleague of the late Malcolm X, was hanged in Trinidad on 27 April after six years of appeals and international campaigning against his execution.

Mr Abbott, aged 42, was convicted of murder in 1972 together with Malcolm X.

On 4 April the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London turned down Mr Abbott's final appeal for clemency (*May Newsletter*). A further appeal to the Trinidad Mercy Committee on 26 April also failed.

*AI* which opposes the death penalty in all cases has protested to the government of Trinidad about the hanging □

## Egypt

### New arrests

A new wave of arrests took place in Egypt during the last week of March, following the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

According to reports received by *AI* more than 50 people were arrested, many of whom were taken from their homes at dawn on 26 March. These included members of the legal leftwing opposition party, the National Progressive Unionist Party, which is known to be opposed to the peace treaty with Israel. Also among those arrested was 'Azza BALBA'A, wife of the well known poet Ahmed Fu'ad NEGM (*March and June 1978 Newsletters*). She is reported to have been beaten at the time of her arrest.

On 10 April *AI* wrote to the Egyptian Minister of the Interior, Mr Muhammad Nabawi ISMAIL, enclosing a list of names of those arrested. In its letter *AI* requested clarification of the current situation of those arrested, including the nature of the charges against them and their present place of detention. *AI* also requested that an investigation be initiated into the circumstances of 'Azza Balba'a's arrest □

### Changes of Address

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Amnesty International Belgique  
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Belgium

### Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in April of the release of 99 prisoners under adoption or investigation and took up 72 new cases.



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.

#### Uruguay

### Torture victim disappears after arrest

A Uruguayan couple who have taken asylum in Belgium have told *AI* of an early morning raid on their home by the Uruguayan Combined Forces which resulted in the torture and disappearance of a friend and in their expulsion from their native country.

On 19 July 1977 Hermes L. FULLE FLEITAS and Ana M. REGNIER DE FULLE were at home in Montevideo when three men in civilian clothes burst in and held them at gunpoint. The men, who claimed to be from the Uruguayan Combined Forces, said they were looking for Oscar TASSINO, a member of the national power and telephone workers' union and a friend of the Fulles.

When Sr Tassino arrived at the Fulles' home an hour later he was, according to the couple's testimony, thrown to the ground and his pockets emptied. "They took him to one of the bedrooms where they gave him a beating which could be heard clearly from where we were. A few minutes later the men came out of the bedroom, laughing and saying, "Now he says his name is Ruoco." They were addressing a man of about 40, of medium build, with blue eyes and very grey hair, whom they called 'Colonel' and who was obviously in charge of the operation. The man who was apparently second in command was about 26, with long, thick blond hair, blue eyes and a moustache, dressed in jeans and a jacket, with a whistle around his neck."

Half an hour after he had arrived Oscar Tassino, wearing a hat and with a scarf wrapped around his face, was taken from the house into a white Peugeot and driven away.

The Fulles testify that they were kept under guard in their home for

two days by three men in civilian clothes who arrived in an army jeep as Sr Tassino was taken away. "During this period, army personnel in uniform came twice, very late in the night, to give our guards food. They themselves admitted they were from the army: one sergeant, one corporal, and one non-commissioned officer," the Fulles said.

The "second in command" arrived in an army vehicle at the end of the second day of the Fulles' captivity and told them they had a few hours to get out of the country.

The couple remember that he said, "Thank the Combined Forces that we are letting you live. We don't want any deaths at the moment." He also made comments such as, "Go and tell them abroad that the more they ask for prisoners to be released and the less meat they buy, the more prisoners we shall take."

In a communiqué to the International Labour Organization in November 1978 the Uruguayan authorities claim Oscar Tassino was arrested on 11 February 1978 and released the same day. However, despite repeated approaches by Sr Tassino's relatives to the military authorities and police, his whereabouts remain unknown. Sr Tassino's wife, Disnarda Flores de TASSINO, has been imprisoned since November 1975 on charges of "assisting a subversive association"; she is alleged to be a member of the Communist Party.

*Please write courteously worded letters asking the Uruguayan authorities to clarify the legal situation and to provide information on the whereabouts of Oscar Tassino. Write to:* Señores Comandantes en Jefe de las Fuerzas Armadas, Avenida 8 de Octubre y Garibaldi, Montevideo, Uruguay □

#### USSR

### Dissenter seriously ill

Thirty-seven-year-old Ukrainian dissenter Iosif Mikhailovich TERELYA is forcibly confined in Dnepropetrovsk Special Psychiatric Hospital (an institution designated for mentally ill people who are "especially dangerous") and is undergoing "treatment" with powerful neuroleptic drugs which have seriously undermined his health. He is also believed to be suffering from a heart complaint.



Iosif Mikhailovich Terelya

Mr Terelya was interned in April 1977 in an ordinary psychiatric hospital at Beregovo in the Transcarpathian region in the Ukraine, despite the opinion of his wife, who is a doctor, that he is sane (October 1977 *Cat Bulletin*). Five months later he was transferred to Dnepropetrovsk where he has been confined ever since.

Mr Terelya has served a total of 16 years in Soviet corrective labour colonies, prisons and psychiatric hospitals for his nationalist and religious convictions.

*Please write courteously worded letters to the Director of the Dnepropetrovsk Special Psychiatric Hospital expressing concern at reports that Mr Terelya is receiving medical treatment which is damaging his health, and urging that all steps be taken to obtain his immediate release. Write to:* SSSR, Ukr. SSR, g. Dnepropetrovsk, ul. Chicherina 101 p/ya YaE, 308/RB-9, Spetsialnaya Psikhiatricheskaya Bolnitsa, Nachalniku □

## Thirty thousand disappeared, detained or killed during civil strife in Nicaragua

Lawyers in Nicaragua now estimate that in the past twelve months 30,000 people have disappeared, been detained or killed in the civil strife which has gripped the country. They have recorded the names of 6,000 detainees and have formed legal aid bureaux in an effort to help people held by the National Guard.

In a recent incident a Spanish journalist covering the fighting in April between government forces and the Sandinista National Liberation Front near the town of Estelí in northern Nicaragua was detained and beaten by military forces and his film and press credentials confiscated.

Alfonso ROJO who works for the magazine *Cambio 16* and *Centro Internacional de Información Latinoamericana* was arrested on 16 April on charges of having aided the guerrillas. On 18 April *AI* issued an Urgent Action appeal and foreign journalists who spotted Sr Rojo handcuffed in a truck full of soldiers also organized protests on his behalf.

After his release Sr Rojo denied charges that he had been helping the Sandinistas and stated that he believed he had been detained because the Nicaraguan government found it "inconvenient" to have an objective and impartial journalist present on the battlefield.

Foreign journalists allowed in to Estelí after the government subdued the fighting were held virtual prisoners as the National Guard transformed the city into an enormous jail. Refugees were prevented from leaving the city, and the Red Cross was not allowed to evacuate the wounded.

Shortly after the Rojo incident, the Nicaraguan journalists' trade union condemned the "increasing oppression" of the information system by the government and said that the independent press was "completely paralyzed" by penalties, arrests, dismissals and attacks. Trade union leader Manuel EUGARRIOS declared, "We are the victims of repression because we inform the people about what is happening in the country."

### *AI seeking information*

*AI* has called on the Nicaraguan government for information on the whereabouts of Chilean photo-journalist Haroldo HORTA, who was arrested in January by the National Guard near the Costa Rican frontier, where he was covering guerrilla action. At the time of his arrest Sr Horta was working for the Austrian magazine *Profil*.



Spanish journalist Alfonso Rojo being arrested by the National Guard in Estelí. Before he was released, he was beaten and had his film and press credentials confiscated. (*UPI photo*).

*AI* has also protested the murder by National Guardsmen of two doctors and 40 wounded and unconscious patients at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Estelí on 12 April. According to an eye-witness, Dr Eduardo de SILVA was machine-gunned "for sport" by guardsmen as he came out of surgery. He had been operating on people wounded in the fighting.

*AI* is also concerned about the arrests in April of Orlando MATUS del CARMEN and Julio César AVILES of the Jinotepe branch of the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in Nicaragua. Sr Matus del Carmen was reportedly brought from Jinotepe in Carazo province to prison in Managua, but the whereabouts of Sr Aviles are still unknown □

### Amnesty International seeks

#### Deputy Head of Research

The Research Department is the largest department in the International Secretariat with a staff of 60 and is divided into five geographical regions — Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East and the Americas.

The Deputy Head of Research assists the Head of Research in implementing *AI's* research policies, maintaining the quality and impartiality of information and ensuring that this information is used in the best interests of *AI's* work.

The Deputy Head of Research is responsible for coordinating the case sheet program, for checking the quality of case sheets, urgent actions and material from the Research Department for *AI's* international newsletter. S/he is responsible for coordinating the Research Department's work on specific campaigns, for investigations which involve more than one region and for relief and refugees in liaison with other departments in the IS. S/he deputizes for the Head of Research in his absence.

Applicants should have sound political judgement and a wide knowledge of the political, economic and legal situation in different parts of the world.

Ability to speak and write fluent English is essential; knowledge of other languages would be an asset. Salary: £5,667.00 per annum (to be reviewed in July 1979)

Closing date: 30 June 1979

Anyone interested in applying for this post should contact the Personnel Officer at the International Secretariat.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England. Printed in Great Britain by Hill and Garwood Ltd., Fourth Way, Wembley, Middlesex. Available on subscription at £6 (US \$15) per calendar year.