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Torture in Turkey is systematic and widespread, Council of Europe told

Torture was so widespread in Turkey that it was impossible that it was being practised without official approval, *AI* told the Political Affairs Committee of the Council of Europe on 28 April 1981.

In an oral statement to the representatives of the council's 21 member states, *AI* said that information obtained by an *AI* mission to Turkey from 17 to 25 April 1981 confirmed the organization's belief—based on earlier information—that “torture is widespread in Turkey at the present time and is carried out as a routine practice in police stations and in some military establishments all over the country”.

The Political Affairs Committee had invited *AI* to address it at its meeting in Paris.

AI told the committee that the two-member mission had visited Turkey to discuss the organization's concerns with the Turkish authorities, in particular allegations of torture. The mission comprised a member of the International Secretariat (IS) and a retired Rear Admiral of the Dutch Navy, Jan Dam BACKER.

Official meetings were held with Turkey's Deputy Chief of Staff,

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe discussed Turkey (a member state) at its meeting in Strasbourg from 11 to 15 May 1981. It voted against renewing the mandate of the Turkish delegates but did not suspend Turkish membership of the council. It also called for “the absolute necessity to suppress all practices of torture” in Turkey.

General OZTORUN; the Ankara Martial Law Commander, General ERGUN; the Coordinator of Martial Law Commands, General BOLOGIREY; the Director of the Turkish police, Fahri GORGULU; the Foreign Minister, Ilter TURKMAN, and a Minister of State, Professor OZTRAK. The mission delegates also had unofficial meetings with two former prime ministers, Bulent ECEVIT and Suleyman DEMIREL, and with lawyers, journalists, released detainees and relatives of detainees.

AI said the mission had not been impeded in its attempts to collect information—but those in authority who had spoken to the delegates were “not entirely straightforward and sometimes appeared deliberately to mislead”.

Before the visit *AI* had received a

considerable number of allegations that prisoners in Turkey had been tortured. It had information also about 22 cases of people who had died in custody since the military takeover on 12 September 1980.

The mission had brought back statements from people who had been tortured—some of them interviewed by the mission members—as well as medical reports supporting the allegations and information about torture supplied by journalists, lawyers and relatives of detainees.

It has also brought back a list of over 100 people—some in prison, some free—who were prepared to testify to torture inflicted on themselves or on others.

The pattern and methods of torture, the places where it had occurred and the equipment used established without doubt that it was systematic and not the occasional aberration.

Methods of torture included *falaka* (beating the soles of the feet), electric shock, a form of rape using police truncheons or sticks, and beating all parts of the body.

Torture allegations, *AI* said, had come from all over Turkey, but the names of some places had recurred frequently, including the 1st Section of Police Headquarters in Ankara and Istanbul; Police Headquarters in Bursa; Davutpasa Prison, Uskudar Police

Continued on back page

Crippled Cuban poet 'beaten unconscious'

The Cuban poet Armando F. VALLADARES, prisoner of the month in June 1980, is reported to have been attacked by guards and beaten unconscious in the hospital wing of Combinado del Este Prison, Havana, on 7 February 1981.

The poet, who is virtually paralysed and confined to a wheelchair, is reported to have been

moved to the hospital wing in the second half of 1980. At the time his condition was said to have been serious.

In March 1981 *AI* received a report that he had been attacked. His condition was said to be still serious and it was alleged that he had been given no medical treatment. He was also reported to have been denied visits by his family.

Armando Valladares was arrested in 1960 at the age of 23 and charged with “offences against the powers of the state”. The following year he was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment. His paralysis followed a hunger-strike in 1968 in protest against prison conditions. He is reported to suffer from asthma and heart trouble□

USSR More Helsinki monitors jailed

Heavy sentences have been passed on more members of unofficial groups monitoring Soviet observance of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act; they were convicted on charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".

A member of the Moscow group, Tatyana OSIPOVA, was sentenced on 2 April 1981 to five years' imprisonment and three years' internal exile.

In the Ukrainian Republic, the Helsinki monitor and former prisoner of conscience adopted by *AI* Ivan SOKULSKY has been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and internal exile, and 76-year-old Oksana MESHKO to six months' imprisonment and five years' internal exile.

Another Ukrainian Helsinki monitor, Ivan KANDYBA, a lawyer, was arrested on 24 March; he has already served a 15-year term of imprisonment for peacefully campaigning for the secession of Ukraine from the USSR. On 25 March two Lithuanian Helsinki monitors, Vitautas VAICIUNAS and Mecislovas JURIAVICIUS, were arrested.

At the end of March *AI* learned that an Estonian human rights campaigner,

Dr Yuri KUKK, had died in a labour camp; he had been on hunger-strike for several months.

In April information was received that three Lithuanian dissenters—Vytautas SKUODIS, Gintautas IESMANTAS and Povilas PECELIUNAS—had been sentenced to 12, 11 and eight years' imprisonment and internal exile respectively for preparing and circulating Lithuanian *samizdat* (uncensored and privately distributed writings). They were among nine Lithuanians to be tried, all of them campaigners for religious rights and national independence.

Two dissenters from the Ukrainian city of Kharkov have also been given severe sentences: Genrikh ALTUNYAN, a long-standing human rights campaigner, received 12 years' imprisonment and internal exile, and his colleague Anatoly ZINCHENKO, a would-be emigrant, received 11 years'.

On 25 March 1981 the leading religious campaigner Rostislav GALETSKY, a Seventh Day Adventist, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" □

Pakistan Extra powers for President

A Provisional Constitutional Order was issued on 24 March 1981, giving the President of Pakistan power to change the constitution at will; in effect it abrogates the country's 1973 constitution.

It proscribes all major political parties—only a few smaller pro-Islamic parties and the Tehrik-i-Istiqal party remain unaffected.

The judiciary will no longer be able to hear cases challenging the preventive detention of political prisoners or to consider any case challenging the military government or judgments by military courts. Previously, civilian courts had in many cases invoked the constitution to quash detention orders on political prisoners under Martial Law Order No. 78 [preventive detention]; or set aside convictions imposed by military courts on political prisoners; or stay the carrying out of severe punishments, such as flogging

or the death penalty.

The right to *habeas corpus* is severely restricted.

Court cases dealing with the legality of the martial law government have been declared void and the Supreme Court's powers of judicial review have been taken away.

The new measure required supreme and High Court judges to swear a new oath. The Chief Justice of Pakistan, two other Supreme Court judges and at least six High Court judges have refused to do so, on the grounds that they can no longer accept the constitutionality or legality of President Zia's martial law government. In effect, they have resigned. As a result, the independence of the judiciary in Pakistan has been seriously weakened and important legal safeguards—until now protecting at least some basic human rights—have been removed □

Indonesia Prisoners' fate still uncertain after 15 years

In a letter to President SUHARTO on 29 April 1981, *AI* expressed concern about the fate of more than 50 political prisoners sentenced to death after the attempted coup in Indonesia over 15 years ago.

The letter pointed out that, although members of the Indonesian Government had unofficially indicated to other governments that none of those under sentence of death because of alleged involvement in the coup attempt of 1965 would be executed, there was no possibility of them being rehabilitated as long as clemency was not formally granted. *AI* urged that the death sentences be commuted so as to remove the uncertainty surrounding their cases and prepare for their rehabilitation.

Since November 1979, political prisoners sentenced to life or less have been eligible for remission on the same terms as ordinary criminals. Prisoners under sentence of death, however, are not eligible and face the prospect of indefinite detention.

AI also submitted to the Indonesian Government a list of 58 people it believes to have been sentenced to death for involvement in the 1965 attempted coup and its aftermath. It asked for clarification of their present position in view of statements by Indonesian officials that only 31 people are under sentence of death on these charges □

Iraq reply to torture charges

In a 1,500-word response to *AI*'s report, *Iraq: evidence of torture* (see May 1981 *Newsletter*), the Iraqi Government has described it as being "without any foundation" and has emphasized that torture is banned by the nation's constitution and laws. The response was transmitted by the Iraqi Embassy in London on 27 April; *AI* had sent a pre-publication copy of the report to the Iraqi Government on 3 February 1981.

In a news release issued on 29 April, *AI* said the Iraqi response did not reply in detail to the specific allegations of torture in the report and did not allay the organization's concern □

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.

Horacio CIAFARDINI, Argentina

An economist and university lecturer, aged 39, he has been in detention for more than four years. In March 1979 he was acquitted of all charges laid against him—but he has continued to be detained, under the terms of a decree signed by the President. He is married.

Dr Horacio CIAFARDINI was arrested on 21 July 1976 at his place of work, the offices of the *Consejo Federal de Inversiones*, the Federal Investment Council—a governmental body responsible for setting up investment projects in Argentina. He was one of 17 staff members of the *Universidad del Sur*, Southern University, in the town of Bahía Blanca, to be arrested that month; most of them worked in the Economics Faculty, where he was a lecturer in economics. The university's Rector, Dr Victor BENAMO, had been arrested in April 1976.

In August the army commander of the area and the police chief held a news conference in Bahía Blanca at which they gave details of what they called a "concerted plot of Marxist ideological penetration" in the university; they stated that Dr Ciafardini and the others detained were among those involved. Later, on 13 August, an order was made for Dr Ciafardini's pre-trial detention, and on 20 August he was placed at the disposal of the national executive power, *a la disposición del Poder Ejecutivo Nacional* (PEN), under the terms of a presidential decree.

On 9 March 1979, nearly three years later, the Argentine press reported that Dr Ciafardini and five others had been acquitted of the charges against them. The other five were released conditionally but Dr Ciafardini was kept in detention under PEN.

Please write courteous letters appealing for Horacio Ciafardini's release to: Exmo. Sr. Presidente de la Nación, Tte.

General Roberto VIOLA, Balcarce 50, 1064 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Tsehai TOLESSA, Ethiopia

The wife of the Reverend Gudina TUMSA, an internationally known church leader who "disappeared" after being kidnapped in July 1979 (see June 1980 Newsletter), she has been detained without charge or trial since February 1980 and is reported to have been tortured. They have four children, all refugees.

Tsehai TOLESSA is one of several hundred people of Oromo ethnic origin detained by the authorities in Addis Ababa since February 1980. She and many others were reported to have been tortured in the Counter-Revolutionary Investigation Department, known as the "third police station"; she is now held in the former Menelik Palace, the military government's headquarters.

She and her husband—the general secretary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Mekane Yesus Church, a member of the Lutheran World Federation,—were kidnapped by unidentified gunmen on 28 July 1979. She was released some hours later but his fate is unknown. The kidnappers are widely believed to have been government security agents.

The arrests of Tsehai Tolessa and the others in February 1980 are thought to have been in reprisal for activities of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), which is fighting the government in the south. Neither Tsehai Tolessa nor her husband have advocated support for OLF. Their church, however, has pressed the military government on several human rights issues and has consequently been persecuted over the past three years.

Please write courteous letters appealing for Tsehai Tolessa's release to: His Excellency MENGISTU

Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, PO Box 5707, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Petr UHL, Czechoslovakia

A 40-year-old engineer, he is serving a five-year sentence in the second (stricter) prison category in Mirov Prison—it is his second term as a prisoner of conscience. He is married with two children.

Petr UHL and nine other members of the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted (VONS) were arrested in May 1979 on charges of preparing statements about people they considered to be unjustly persecuted and of circulating the information in Czechoslovakia and abroad. Six VONS members, including Petr Uhl, were tried in October 1979; his five-year sentence was the longest passed.

In October 1980 he complained to the Mirov Prison director about bad conditions and discrimination against political prisoners. The following month he was punished, ostensibly for insulting a fellow prisoner and for resting before "lights out".

Petr Uhl has been harassed by the authorities and imprisoned over a period of 12 years. In December 1969 he and 18 associates were charged with producing and distributing "anti-Soviet materials in which they attacked the socialist system of the republic". In March 1970 they were found guilty of subversion and sentenced to prison terms of up to four years; Petr Uhl was given the longest sentence. In January 1977 he signed Charter 77.

Please write courteous letters appealing for Petr Uhl's release to: JuDr Gustav HUSAK, President of the CSSR, 11 908 Praha—Hrad, CSSR; and to: JuDr Jan NEMEC, Minister of Justice of the CSR, Vysehradská 16, Praha 2—Nove Mesto, CSSR.

Twenty years ago a London weekly newspaper, *The Observer*, published an article by a British lawyer, Peter Benenson, announcing the launching of a campaign called "Appeal for Amnesty 1961". Within a month he had received support from people all over the world and AI came into being. Now AI looks ahead to the challenge it faces in the 1980s. On 27 May 1981 it issued an "Appeal for Amnesty 1981".

Human rights in the 1980s

— a crucial test

Human rights face a crucial test in the 1980s, with the right to dissent under attack in country after country. Torture and murder, abduction and imprisonment—often sanctioned at the highest levels of government—are systematic practices in nations of widely differing ideologies.

The death toll is mounting. Thousands have been liquidated by agents acting under official orders in Guatemala. In Argentina and the Philippines, the victims have been abducted by security forces and never seen again.

Elsewhere, special courts have ordered wholesale political executions. In Iran and Iraq, the victims have been hanged or shot after summary hearings, often without any right of judicial appeal.

Deaths in prison or military or police custody are reported regularly, often as a direct result of torture. Fatal incidents have been reported in the past year from states including Bolivia, Spain, Turkey, Uruguay and Zaire.



In countries ranging from the Soviet Union to the Republic of Korea, from China to Haiti, criticism of government policy can carry severe penalties.

Those sent to camps and prisons often face harsh conditions and rigorous punishments.

In many regions, imprisonment on racial, religious or political grounds is being prolonged indefinitely. In the words of a former victim, now free, prisoners' cells have become "tombs for the living". Some prisoners of conscience have now been incarcerated for decades.

Frequently, detention without charge or trial is used to silence real or suspected dissenters. Some have

"If we lose our capacity to be outraged when we see others subjected to atrocities, then we lose our right to call ourselves human beings."

—Vladimir Herzog, a Brazilian journalist who died in military police custody in 1975.

been so held continuously for years, as in Malaysia and Paraguay, and others "banned", as in South Africa.

Other examples could be cited:

- Nearly half the 154 governments of the United Nations are believed to be holding prisoners of conscience—people imprisoned for their beliefs or origins, who have not used or advocated violence.
- Since December 1975 AI has taken action on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in more than 60 countries where government officials inflicted violence on people in custody, with the deliberate intention of causing them extreme physical and mental suffering.
- In more than 50 countries citizens can be detained by administrative order without charge or trial.
- In 134 nations the death penalty is in force—in many for politically related offences.

The taking of hostages, the use of torture and the execution of political opponents have also been carried out by non-governmental groups in the name of various causes. Such acts are no more acceptable than repression by governments.

These systematic attempts to suppress and eliminate non-conformists must be met by urgent international efforts if human rights are to be protected in the 1980s.

Twenty years ago the AI movement was launched with a newspaper appeal to people of all views to begin working together, impartially and peacefully, for the release of men and women imprisoned throughout the world solely

for their political and religious beliefs.

Today, in many areas of the world, it is not only freedom of conscience that is under attack: the lives of prisoners are at stake.

Before he entered the headquarters of the military police in São Paulo for questioning in 1975, the Brazilian journalist Vladimir HERZOG wrote:

"If we lose our capacity to be outraged when we see others subjected to atrocities, then we lose our right to call ourselves human beings."

Vladimir Herzog entered the military police headquarters one day in late October 1975: within a few hours he was dead: his wife was informed that he had "committed suicide" (for details of this case see July 1980 *Newsletter*).



Faced with the extent of the attack upon human rights, many ask if the battle for those rights can be won. Around the world, people are undoubtedly

more aware of their rights than ever; but the violations that are perpetrated every day show that the need for action is no less than it was, and may be greater.

The strategy must be two-fold: to tackle abuses both at the level of international law and at the level of human solidarity with the victims.

The process of securing commitments to international human rights standards must be accelerated. Universal ratification of international human rights covenants is essential. At present, fewer than half the governments in the world have ratified these agreements. An international convention against torture, now being drafted, must be adopted by the United Nations as a matter of priority. The convention must include provision for international on-site inspection of detention centres. A worldwide moratorium on executions, currently stalled in

United Nations debate, must be introduced.

An effective, independent force for human rights is imperative—a force that is able to transcend the tangle of power politics and is ready to intervene wherever and whenever fundamental human rights are violated.

Agreements alone, however, cannot guarantee the protection of human rights. Public opinion must provide the momentum needed to ensure that such standards are respected.

An effective, independent force for human rights is imperative—a force that is able to transcend the tangle of power politics and is ready to intervene wherever and whenever fundamental human rights are violated. The means can include anything from widespread publicity in the news media to the efforts of volunteers ready to send letters and telegrams on behalf of threatened prisoners.

AI's experience has shown that the lives of people facing torture and death can be saved by prompt international action. Detainees have been released following concerted appeals from people and organizations in other countries. In other cases, victims who had "disappeared" while in the custody of security forces have reappeared. Torture has been stopped and death sentences commuted.

Enormous difficulties stand in the way: secrecy and censorship obstruct the flow of information about prisons and prisoners, and even when information becomes available, governments may turn a deaf ear to appeals on behalf of the victims; relatives lawyers and human rights activists can be intimidated by fear of reprisals; diplomatic pressure may be brought to bear to soften protests or prevent disclosures; prisoners and those working for them may be abandoned amid international hypocrisy about human rights.

Time and again, these difficulties have been overcome by impartial, factually accurate human rights campaigning. Such efforts have depended ultimately on the energy, perseverance and fund raising of individual citizens in many countries.

Now, in the 80s, AI has established a precise role for itself in the overall field of human rights work. It has a three-fold mandate:

- First, it seeks the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of

conscience (those imprisoned because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin or language who have not used or advocated violence).

- Second, it advocates fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such prisoners detained without charge or trial.
- Third, it opposes torture and the death penalty in all forms without reservation.



Pablo Picasso was an early supporter of the Amnesty International movement, to which he gave this drawing.

AI regards any violation of these fundamental human rights as a threat to the rights and dignity of all people. It concentrates on trying to halt violations committed or tolerated by governments, because it is they who are responsible for upholding the standards agreed by the international community.

Despite the increasing effort that must go into exposing and campaigning against these specific human rights abuses, AI has reaffirmed its original belief that it must continue to rely on the contributions of its members and donations from the public. This reliance on public support is essential to keep the movement free from interference by governments, funding agencies or pressure groups.

AI hopes to double the number of supporters and regular financial contributors in the next two years. This would greatly increase AI's capacity to campaign for the release of prisoners of conscience and for an end to torture and executions.

Those resources will be needed to make maximum use of the personal commitment that so many people have shown themselves ready to make. In the 20 years since AI was launched, many thousands of people working in local groups throughout the world have acted to help in more than 20,000

individual cases of known or possible prisoners of conscience, as well as in cases of many groups of people under threat. Well over 250,000 people now take part in or actively support AI's work. More than 350 missions, whose members have included volunteer lawyers and doctors, have observed trials, interviewed prisoners and made representations to government officials.

Millions of letters and messages have been sent to ministries and prison camps, proof of a growing community of conscience working in defence of human dignity.

These efforts must be multiplied if the present challenge is to be met and a breakthrough in the international protection of human rights is to be achieved. Commitment to this goal is essential if we are to retain, in the words of Vladimir Herzog, "the right to call ourselves human beings" □

HOW YOU CAN HELP

A movement that started working out of a lawyer's office in London, where volunteers often paid for the postage from their own pockets, has grown into a permanent campaign needing a regular international budget.

Everyone can help:—

- You can make a donation to the national section of AI in your country.
- You can make a donation direct to AI's international budget at Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, United Kingdom.
- If you have access to a duplicating machine, pass on this message: make six copies of this article and send each to a friend who you believe would also be willing to help us bring the hope of freedom to the world's prisoners of conscience.

Please make your donation by international money order or in sterling or United States dollars. Bank transfers may be made direct to Amnesty International account number 81030094, Midland Bank, 82 Strand, London WC2, United Kingdom.

Donations should be made to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in April of the release of 39 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 203 cases.

Malawi Ex-minister gets 22 years'

Gwanda CHAKUAMBA, aged 45, former Minister of Youth and Culture and Commander of the Young Pioneers, the youth wing of the ruling Malawi Congress Party (MCP), was sentenced to 22 years' imprisonment on 20 March 1981 after being convicted of sedition and three other offences. They included his possession of photographs of exiled former ministers, which was considered to be "an act prejudicial to public security", and copies of the London-based magazine *New African*.

The sedition charge against him related to a political meeting on 18 November 1979 at Chikwawa, in Southern Region. At the meeting Sofiliano Faindi PHIRI, 52, the nominated member of parliament for Chikwawa South, was alleged to have uttered "seditious words" by saying that all development in the area was due to Gwanda Chakuamba's personal efforts and that the country as a whole would have been better developed if there were more people of Gwanda Chakuamba's calibre. Faindi Phiri, who stood trial with Gwanda Chakuamba, was convicted of sedition and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

The essence of the sedition charge against Gwanda Chakuamba was that he did not dissociate himself from Faindi Phiri's remarks and emphasize to the meeting that all developments in the area were due to "the wise and dynamic leadership" of Life President Dr Hastings Kamuzu BANDA.

According to the prosecution, it had been the aim of Gwanda Chakuamba and Faindi Phiri to create "discontent and dissatisfaction" with President Banda's government.

The trial, which began in November 1980, was held before the Southern Region Traditional Court at Blantyre, presided over by a panel of five chiefs. Gwanda Chakuamba and Faindi Phiri acted in their own defence as legal representation is not permitted in the traditional court.

In December 1980 *AI* had repeatedly asked President Banda and other government authorities for permission to have an observer at the trial. No formal response was received, but Malawi's diplomatic representative in London indicated that an *AI* observer would almost certainly be refused entry into the country □

China Editor held

Police in Peking arrested XU Wenli, editor of an unofficial journal, *April Fifth Tribune*, during a midnight raid on his home on 10 April 1981, according to informed Chinese sources.

They confiscated tape recordings and personal papers but are said to have given no reason for his arrest. A colleague, YANG Jing, is reported to have been arrested on the same day. In neither case did the police inform relatives of any charges or where the two were being held.

Xu Wenli, the son of a doctor, worked as an electrician in a Peking factory. He was interviewed by a number of foreign journalists in the city over the past two years.

April Fifth Tribune ceased publication in April last year after strong warnings by the authorities to those who continued to publish such journals despite the official ban imposed on

them in 1979. Since April 1980 XU and his friends have circulated a private newsletter and joined in appeals made by various groups for the release of imprisoned dissidents or for more democracy and freedom.

On 24 April 1981 *AI* wrote to the Chinese authorities expressing concern at the reported arrest of the two and urging that their whereabouts and any charges against them be made public, or that they be released immediately □

Czechoslovakia

In April 1981 the Public Procurator reframed the charge of subversion against the 57-year-old sociologist Rudolf BATTEK (see February 1981 *Newsletter*) by adding that the offence had been committed "in collusion with foreign agents" and "on a large scale." The new charge makes him liable to a maximum prison sentence of 10 years' imprisonment—previously he had faced a maximum of five years' □

Tunisia

Top union job for ex-prisoner of conscience

Former prisoner of the month Taieb BACCOUCHE (October 1978 *Newsletter*) had been elected Secretary General of the *Union générale des travailleurs tunisiens* (UGTT), General Union of Tunisian Workers, it was announced on 1 May 1981.

He was one of a number of trade unionists adopted as prisoners of conscience by *AI* after a one-day general strike on 26 January 1978. He was tried by the State Security Court in October 1978, together with 29 other trade union leaders, and sentenced to six years' imprisonment with hard labour. All imprisoned trade unionists have since been released and amnestied, except the former UGTT Secretary General Habib ACHOUR, who remains under house arrest.

The newly elected executive committee of the UGTT includes several former prisoners of conscience adopted by *AI*, among them: Kheireddine SALHI, Abderrazak GHORBAL, Sadok BESBES, Mohamed Neji CHAARI, Mostafa GHARBI and Abdelhamid BELAID. □

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Simbi MUBAKO, announced on 24 April 1981 that all sentences of death had been commuted by President Canaan BANANA to mark the first anniversary of the country's independence.

The prisoners affected are those who were sentenced to death before 18 April 1981. No details were given of how many are to benefit, but at least 12 people are known to have been sentenced to death since independence in April 1980 and at least five others are believed to have been under sentence of death awaiting execution or the outcome of appeals at the time of independence. It would appear that all 17 prisoners qualify for the presidential clemency.

AI cabled President Banana, Simbi Mubako and Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, Robert Mugabe, on 30 April welcoming the act of presidential clemency □



amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture

Argentina Health fears for 21 political prisoners

The physical and mental health of at least 21 political prisoners is reported to have deteriorated seriously over the past few months in prisons in different parts of Argentina. Half the prisoners concerned are reported to have serious psychiatric problems—one is said to have made several attempts to kill himself; one prisoner is partly paralysed and suffers from epileptic fits; another has a severe and reportedly untreated spinal complaint, and a third has a serious infectious disease which affects the blood and certain internal organs.

During 1980 *AI* frequently expressed its concern about reports that political prisoners were not receiving adequate medical treatment and that the prison regimes were causing psychological disturbances, particularly among long-term detainees. Three political prisoners are known to have hanged themselves in 1980 (see October 1980 *Newsletter*), in Rawson Prison, La Plata Prison and Caseros Prison (*Unidad No. 1*).

Conditions are said to be particularly harmful to people in Caseros Prison, where inmates are locked in their cells for more than 20 hours each day.

The 21 prisoners on whose health *AI* received reports in late April and early May 1981 include four people adopted as prisoners of conscience.

- Eduardo FOTI was arrested in July 1975 and held without charge or trial by presidential decree *a la disposición del Poder Ejecutivo Nacional* (PEN), at the disposal of the national executive power. During a raid on his home he had received a bullet in the head and part of his skull was later replaced by a plastic plate. He is now hemiplegic (one side of his body is paralysed), has epileptic attacks and is said to be unable to move or to dress himself unaided.

In May 1979 he was moved from La Plata to Caseros Prison, where he was reportedly punished; he began a hunger-strike in protest and was punished again. In September 1979 he was transferred to *Unidad No. 20*—the Borda Clinic, a psychiatric unit attached to the prison service. He was sent back to Caseros the next month but did not

receive the medical treatment prescribed for him, including treatment to prevent his epileptic attacks.

In January 1980 he was confined in the punishment block. Later he was taken back to the Borda Clinic, where his health improved. But on his return to Caseros on 3 June 1980 he was immediately taken to the punishment block again. Once again he was denied medical treatment. His mental condition deteriorated and his epileptic attacks became more frequent. *AI*'s information is that he has been taken back to the Borda Clinic.

Psychiatrist held

- Dr Eduardo LLOSA, aged 45, a former member of the executive of the Argentine Federation of Psychiatrists, was a lecturer in psychology at the National University in San Luí.

He served a three-year prison sentence for "possession of subversive documents", but his detention has continued under PEN.

Dr Llosa, who suffers from chronic bronchitis and sinusitis, is being held in Rawson Prison, where conditions are reported to be extremely harsh. It is now winter in Rawson, in southern Argentina, and this is a particular health hazard for Dr Llosa.

- Eduardo Yazbeck JOZAMI, a former lawyer and journalist who acted as defence lawyer for labour leaders and trade unionists, has served five years of an eight-year sentence and is now eligible for parole. He is at present in Rawson Prison but has also been held in Villa Devoto, Caseros and La Plata.

In October 1979 he began to show signs of a spinal complaint which now causes him considerable pain and he is able to walk or stand for short periods only. He is said to be suffering also from another less serious complaint which affects the level of uric acid in the blood. He is understood to have been given no medical treatment for either of these complaints.

- María Gregoria PEREZ, a 33-year-old nurse, has been held under PEN since

October 1975. She is believed to have had an operation on her ovaries while in Villa Devoto Prison and is reported to be suffering from psychological problems.

- María Liliana Lucia SALVADOR de FRANCISETTI, aged 27, is reported to have been badly tortured after her arrest in September 1975. She was later sentenced to five and a half years' imprisonment for "illicit association". Since the expiry of her sentence in March 1981 she has been detained under PEN.

She is now suffering from brucellosis, an infectious disease which affects the blood and certain internal organs. A course of injections is reported to have been started but the treatment was never completed.

Others in poor health

Other political prisoners who are reported to be in very poor health are: Rosa ALCARAZ; Susana Beatriz BENINI; José María CUESTA; Angel FRANCIÁ; Juan Carlos GOMEZ; Roberto MAYER; Miguel Angel MOSSETTO; Emilio Tibucio PADILLA; Roberto Edgardo PASUCCI; Norma SPALTRO; Miguel Angel VAZQUEZ; Jorge Armando VEIGA; Jorge Rodolfo MEZA; Oscar Hector MATTHEWS; Albarracín RONCEDO and Gustavo DE CARA.

Please write courteous letters appealing for all these prisoners to be given the medical treatment they need and for their release on humanitarian grounds to be considered. Express concern about reports that prisoners' health has been affected by harsh prison conditions and urge that all prisoners be treated in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Address your letters to: Exmo. Sr. Presidente de la Nación, Tte. General Roberto VIOLA, Balcarce 50, 1064 Buenos Aires, Argentina; and to Sr. Director de Institutos Penales, Coronel Angel DOTTI, Paso 550, 1031 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Summary trials follow demonstration Albanian unrest in Yugoslavia — 11 die

Up to 11 people were killed and some 200 injured after nationalist demonstrations on 1 and 2 April 1981 in the city of Pristina, according to the authorities in Yugoslavia. Pristina is the capital of Kosovo province, which has a predominantly Albanian population.

The injured were said to include both demonstrators and members of the security forces. Officials said 194 people were sentenced by summary courts for taking part in or supporting the demonstrations—the sentences were not specified. In addition, 28 people were detained for investigation.

The demonstrations, which spread to surrounding towns, were the third in a series which began on 11 March 1981 and are reported to have been sparked off by students' complaints about their living conditions. On 1 and 2 April demonstrators reportedly carried slogans demanding that the province of Kosovo—at present a constituent part of the Republic of Serbia—be given republic status within the Yugoslav federation.

On 7 April *AI* asked the Yugoslav authorities for details of the charges against those detained and called for an urgent review of all cases, and the release of all those found to be in detention for having exercised, non-violently, their right to freedom of expression and demonstration.

On 22 April the official Yugoslav news agency, *Tanjug*, reported that the Federal Public Prosecutor had spoken of a "turning point in the policy of the prosecution of political offenders" when he addressed a meeting of Yugoslav public prosecutors. *Tanjug* reported that the meeting had stressed that "no compromise must any longer be made in cases of graver political and unconstitutional offences" and that "unfavourable consequences" had resulted from the previous practice of prosecuting only "minor political delinquents and not those who publicly proclaim themselves as the opposition". According to the report, 553 people had been charged with political offences in the past year—93 per cent of them

"minor verbal offences".

AI later learned that Marko VESELICA had been arrested on 24 April and it also received reports that Vlado GOTOVAC was to be tried on 2 June. Both are former prisoners of conscience adopted by *AI* who had publicly expressed criticism of the Yugoslav Government in interviews with foreign journalists. Both are believed to have been charged with "hostile propaganda".

Marko Veselica, aged 45, an economist and former deputy in the Yugoslav Federal Assembly, is reported to have begun a hunger-strike in protest against his arrest. Vlado Gotovac was left free pending his trial.

- The trial of Dobroslav PARAGA (see January 1981 *Newsletter*), a law student from Zagreb arrested on 21 November 1980 after collecting signatures for a petition for an amnesty for political offenders, is reported to have been scheduled to begin on 13 May 1981 □

Turkey

Continued from page 1

Station and Samandra Military Base, all three in Istanbul.

Although the authorities did initiate investigations in some cases—especially after someone had died—not all the allegations brought to their attention were investigated, nor did they take sufficient action to ensure that their intentions about the torture of prisoners were made unmistakably clear.

To illustrate this, *AI* cited the case of one prisoner, Ilhan ERDOST, who had died in custody in Mamak Military Prison in November 1980.

- Although the four soldiers charged with beating him to death were in prison while their trial continued, the non-commissioned officer charged with them remained free.

- In a statement to the Ankara Martial Law Prosecutor in charge of the case, the prison's commander had said:

"I had given orders that after the preliminaries were completed all prisoners, with the exception of the aged, women and children, the lame and the

diseased, should be struck with a truncheon once or twice each below the waist in their rude places and on the palms of their hands and they should be warned not to come to prison again. . . . My aim is to ensure discipline."

The Deputy Military Prosecutor had formally notified the Martial Law Commander's Office that an offence had been committed by the prison commander—but to date no action seemed to have been taken.

AI said its mission had been told many times of the difficulties encountered by people who tried to make complaints about torture and threats against them and their families.

Another *AI* concern in Turkey was the detention of many people who had clearly not been involved in the violence which had created a state of emergency in Turkey in recent years.

AI made it clear to the Political Affairs Committee that it was not suggesting that torture in Turkey first started after the military takeover. During a visit in May 1980 a member of the organization's IS had found torture to be widespread, with victims from both right and left wing parties and groups.

Dutch move on death penalty

An amendment to a new draft constitution which explicitly abolishes the death penalty in the Netherlands was adopted by the upper house of the Dutch Parliament on 6 May 1981.

The amendment had been adopted by the lower house in February 1981. It can now be formally enacted after the general election on 26 May 1981. It is expected that the final vote on the new constitution, incorporating the amendment abolishing the death penalty, will take place later in the year.

DEATH PENALTY

AI has learned of 52 people being sentenced to death in 10 countries in April 1981, and of 40 executions in six countries □

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