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Dr Ivan Pletikosa, who taught English at Zagreb University, was imprisoned in 1983 for "verbal offences". He was charged with spreading "hostile propaganda" on the basis of remarks he had allegedly made in private conversations and receiving emigré journals. He was sentenced to six years' imprisonment, reduced on appeal to three and a half years.



Dr Vojislav Šešelj was sentenced in July 1984 to eight years' imprisonment in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina on charges of "counter-revolutionary endangering of the social order". His sentence was reduced on appeal to four years and the charges changed to spreading "hostile propaganda". Dr Šešelj was convicted on the basis of a reply he had written to a questionnaire from the paper *Komunist*.



Melika Salihbegović, a Muslim writer, was imprisoned after her trial on charges of spreading "hostile propaganda". She was accused of writing to the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran and of helping to draft a forward to an "Islamic Declaration". She denied both charges, but was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, reduced on appeal to three and a half years.

Free Yugoslavia's prisoners of conscience

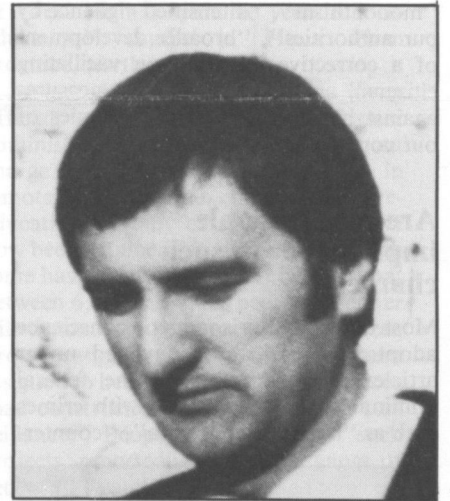
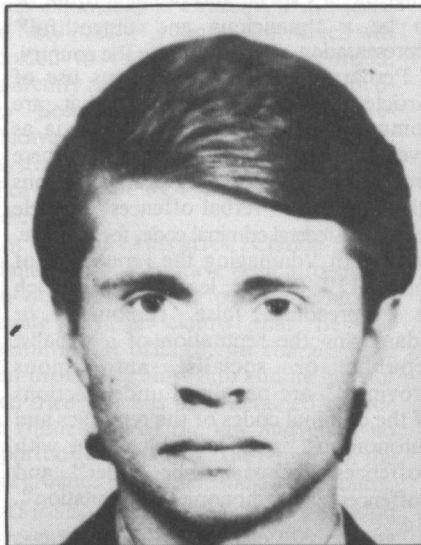
Amnesty International has called for the unconditional release of over 200 prisoners of conscience in Yugoslavia, in a report published on 29 May.

These prisoners are serving sentences of up to 15 years for non-violent political activity, private writings, personal conversations or possessing literature which the authorities consider to be "hostile propaganda".

Many have been imprisoned for their support of nationalist or religious movements among Yugoslavia's ethnic groups, which include Serbs, Croats, Albanians and Muslims.

Three-quarters of these prisoners are ethnic Albanians, many of whom come from Kosovo province, which borders on Albania and has a large ethnic population. They have been imprisoned for non-violent activity in support of republican status for Kosovo within Yugoslavia's federal system. The Yugoslav Government's latest statistics indicate that 2,208 people were

arrested for "political offences" between 1980 and 1983, an average of over 540 a year. In most cases on which *AI* has details, the prisoner neither used nor advocated violence. (See page 2)



Daut Rashani (*left*), an 18-year-old high-school student, was tried in July 1981 reportedly on charges of having written poems and leaflets of a "hostile content" prior to nationalist demonstrations in Kosovo in March and April 1981. He was also reportedly accused of having taken part in nationalist demonstrations and of having described them as successful. He was found guilty of "counter-revolutionary endangering of the social order" and sentenced to six years' imprisonment. Dr Anto Kovačević (*above*), a 32-year-old Croat and teacher of mentally handicapped children, is serving six years' imprisonment on charges of "association for the purposes of counter-revolutionary endangering of the social order and territorial integrity (of Yugoslavia)". The charges against him were based on the evidence of two students who later withdrew their testimony and said that they had been threatened by the police.

Also in this issue: File on Torture in the USSR; Prisoners of the Month, page 3; Human rights violations in Zaire, page 8; *AI* Report wins award, page 8.

What is "hostile propaganda"?

A high proportion of the prisoners of conscience adopted by AI have been convicted of "hostile propaganda" under Article 133 of the federal criminal code:

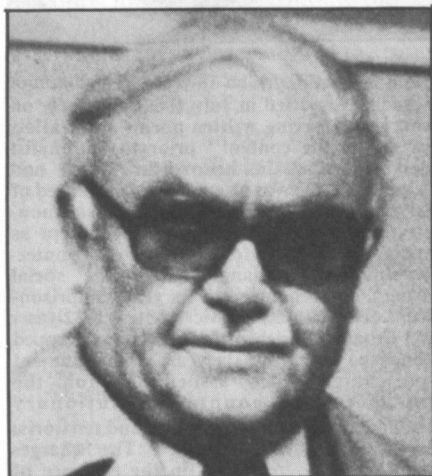
"Whoever, by means of an article, leaflet, drawing, speech or in some other way, advocates or incites the overthrow of the rule of the working class and the working people, the unconstitutional alteration of the socialist social system of self-management bodies, the disruption of the brotherhood, unity and equality of the nations and nationalities, the overthrow of the bodies of social self-management and government or their executive agencies, resistance to the decisions of competent government and self-management bodies which are significant for the protection and defence of the country; or whoever maliciously and untruthfully portrays socio-political conditions in the country shall be punished by imprisonment from one to ten years."

Why is "hostile propaganda" an offence?

The crime of "hostile propaganda" in the form of "malicious and untruthful portrayal of the socio-political conditions in the country" was introduced into Yugoslav criminal legislation in 1959, apparently on the advice of the then State Secretary for Internal Affairs, who claimed it was necessary to achieve "monolithism", "intensified vigilance by our authorities", "broader development of a corrective influence on vacillating citizens" and "harsh punitive measures against heedless individuals, enemies of our country and our government".

Are many people imprisoned on such charges?

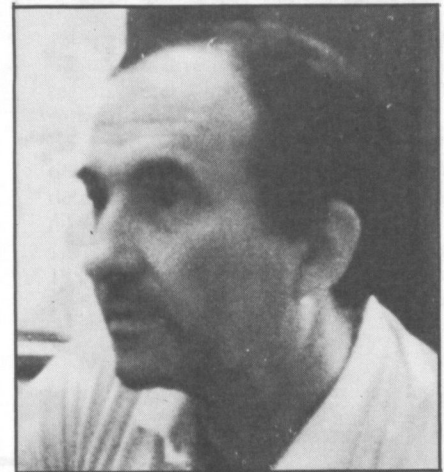
Most of the 202 prisoners of conscience adopted by AI were convicted under articles in Chapter 15 of the federal criminal code, which deals with crimes such as "hostile propaganda", "counter-



Dr Ivan Zografski, a Bulgarian national, aged 71, is now serving a five-and-a-half-year prison term. He has had all his property confiscated and is to be expelled from Yugoslavia after his imprisonment — all because of casual conversations in which he allegedly criticized the country and its leaders.



Dobroslav Paraga (*left*), a 19-year-old student was convicted of "hostile propaganda" and "participation in hostile activity" for collecting signatures for an amnesty for all political prisoners. Vlado Gotovac (*below*), 54, a Croatian writer, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment on charges of "hostile propaganda" after he had given interviews to foreign journalists.



Marko Veselica, former Communist Party official and economics don, was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment because of an interview he gave to a foreign journalist and for sending documents abroad.

revolutionary endangering of the social order", and "association for the purposes of hostile activity". The loose wording of these articles enables the authorities to imprison people for the non-violent exercise of fundamental human rights. A high proportion of prisoners of conscience have been convicted on charges of "hostile propaganda".

The Yugoslav government's own incomplete statistics indicate that a majority of the 2,208 political arrests between 1980 and 1983 were on charges of "verbal offences" such as making jokes about government leaders or singing nationalist songs.

Imprisoned for a private conversation... or a joke...?

Prisoners of conscience have been convicted on charges of "hostile propaganda" on the basis of private conversations, for writing a book or producing a film or pamphlet, for letters they had written, for writing articles or giving interviews that were published abroad. They had not advocated violence; they had merely expressed views disapproved of by the authorities and considered by the courts to constitute an attack on Yugoslavia's social and political order or to be a "malicious and untruthful" representation of conditions in the country.

Perhaps the most contentious use of Article 133 is in cases of what are commonly referred to in Yugoslavia as "verbal offences". Besides Article 133 there are a number of other legal provisions which penalize "verbal offences". Article 157 of the federal criminal code, for example, deals with "damaging the reputation of the SFRJ". Similar, lesser offences such as "spreading false rumours" or "damaging the reputation of a socialist republic or socialist autonomous province", are penalized under sections of the criminal codes of the republics and autonomous provinces which deal with "offences against public order" and "offences against honour and reputation".

What can AI do?

In January AI groups began a campaign against the application of Article 133 to

"verbal offences". The campaign focusses on the cases of 15 prisoners of conscience who were convicted of "hostile propaganda" on charges based almost exclusively on the content of their private conversations. All but one of these convictions took place in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina where people have received heavy prison sentences for exercising their right to freedom of expression in private conversations. This judicial practice is, as far as AI knows, less common in other parts of Yugoslavia, where charges of "hostile propaganda" are usually brought in connection with published material or other forms of public expression.

PRISONER RELEASES AND CASES

Amnesty International learned in April 1985 of the release of 73 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 151 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.

Próspero Gaspar Cabezas, Peru
A peasant farmer and Secretary General of the Federation of Peasants of the Southern Zone of Tayacaja province, he has been detained awaiting trial since 28 October 1983.

Próspero Gaspar Cabezas has for many years held elective leadership positions in his home community, the *Comunidad Campesina de Paucarbamba*, of which he is now president, and in the regional peasant federations to which his community is affiliated. He is presently Secretary General of the "José Carlos Mariátegui" Federation of Peasants of the Southern Zone of Tayacaja province (Huancavelica Department), and Secretary for Organization of the Provincial Federation of Peasants of Tayacaja, an affiliate of the Peruvian Confederation of Peasants *Confederación Campesina del Perú*, (CCP).

On 28 October 1983 Próspero Gaspar Cabezas was detained in Huancayo, Junín Department, by Civil Guardsmen, where he was reportedly interrogated under torture. He was then transferred to Pampas, the capital of Tayacaja Province, where he was again reportedly tortured. His detention, and that of another 17 local peasant leaders detained in the same period, was ordered by a Pampas magistrate, reportedly on the basis of accusations made by a small group of private landowners.

The 18 peasant leaders have not been accused of specific acts, but all are held on charges under Decree 046 of March 1981, which defines the crime of terrorism.

AI believes the 18 are prisoners of conscience, detained on false charges because of their lawful leadership role in their communities and in the region's major peasant labour organization.

All but one remain in custody in the Huancayo jail, their trials held in abeyance in various Lima courts. The other, Victor Rojas Huamán, leader of San Pedro de Coris, died in Huancayo jail on 21 October 1984 of a condition reportedly aggravated by ill-treatment during interrogation and poor conditions during 22 months of imprisonment.

● Please send courteous letters appealing for the release of Próspero Gaspar Cabezas and all prisoners of conscience in Peru to: The President of the Republic*/Palacio de Gobierno/Plaza de Armas/Lima/Peru. *A new President will be elected in June.

Claude-Ernest Ndalla, People's Republic of the Congo.

A 48-year-old civil servant, he became prominent in Congolese politics in the mid-1960s. From 1969 to 1971 he was First Secretary of the ruling *Parti congolais du travail (PCT)*. He was imprisoned following a coup attempt in 1972. He was released in 1975 but imprisoned again from 1977 until 1979, when he was adopted by AI as a prisoner of conscience.



Claude-Ernest Ndalla was arrested in Brazzaville in early March 1984 and has since been detained by the national security service in a detention centre on the edge of the city, known as the "Cité des 17". He has

been held incommunicado for much of this time.

The Congolese authorities have said he is suspected of committing an offence against the internal security of the state. Shortly before a congress of the PCT in July 1984 he is reported to have been induced under the influence of drugs to confess to involvement in causing two bomb explosions in Brazzaville in March and May 1982. His confession, which was reported to have been video-recorded, apparently also implicated the PCT Ideology Secretary, Jean-Pierre Thystère-Tchicaya, in causing the explosions. Thystère-Tchicaya was dismissed from office during the PCT Congress and is also under arrest.

At the time of his arrest, Claude-Ernest Ndalla is known to have been a focus for non-violent opposition to the government. Despite official claims that he has committed an offence, no charges have been brought against him and he has not been tried. He has been detained outside the framework of the law and given no opportunity to challenge the reasons or the legal grounds for his detention in the courts.

AI is also concerned that the confession he reportedly made has been used by the authorities to justify both his own imprisonment and that of Jean-Pierre Thystère-Tchicaya, who is also considered to be a prisoner of conscience.

● Please send courteous appeals for his release, in French if possible, to: Son Excellence le Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso/Président de la République/Présidence de la République/Brazzaville/People's Republic of the Congo.

Khamtan Kanhalikham, Laos
A former civil servant, he has now spent 10 years in "re-education" camps. He is married with seven children.

Khamtan Kanhalikham, originally from Ban Bao, Vientiane province, was detained in 1975 after the Revolutionary People's Party of Laos took control of the coalition government of Laos and established the Democratic People's Republic of Laos. He has spent 10 years in "re-education" camps in Houa Phan province, northeast Laos.

In late 1975 and early 1976, many officials and civil servants of the former administration were detained without charge or trial and sent to camps in remote parts of the country for "re-education". Many of these people have now been detained for 10 years. Although some have been released, AI believes that between 6,000 and 7,000 people are either still detained in some one to two dozen "re-education" camps, or have been assigned to heavy labour projects, such as road construction and repair, under surveillance. People assigned to such projects, reportedly working in gangs of between five and 60, are reported to be escorted from one project site to another, and in addition to doing some very arduous work, frequently have to build their own shelter.

Khamtan Kanhalikham is now 53 years old. He was the Director of Meteorology in the Ministry of Public Works, having attended postgraduate courses at the Ecole nationale de météorologie near Paris between 1954 and 1957.

In July 1975 he was required to attend a "political seminar" at Dong Dok with other civil servants from various ministries and was then, in August 1975, sent to Viengsay for further "re-education". He has never been charged or tried, and the authorities have given no reason for his continued detention.

● Please send courteous letters, appealing for his release, to: Son Excellence Monsieur Kaysone Phomvihane/Président du Conseil des Ministres/Vientiane/République populaire démocratique Lao.

An upsurge in the activities of armed government opponents in south-eastern Zaire in late 1984 is reported to have been followed by widespread arrests of both villagers and townspeople suspected of connections with guerrillas supporting the *Parti de la révolution populaire (PRP)*.

Torture

Members of the armed forces are reported to have been responsible for extrajudicial executions, torture and other forms of degrading and inhuman treatment since PRP guerrillas briefly occupied the town of Moba, on Lake Tanganyika in Zaire's southern Shaba region, in November 1984.

The PRP has been active sporadically in southeastern Zaire since the late 1960s. After government troops recovered

Zairian army 'terrorize villagers'

control of Moba in November 1984, they are reported to have killed more than a dozen of the town's inhabitants who were suspected of collaborating with the PRP. They then launched counter-insurgency operations in the four administrative districts bordering Lake Tanganyika — Moba, Kalemie, Fizi and Uvira zones — and are reported to have detained a considerable number of villagers suspected of being connected with opposition guerrillas. Those detained seem to have been arrested on the basis of very little evidence: some were evidently suspected of supporting the PRP on the grounds that they had supported an unsuccessful rebellion against the govern-

ment in the mid-1960s, although they had subsequently benefited from an amnesty.

Suspects arrested in the northeast Shaba region were taken to the main military camp in the area, a naval base at Kalemie, on Lake Tanganyika. *AI* has received detailed reports of the torture of several detainees and former prisoners have alleged that dozens of suspected guerrilla sympathizers were executed in December 1984 by firing squad at the naval base without receiving any form of trial.

Unarmed

In January 1985 PRP guerrillas attacked the Kalemie naval base and freed a number of prisoners. In the aftermath of the attack, members of the Zairian navy are reported to have opened fire on several boats seen crossing Lake Tanganyika and fisherman and other unarmed civilians are reported to have been killed. The navy evidently suspected that the boats were transporting escaped prisoners and other refugees across the lake to Tanzania.

In other incidents, soldiers are reported to have terrorized villagers, raping the wives of village officials and publicly executing prisoners. In Kabimba, near Kalemie, a man named Sumaili is reported to have been publicly beheaded by soldiers in January 1985. In Lulimba, a village in the southern part of Fizi zone, a man named Kabamba is reported to have been arrested and then shot by soldiers. Both killings appear to have been extrajudicial executions.

Further north, the villages of Luberizi and Sange, in Uvira zone, are reported to have been destroyed by soldiers at the end of November 1984. Some of the male inhabitants were killed by soldiers, while others were arrested and are believed to be still held in military custody in the town of Uvira. The Zairian government has not responded to enquiries by *AI* about these detainees.

Jamaica

Six executed

Six prisoners have been executed this year in Jamaica, making a total of 34 prisoners executed since 1980 (when hangings were resumed after a four-year moratorium).

AI had appealed for clemency in the cases of all those executed and is concerned that many more of the 160-plus prisoners on death row (many of whose appeals have been exhausted) could be executed in the near future.

Three of the prisoners executed in April, Ely Brown, Ransford Buckley and Lloyd Barnett, had appealed unsuccessfully to the Jamaica Privy Council for stays of execution, to allow them time to lodge appeals with the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England (which serves as a final appeal court for Jamaica). During the same month, the Jamaica Privy Council granted stays of execution in the cases of two other prisoners, Ransford Taylor and Trevor Bailey.

Violation

AI is concerned that the execution of the former three prisoners while legal avenues still remained open to them, was in violation of the UN ECOSOC 1984/50 Resolution on "Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty", Article 8 of which states that "Capital punishment shall not be carried out pending any appeal or other recourse procedure...".

In a report published in November 1984 *AI* noted that studies had shown that the majority of prisoners on death row in Jamaica had come "overwhelmingly from the lower socio-economic sectors of society; a majority had little or no education — most were first offenders

DEATH PENALTY

During March 1985 *AI* learned of 97 people being sentenced to death in 17 countries and of 52 executions in eight countries.

and many may not have had the benefit of adequate legal counsel".

AI's report also concluded that there was no evidence to determine that the death penalty, which is mandatory for murder in Jamaica, acted as an effective deterrent to violent crime.

Please write courteous letters in your individual capacity to the Governor General and Minister of Justice expressing regret at the execution of the prisoners named and urging that no further executions be carried out in Jamaica. You should refer to your opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances and in all countries.

● *The Most Honourable Florizel Glasspole/ Governor General/Kings House/Kingston/Jamaica; His Excellency Mr Edward Seaga/ Prime Minister/Jamaica House/Kingston/Jamaica.*

AI Report wins award

"...a forceful appeal for an end to injustice and pain and murder and fear" reads the citation granting a special award to the *Amnesty International Report 1984*.

The George Polk Awards, conferred annually in recognition of special achievement in journalism, were established by Long Island University, USA, after Polk's death in 1948. Polk, a CBS correspondent, was murdered during the Greek civil war while trying to reach the guerrilla leader Markos Vafiades for an interview.

In accepting the award James Barber, Chair of *AIUSA*, said: "...I thank you

on behalf of prisoners of conscience everywhere, who are told that no one knows where they are, no one cares, and no one can help them. You have helped to make that claim a lie."

He cited the case of Hector Orlando Gomez, a press officer in Guatemala City for a human rights group similar to the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo: "This last Saturday, when many of us were enjoying the start of spring, Hector Orlando Gomez left a meeting at noon. On Sunday morning his body was found. His tongue had been removed. Hector Gomez can speak no more. But we will never stop speaking for him."

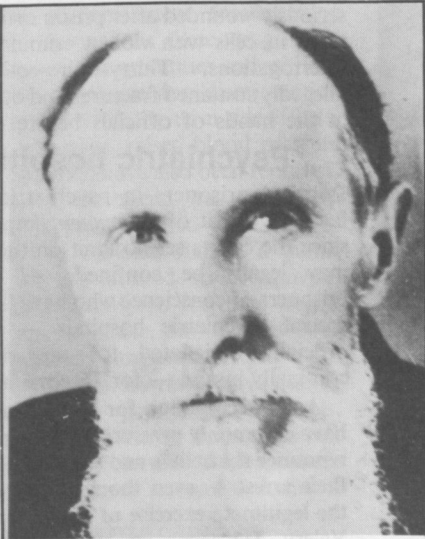


FILE ON TORTURE

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amnesty international

These men were incarcerated in labour colonies in the USSR. All are now dead.



Vladimir Shelkov, the leader of the un-registered Seventh Day Adventist church in the USSR, was 82 years old when he was arrested in 1978. He had previously been imprisoned for 26 years on account of his religious activities. The court sentenced him to a further five years' imprisonment in a strict regime corrective labour colony, which he served until his death in January 1980 at the age of 84.



Eduard Arutyunyan, an economist, founded the unofficial Armenian Helsinki monitoring group which monitored violations of human rights. He was arrested for the second time in November 1982. He was 58 years old and seriously ill, but was nevertheless given the maximum three year sentence for "circulating anti-Soviet slander". He died in December 1984 before completing the term.



Yury Lytvyn, a 50-year-old Ukrainian poet and Helsinki monitor, reportedly committed suicide in Perm 36-1 in August 1984. He was serving his fourth sentence, a 15-year term imposed in 1982 for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". At the time of his trial in 1982 he was reported to be suffering from thrombo-phlebitis, a stomach ulcer and failing eyesight. He had previously spent 18 years as a prisoner of conscience.



Oleksa Tykhy died in May 1984 at the age of 57 during his seventh year of imprisonment in special regime institution Perm 36-1. He was arrested in 1977 for his part in founding a Ukrainian Helsinki monitoring group and charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda", for which he received the maximum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment and internal exile. He was reported to be suffering from a stomach ulcer, stenocardia, arteriosclerosis, anaemia and back pains. Doctors recommended he be released on grounds of ill-health but their recommendation was rejected.

USSR

Political prisoners in the USSR are systematically subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and sometimes tortured, according to reports received by *AI*.

Inmates of prisons, corrective labour colonies and psychiatric hospitals have inadequate safeguards against ill-treatment.

Many of those who have complained have been punished severely.

The authorities routinely suppress prisoners' complaints without subjecting them to independent investigation, or taking steps to discipline those responsible for alleged ill-treatment.



Valery Marchenko, a Ukrainian writer, was arrested in October 1983. He was tried in March 1984 and convicted on the basis of statements and appeals he had made during a previous eight-year term as a prisoner of conscience. He was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and internal exile on a charge of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". At the time of his arrest Marchenko was reported to be suffering from chronic nephritis and hypertension. Doctors advised *AI* that he required assessment of his kidney function, blood dialysis, a special diet and a low stress environment. Marchenko died in October 1984 after serving six months of his sentence in Perm 36-1. He was 37 years old.

"I am still in my right mind Give me a helping hand"



Natalya Lazareva (top) was sentenced in 1982 to six years' imprisonment and internal exile on a charge of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" for her part in preparing "Maria", an unofficial almanac of feminist poetry and prose. She is now serving the first part of her sentence in the strict regime corrective labour colony for women political prisoners, ZhKh 385/3-4. Irina Ratushinskaya (above) was given the maximum sentence of 12 years' imprisonment and internal exile in 1983 on the same charge for having written and sent abroad poetry which criticized Soviet policies. She is also serving the first part of her term in ZhKh 385/3-4. The treatment these women are alleged to have received is described in unsigned *samizdat*, dated early 1984: "Lazareva was dragged from her bed, half naked and barefoot,...and taken into the frost. [Colonel] Shlepanov told the other prisoners she was being taken to the KGB isolation prison in Saransk for 're-education'. Since Lazareva screamed and shouted for help on the way, they beat her. She lost consciousness, but remembered later being kicked on the head by the acting head of the colony, Shalin"... "Velikanova and Ratushinskaya resisted being forcibly fed [while on hunger strike] and so were handcuffed and fed by six men. In the process they beat Ratushinskaya's head on the trestle bed and poured liquid into her while she was unconscious... Judging from the after-effects (blurred vision, nausea, loss of balance and pains in the head which lasted for months) Ratushinskaya was suffering from concussion..."

Soviet law repudiates the "infliction of physical suffering" on prisoners and the "degradation of [their] human dignity". However, the conditions in corrective labour colonies where most Soviet political prisoners are held inflict prolonged and intense suffering on inmates.

Prisoners suffer from constant hunger and medical neglect, and are made to do taxing and sometimes dangerous work. Officials often punish them arbitrarily by cutting their limited food rations and placing them in solitary confinement in unheated cells for extended periods.

Some political prisoners have suffered such conditions for 30 years and more. Most are inmates of the special regime colony Perm 36-1 in the Russian republic, which is officially designated for political recidivists, but *AI* is concerned about the welfare of many other political prisoners whose shorter sentences have been repeatedly prolonged for offences allegedly committed in the camps.

Terms in corrective labour colonies have been imposed on individuals who were physically incapable of surviving them because of physical handicap, illness or old age. *AI* has received detailed reports on political prisoners who have died after their imprisonment was prolonged against the advice of doctors.

Political prisoners are reported to have been beaten systematically by officials, or by prisoners acting with official consent. Soviet law prohibits this abuse, but reports from unofficial sources indicate that beatings are common for minor violations of the rules in prisons and corrective labour colonies.

AI is also disturbed by reports that Soviet officials have used, or incited the use of, torture to force political prisoners to give

Victor Rafalsky, prisoner of conscience, Dnepropetrovsk

evidence. Since 1980, nine individuals awaiting trial for political offences have been seriously wounded after prison officers placed them in cells with violent criminals between interrogations. Thirty-four others have allegedly sustained fractures and other injuries at the hands of officials before their trials.

Psychiatric hospitals

Political prisoners in psychiatric hospitals face the threat of *permanent* imprisonment, since the courts set no limit on the time they may legally be confined. *AI* knows of prisoners of conscience who have been held in special psychiatric hospitals — which are officially designated for the violent and criminally insane — for 15 years and longer.

As a precondition for their release, doctors have commonly pressurized these prisoners to renounce the beliefs and activities which led to their arrest — even though these constituted the legitimate exercise of their human rights. Valery Tyurichev, a shop manager from Dnepropetrovsk in the Ukrainian republic, was committed to a special psychiatric hospital in 1981 after he sent a critique of the economy to a Soviet newspaper and applied for permission to emigrate from the USSR. In 1984 he was transferred to an ordinary psychiatric hospital in his home town, where doctors reportedly asked him to write a statement describing his intention to emigrate as a symptom of mental disorder and admitting that he had always suffered from visual and aural hallucinations. He refused and in September 1984 he was transferred to the more severe regime of a special psychiatric hospital for an indefinite period.

Political inmates of Soviet psychiatric hospitals have frequently been forcibly treated with powerful drugs — such as benzhexol,



In July 1981 Marzpet Arutyunyan (left) was questioned in Rostov transit prison about fellow prisoners who had escaped. Two officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs reportedly beat him with metal objects concealed in their gloves. He sustained three broken ribs and his kidneys were damaged. Mikhail Khorev (centre) is one of the leaders of the dissenting Baptist church. In 1980 while in transit to a corrective labour colony, guards reportedly beat him with wooden hammers used to test the strength of prison window bars. Khorev is blind. Rafael Papayan (right), an Armenian philologist, suffered a fractured femur in pre-trial detention. His relatives were told that he had fallen over. Other sources allege that he was systematically beaten by convicted criminals at the instigation of prison officers in Yerevan prison.

nd...I am still holding on. g hand!"

ovsk special psychiatric hospital, July 1984.

haloperidol, chlorpromazine and trifluoperazine — to increase the pressure on them to recant, or as a punishment for breaking hospital rules. Sometimes these drugs have been given in excessive quantities and without necessary correctives, causing disorientation and acute discomfort. Long-term side effects, such as loss of vision, raised blood pressure and partial paralysis, have also been reported.

Janis Barkans, a student, was arrested in October 1978 because he had attempted to hang the Latvian national flag in a public place. He was committed to Daugavpils regional psychiatric hospital for three weeks' observation during which time his jaw was broken, allegedly by hospital staff.

Reports of beatings, however, have usually come from special psychiatric hospitals, which are maximum security institutions run by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, where convicted criminals serve as ward orderlies.

Lack of safeguards

Soviet law gives prisoners inadequate safeguards against ill-treatment. Prisoners awaiting trial may legally be held incommunicado for as long as nine months until the investigation of their case is complete. During this time they have no right to contact with a lawyer or relatives: they are solely in the hands of prison staff and the officials investigating their case. At no point does the law require prisoners in pre-trial detention even to be brought before a judge, as a simple precaution against physical brutality.

Prisoners whose mental health is called into question are particularly vulnerable to ill-treatment. The law allows them to be sent to a psychiatric institution for in-patient examination at the sole discretion of the official investigating their case. No independent authority need be notified of this transfer, let alone supervise it, and AI knows of political detainees who have received forcible drug treatment while undergoing in-patient examination — even though they had not been formally committed to the hospital's care by a court.

Prisoners who are eventually ruled mentally unfit to stand trial lose even the right to appear before the judge who hears their case.

The law entitles convicted prisoners to limited correspondence and visits, but in the prisons and corrective labour colonies where most Soviet political prisoners are held, these rights have frequently been cancelled as punishments. AI knows of prisoners of conscience imprisoned for several years who have been denied visits throughout their entire sentences.

Political inmates of psychiatric hospitals are also deprived of outside contact. Those in special psychiatric hospitals are held within closed wards in conditions of maximum security and allowed only occasional visits with relatives in the presence of hospital staff.

Often political prisoners are sent to hospitals which are so far away from their families



Nikolai Baranov (right) has spent 20 years in detention. He was arrested in 1963 for attempting to circulate a pamphlet to a visiting United States book trade delegation. Charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. He was rearrested in December 1968 after he had applied to emigrate. Charged again with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" he was ruled mentally unfit to stand trial and confined to Talgar special psychiatric hospital, where he remained for 14 years. In September 1980 male nurses reportedly tied him to his bed, beat him about the head and dislocated his lower jaw. As a result he was said to be unable to leave his bed or write letters for two months. His sister received no reply to written complaints she lodged with the hospital administration. Since 1983 Baranov has been in psychiatric institutions in Leningrad. Aleksandr Shatravka (left) was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in 1982 for membership of an unofficial peace group. In late 1984 he smuggled a letter to foreign correspondents in Moscow describing his conditions. He alleged that on 8 February 1984 he was beaten by a labour colony official, who grabbed him by the ears, hit his head against a wall, abused him and threatened to kill him. This punishment was repeated in May. On 18 February 1985, after his letter was published abroad, Shatravka was retried and sentenced to a further two-and-a-half years' imprisonment.

that regular visits are virtually impossible. Individuals who do not have the support of relatives are effectively powerless to protect themselves against ill-treatment.

The inmates of prisons and corrective labour colonies have the formal right to send complaints about their treatment to the procuracy which is responsible for seeing that prisoners' legal rights are observed, and their letters must be delivered — unopened — within 24 hours. But in practice political prisoners in these institutions are powerless to obtain redress when their rights are violated. Their letters are usually either confiscated or sent for investigation by the same officials of whom they complained. Appeals by prisoners on behalf of other prisoners are banned and so there is no lawful way to bring to the procurator's attention the plight of prisoners held incommunicado in punishment cells, or of those who have been incapacitated by ill-treatment.

The inmates of psychiatric hospitals have no guaranteed procedure for submitting complaints to the procuracy. They are allowed pen and paper only at the discretion of doctors, and all their letters are censored.

The Soviet authorities have routinely punished political prisoners who have complained through correct legal channels about their conditions, or otherwise attracted

publicity to their treatment.

In numerous cases the authorities have sentenced prisoners who complain to further imprisonment for "circulating anti-Soviet slander" or engaging in "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda", in trials which AI feared fell below internationally-agreed standards of fairness. Soviet courts have even applied the same laws to imprison the relatives of political prisoners, as well as other individuals who have reported alleged mistreatment in prisons, corrective labour colonies and psychiatric institutions.

In 1983 a new law was introduced into the criminal code which punishes prisoners for "malicious disobedience" of the administration of their corrective labour institution.

To AI's knowledge the law has been applied in only one political case to date. Vladimir Porosh, a 36-year-old Russian Orthodox believer from Leningrad, had been sentenced in 1980 to eight years' imprisonment and internal exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" in connection with his religious activities. In October 1984 he was retried in Chistopol prison and sentenced to a further three years' imprisonment for sending a complaint to the procuracy alleging that prisoners had been beaten and that officials had broken the arm of another prisoner of conscience, Sergei Grigoryants.

Appeal case

Yegor Volkov, now aged 58, was arrested in 1967 after trying to organize a strike. He has since been confined in psychiatric institutions and has reportedly been injected with powerful anti-psychotic drugs and other substances.

AI is concerned that Yegor Volkov remains confined in a psychiatric hospital against his will, and against the advice of doctors, solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression in a way disapproved of by the authorities.

At the time of his arrest Volkov was a construction worker in Nakhodka. According to AI's information, in February 1967 he organized a strike among two brigades of workers complaining that they were being paid only 10 percent of their contracted wage. The strikers' demands were recognized and their wages were paid in full. After a time Yegor Volkov organized another strike, complaining that their wages had again been cut. On 27 June 1967 he was arrested on a charge of "circulating anti-Soviet slander".

Yegor Volkov was kept in Vladivostok prison under investigation for thirteen months — four months longer than the legal maximum. On 10 July 1968 a court heard his case and ordered his forcible confinement in psychiatric hospital.

Throughout his imprisonment in Blagoveshchensk special psychiatric hospital Yegor Volkov is reported to have received periodic treatment with powerful drugs — haloperidol, trifluoperazine, methotrimeprazine — and injections with sulfazin (a 1 per cent sterile solution of purified sulphur in peach oil which raises the body's temperature and causes acute pain at the point of injection). On one occasion Volkov was reportedly administered a 2 ml injection of turpentine, which caused acute pain in his joints and a three to four day fever. His health is said to have deteriorated during his imprisonment and he is reported to have contracted tuberculosis and to have suffered from a stomach ulcer. In the spring of 1983 doctors at the hospital recommended that he be discharged, but their recommendation was turned down by the court, which prolonged his forcible confinement.

Please send courteous letters:

- Urging the immediate release of Yegor Volkov, as a prisoner of conscience
- Expressing concern about the forcible confinement of prisoners of conscience in psychiatric hospitals (including reports that in many cases disorienting and pain-causing drugs are forcibly administered)
- Urging that, as a safeguard against torture and ill-treatment, relatives and lawyers have regular and prompt access to all prisoners

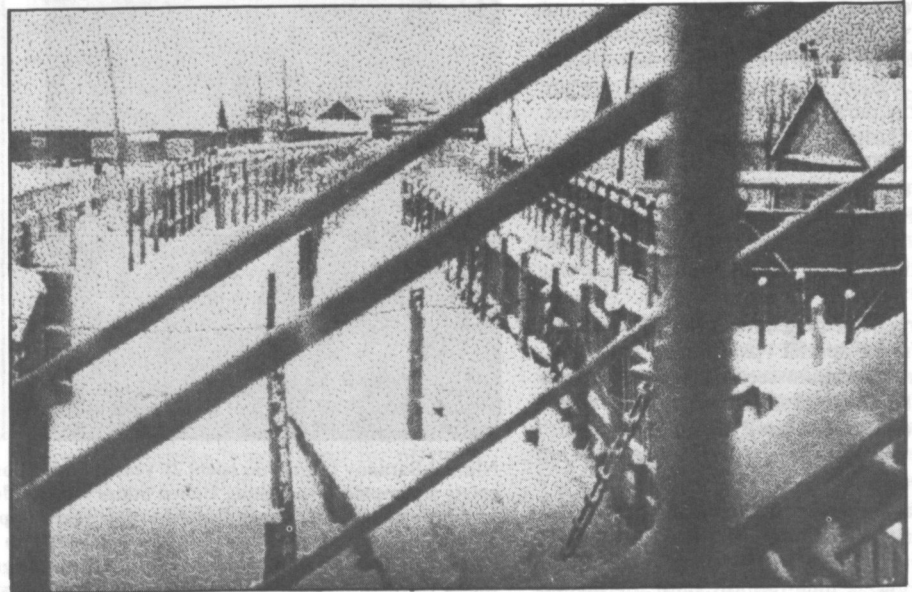
Send your appeals to:

The Director of Blagoveshchensk special psychiatric hospital, Colonel Ludmila Ivanovna Butenkova: SSSR; RSFSR; 675007 Amurskaya oblast; Blagoveshchensk 7;

Seryshevsky pereulok 55; Uchr IZ-23/1; Polkovniku Butenkovo L.I.; USSR
The First Secretary of the Amur Regional Communist Party, Stepan Stepanovich Avramenko: SSSR; RSFSR; Amurskaya oblast; g. Amur; Obkom KPSS; Pervomu Sekretaryu, Stepan Stepanovich Avramenko; USSR



Dnepropetrovsk special psychiatric hospital (above), Corrective labour colony Vs 389/36 in the Perm complex (below).



What you can do

Amnesty International has issued a 12-point program of practical measures for the prevention of torture. In view of the recurrent reports of torture and ill-treatment in the USSR AI believes the Soviet authorities should implement the program as a sign of their commitment to stop torture and uphold human rights. The following points are especially relevant. Please write courteous letters urging the authorities to take effective measures to implement these points.

As regards prisoners held under criminal law:

- The highest authorities of the USSR should issue public instructions to all personnel involved in the custody of prisoners, making it clear that torture and ill-treatment will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- The Soviet Government should adopt safeguards to ensure that incommunicado detention does not become an opportunity for torture and ill-treatment. All prisoners should be brought before a judicial authority promptly after being taken into custody and relatives, lawyers and doctors should have prompt and regular access to them.
- All prisoners should be promptly told of their rights, and their right to lodge uncensored complaints about their treatment with the Procuracy should be ensured.
- All complaints and reports of torture

and ill-treatment should be impartially investigated. The findings and methods of such investigations should be made public. No one should be prosecuted for publicizing what he or she believes to be wrongful treatment of an inmate.

- Victims of ill-treatment and torture and their dependants should be entitled to compensation for their material and moral sufferings. They should also be provided with appropriate medical care or rehabilitation.

As regards inmates of psychiatric institutions:

- The highest authorities of the USSR should issue public instructions to all personnel involved in the operation of psychiatric hospitals drawing attention to persistent complaints from both home and abroad that inmates have been ill-treated both with medication and through their conditions of confinement. The authorities should make it clear that medical or other treatment of inmates of psychiatric institutions that amounts to torture or cruel or inhuman treatment will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- Send your appeals to Aleksandr Rekunkov, Procurator General of the USSR: SSSR; g. Moskva; ul. Pushkinskaya 15a; Prokuratura SSSR; Generalnomu prokuroru; Rekunkovu A.; USSR.