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Peru: AI visit

On 4 May AI's Secretary General met Peruvian Interior Minister Agustín Mantilla to express concern at recent attacks on human rights organizations, including AI's Peruvian Section. The Secretary General also met presidential candidates Alberto Fujimori and Mario Vargas Llosa; both said they were committed to protect human rights if elected. □

Finland: CO imprisoned

Mauri Robert Ryumä, a 24-year-old hospital assistant, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment on 13 April for refusing to perform military service.

He refused to accept his alternative service assignment because its 16 months' duration is twice that of ordinary military service. AI considers that alternative service in Finland is of punitive length and therefore does not provide an acceptable alternative to military service. Mauri Robert Ryumä and four others imprisoned for refusing alternative service on the grounds of its punitive length have been adopted as prisoners of conscience. □

Egypt: Prisoners released

Fourteen prisoners of conscience from the so-called 1981 Egyptian Communist Party case were released on 24 April. The executive order for their release followed the acquittal by the State Security Court of another group of people accused of similar charges. □

SUDAN

Army officers executed after summary trial

TWENTY-eight military officers were executed by firing squad in Khartoum on 24 April 1990 after a military court found them guilty of conspiring to overthrow the government. Their summary trial lasted only two hours and many of their basic rights, such as assistance by a lawyer and an appeal to a higher court, were denied. Some of them had only been arrested the day before, when the government announced that it had uncovered a planned coup attempt. AI has received reports that two of the three senior officers

NEPAL

Political and human rights changes

THOUSANDS of opponents of Nepal's non-party system of government were arrested during a country-wide campaign for multi-party democracy which began in February. They included doctors, lawyers, students, agricultural workers and political activists, most of whom had expressed their opposition through peaceful protest. Many were tortured. Dozens of protesters were summarily killed when security forces opened fire on unarmed demonstrators.

The protests began on 18 February after the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) launched a campaign for multi-party democracy in Nepal, where political parties have been banned since the 1960s. They culminated in a large demonstration in Kathmandu on 6 April.

When demonstrators advanced towards the Royal Palace, the security forces opened fire, reportedly killing 50 people. Some human rights groups estimate that as many as 500 were shot dead.

King Birendra, Nepal's ruling monarch, immediately dismissed the Government of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and appointed Lokendra Bahadur Chand to form a new government. On the same day the King announced the release of political detainees not charged with criminal offences.

The ban on political parties was lifted. The new government announced initial compensation for those shot and wounded by the security forces and the families of those killed. It also ordered a judicial commission to investigate reports of deaths and injuries since 18 February. However, it resigned after one week in office.

By 18 April nearly all political detainees (officially estimated at 8,000), including those charged with criminal offences, had been released and the charges against them dropped. However, several Christians imprisoned for "disturbing the Hindi religion," remain in custody.

On 19 April Krishna Prasad Bhattarai was appointed to head an interim coalition government of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front. At least five of the coalition government ministers are former prisoners of conscience, including Prime Minister Bhattarai, who was detained for nine years under the Public Security Act, Health Minister Dr Mathura Prasad Shrestha and Minister of Supplies, Marshal Julum Shakya.

The interim government has promised to hold elections by April 1991. A government commission is to draw up a new constitution.

AI sent a delegation to Nepal shortly after the 6 April protests. The delegation arrived on 12

April and spent the following 10 days meeting government officials and investigating reports of widespread human rights violations. AI's delegates met Prime Minister Bhattarai the day after he had taken up office and urged that his government publicly condemn torture and ratify international human rights standards.

AI's delegates met officials in the foreign affairs and law ministries, doctors, lawyers and human rights activists. They also interviewed over 80 torture victims in Kathmandu and Chitwan. They found evidence that torture had been widespread.

The delegates investigated crowd-control procedures used by the security forces and concluded that regulations governing the use of live ammunition appeared to have been broken. The Local Administration Act requires security forces to carry out a series of measures before opening fire. Even then they are instructed to aim below the knees.

The delegates received testimony that police had obstructed doctors trying to treat those shot during demonstrations, but was unable to confirm reports that the police had secretly buried demonstrators' bodies.

AI is preparing recommendations for effective human rights protection in Nepal, which it will present in a memorandum to the new government. □

executed had been arrested three days before the alleged coup.

A group of over 35 people arrested in late March 1990 and accused of conspiring against the government are still detained incommunicado without charge at a military barracks outside Khartoum. They include Lieutenant 'Abderrahmane Sadiq al-Mahdi, whose father, former Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi was arrested shortly after Lieutenant-General 'Omar Hassan al-Bashir's military government seized power in June 1989. The former prime

minister is currently held incommunicado under house arrest. Some of the detainees are members or supporters of Sadiq al-Mahdi's Umma Party. One of them, retired naval officer 'Abderrahmane Farah, was reported to be seriously ill in April as a result of torture.

More than 200 prisoners of conscience, including lawyers, journalists, human rights activists and others, are detained without charge or trial under the terms of a state of emergency. Initially held at Khartoum's Kober prison,

many have been transferred to Shalla prison, 800 kilometres west of the capital, in Darfur, where conditions are reported to be particularly severe.

Only a few political prisoners have been tried since the June 1989 coup. One of them, a medical doctor, Maamum Mohamed Hussein, sentenced to death in December 1989 for calling on doctors to strike, has been pardoned by the head of state and was freed in May.

■ Doctor tortured to death: see page 7

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.

— BULGARIA —

Enver Ahmedov Hatibov: a 46-year-old ethnic Turkish doctor from Shumen, he is serving a 10-year prison sentence for espionage.

Enver Ahmedov Hatibov was arrested on 5 July 1989. On 19 February 1990 he was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by the Shumen District Court for espionage under Article 104 of the penal code. He was charged with giving information to foreign nationals "which constituted state secrets of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, referring to the secret structure, methods and instruments of the operative work of the organs of the MVR [Ministry of Internal Affairs]".

Specifically, Enver Hatibov was accused of having revealed, between 1987 and 1988, the identities of MVR undercover agents in the local community to foreign nationals, one of whom was Yusuf Mutlu, an ethnic Turk who emigrated from Bulgaria to Turkey in 1978 and is now a Turkish citizen.

He was arrested during a visit to Bulgaria in July 1989. Yusuf Mutlu was tried with Enver Hatibov and sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment under Article 104. AI is concerned about the court's judgement, particularly in view of the fact that during this period the MVR was involved in continuing human rights violations against the ethnic Turkish community in connection with a forced assimilation campaign which the Bulgarian authorities now freely admit was illegal.

The forcible assimilation campaign began in December 1984 with a country-wide policy of making ethnic Turks renounce

Released

Egypt: Mubarak 'Abdu Fadhl, prisoner of the month in February 1990, was released on 24 April.

Saudi Arabia: Sayyid Tahir Al-Shiminy, prisoner of the month in December 1989, was released in April 1990 without charge.



their Islamic names in favour of Bulgarian ones. Speaking Turkish and practising many Islamic customs were banned. Hundreds were arrested and many killed for opposing this policy. Enver Ahmedov Hatibov's new "Bulgarian" name is Belchin Perunov Perunov.

■ Please send courteous appeals for his immediate release to: President of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Petar Mladenov/Prezidentat na Narodna Republika Bulgaria/Blvd. Dondukov 2/ Sofia/Bulgaria. □

— IRAN —

Mariam Firouz: a writer and translator in her mid-70s, she has been imprisoned since 1983 for her political activities.

Mariam Firouz was arrested in April 1983 with dozens of other leading figures in the Tudeh (Communist) Party of Iran, which was banned soon after these arrests.

The Tudeh Party was accused of plotting with a foreign power, the Soviet Union, to overthrow Iran's Islamic Government. Party leaders were tortured to force them to confess to involvement in espionage and other illegal activity.

The dissolution of the Tudeh Party occurred as a result of the Iranian Government's policy of suppressing dissent from outside the closed circle of the clerical leadership. Thousands of political prisoners, including many hundreds of prisoners of conscience, were executed in the years following the Iranian revolution. Some groups took up arms against the Islamic leadership. The Tudeh Party, however, continued to support the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini until its dissolution.

Mariam Firouz was the President of the Democratic Organiza-

tion of Iranian Women. She contributed articles on literature and women's issues to party newspapers, and she translated numerous works of French literature into Farsi.

She was held for over three years in pre-trial detention, often incommunicado. She was tried by an Islamic Revolutionary Court, whose proceedings fell far short of international standards for fair trial, and sentenced to death in 1986. This sentence was later commuted. The precise charges on which she was convicted are not known. She had no right to appeal against verdict or sentence and throughout her imprisonment she has been refused access to a defence lawyer. She is currently held in Tehran's Evin Prison and is in poor health, suffering from rheumatism and heart disease.

■ Please send courteous letters appealing for her immediate release to: His Excellency Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani/President of the Islamic Republic of Iran/The Presidency, Palestine Avenue/Azerbaijan Intersection/Tehran/Iran. □

— INDONESIA —

Agil Riyanto bin Darmowiyoto: a law student and poultry breeder from Brebes, Central Java, he was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in April 1987 for subversion.

Agil Riyanto is one of a group of seven young Muslim activists from Brebes imprisoned for subversion in 1987. They were convicted on charges arising from involvement in Muslim groups known as *usroh*. Members of *usroh* describe the groups' objectives as deepening awareness of Islamic teachings and Islamic law and encouraging programs of mutual assistance among Muslims. Since 1985 over 40 *usroh* members in Central Java have been brought to trial under the anti-subversion law accused of undermining the government and aiming to set up an Islamic state in Indonesia. Most have been sentenced to between four and 15 years in prison.

At his trial the prosecution alleged that Agil Riyanto had criti-

cized the state ideology, *Pancasila*, and accused him of attempting to set up a network of militant cadres prepared to contribute money and die for their religion. Agil Riyanto denied the charge of subversion, saying that he had only lectured on religious questions such as prayers, fasting, taxes and the pilgrimage. Witnesses testified that he had not talked about political issues nor questioned the Constitution and *Pancasila*. According to his lawyer, the prosecution provided no evidence to support allegations that the *usroh* groups had a political intent or that Agil Riyanto's lectures had created social unrest.

Agil Riyanto and the other *usroh* activists from Brebes were not accompanied by defence lawyers when they were interrogated.

Several defendants and witnesses said that statements read out in court had been made under duress. When Agil Riyanto's lawyer complained that the judges were pressuring the witnesses not to answer his questions, he was ordered to leave the court and the session continued without him. Agil Riyanto testified that his statement had been composed by his interrogator and that he had been beaten in custody.

He has recently been moved to a prison on the island of Nusakambangan, uninhabited except for four jails and far away from his home and family.

■ Please send courteous appeals for his immediate and unconditional release to: President Suharto/Bina Graha/Jalan Veteran 17/ Jakarta/Indonesia. □



FOCUS

amnesty
international

Thousands detained since June 1989

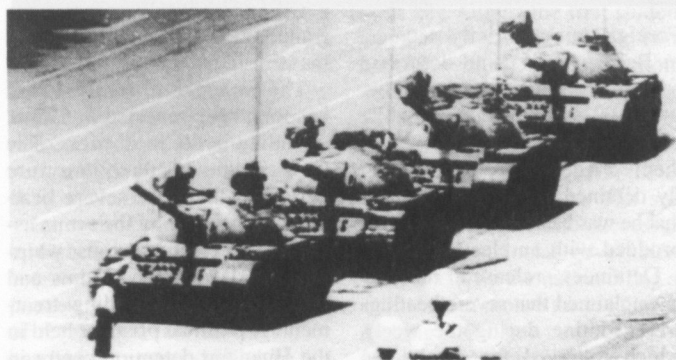
On 3 June 1989 the tanks of the Chinese People's Liberation Army rolled into Beijing and crushed the largest mass movement for democracy seen in China for decades. In suppressing the democracy movement China's rulers succeeded where their counterparts in eastern Europe were later to fail but in the process they committed human rights violations on a scale unmatched since the extensive repression of the 1966 - 1976 Cultural Revolution.

In mid-April students in Beijing began a series of protests demanding political reforms and an end to official corruption. They won wide popular support for their campaign which developed into a pro-democracy movement with protests and demonstrations in most major cities in China.

The pro-democracy movement escalated in early May 1989, when several hundred students began a hunger strike in Tiananmen Square, Beijing. By mid-May hundreds of thousands of people were gathering daily in the square to express support for the students. On 18 May an estimated one million people demonstrated peacefully in Beijing, demanding democratic reforms and freedom of the press. Two days later the city was put under martial law.

Mass demonstrations, the largest known displays of popular dissent in the history of the People's Republic of China, continued despite the imposition of martial law, until the Chinese army crushed the movement in early June.

On the night of 3 to 4 June, tens of thousands of soldiers accompanied by hundreds of armoured military vehicles advanced through central Beijing, to Tiananmen Square, firing at random or singling out their targets. At least 1,000 people were shot dead, and countless others were injured. Many of the dead were killed along a large avenue running across Beijing and leading in the centre to Tiananmen Square.



Confronting the tanks. A young man pleads for an end to the killings

People were also killed when soldiers fired into their homes, or shot them in the back as they tried to run away. The victims included children and elderly people.

Other people were crushed to death by military vehicles. One of the last civilians to leave Tiananmen Square before the army took full control of it at dawn on 4 June, a medical team assistant, witnessed an armoured personnel carrier crush several young women who were inside a tent: "I could see two soldiers sitting on the metal covering of the APC. I ran in front, shouting at them to stop. They told me to get out of the way. I was shouting and crying, but the APC continued to move ahead. The tent collapsed, trapping the girls inside. The APC went straight over it."



After the massacre: the bodies of students crushed by an armoured personnel carrier near Tiananmen Square

CHINA



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As news of the massacre in Beijing spread through China protest demonstrations in other cities were also brutally repressed. When the news reached Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, crowds converged on the city centre and stoned the government offices. The army and police responded with tear-gas and truncheons and stabbed demonstrators with knives and bayonets. An eyewitness to police assaults on demonstrators testified:

"Most of the action consisted of isolating groups of demonstrators and stabbing them and beating them to the ground...The work of the security forces...was brutal in the extreme. Even after they had beaten demonstrators down, they would continue hitting them with truncheons and knives

until they were motionless...with males, the preferred area of attack was the head; with females, it was the abdomen."

It is not known how many died in Chengdu on 5 June. The official record states that eight were killed and 1,800 injured during the clashes. However the death toll has been unofficially estimated to be much higher; a doctor reported that 27 had died in one of the city's four major hospitals.

The June massacre is the latest episode in a long history of repression in China. China's rulers refuse to acknowledge the extent of the killings, let alone investigate them, but human rights violations on such a scale will never be forgotten. Nothing can be done now for those killed in June 1989, but action is needed for the thousands who are still suffering the brutal suppression of the pro-democracy movement.

Tens of thousands are believed to have been arrested throughout China during the nationwide search for protesters which followed the June events in Beijing. The authorities admit to taking 6,000 people into custody in the following months. Unofficial sources, however, estimate that 10,000 were arrested in Beijing alone, and at least twice as many in other parts of the country. They included students, peasants, teachers, writers, journalists, academics, military officers and unemployed people. Some 4,000 detainees are reported to

have been released shortly after being taken into custody, but arbitrary arrests have continued and thousands remain in prison without charge or trial. One of them is Wang Ruowang, a 71-year-old writer from Shanghai, who was arrested in September. A long-term critic of the Chinese Communist Party, he spent four years in prison during the Cultural Revolution, and again became a prisoner of conscience as a result of his arrest in 1989. He has been detained without charge or trial.

Arbitrary detention or imprisonment is facilitated both by the provisions of Chinese law and by illegal practices which have become the norm, such as prolonged detention without charge or trial. There are also legal provisions for various forms of administrative detention without charge by the police, which have been invoked to hold protesters. In Liaoning province alone, police said that they had imposed "administrative sanctions" on 1,000 people in June for "minor crimes" of "beating, smashing and looting" in connection with the protests.

Most of those arrested are believed to be held incommunicado.

The Chinese authorities imposed martial law in Lhasa, capital of the nominally autonomous region of Tibet, on 7 March 1989. It remained in force continuously until 1 May 1990 when it was suddenly lifted, although with no measures of clemency for political prisoners and detainees.

Martial law was imposed in Tibet after an attempt by police to halt a peaceful demonstration by a small group of Tibetan monks and nuns calling for Tibet's independence which resulted in two days of violent confrontations. Eye-witnesses described police savagely beating Tibetans and "firing indiscriminately". By 9 March 1989 the official death toll was 16, but Tibetan sources estimated that over 60 people had been killed and 200 injured.

Foreign tourists reported seeing Tibetans, including children, being dragged from their homes and driven away in police trucks. By 9 March over 1,000 Tibetans were said to have been arrested, although the authorities only acknowledged a few hundred arrests. One of those arrested, Tseten Norgye, a bookkeeper, was taken into custody in Lhasa after police found a duplicator in his house and accused him of using it to print literature calling for Tibetan independence. He reportedly suffered a severe eye injury as a result of torture at Lhasa's

without access to relatives or lawyers. The whereabouts of hundreds of them are unknown. It is common practice in China not to allow visits by relatives until after a prisoner has been tried.

Torture and ill-treatment by police and soldiers was widely reported in the wave of repression which followed the Beijing massacre. Foreign journalists witnessed police assaults on 24 workers arrested during June in a Beijing residential compound.

Torture and ill-treatment were widely reported in the wave of repression which followed the Beijing massacre

Foreign tourists briefly detained in Beijing on 5 June described soldiers beating a group of between 60 and 80 students, while other soldiers shouted, "Kill them". Another foreigner, briefly detained on 4 June, claimed that he was beaten by a soldier and prodded with an electric baton.

Detainees released recently have claimed that severe beatings were routine during the weeks which followed the crackdown and that the police used electric

batons to torture them. It has also been alleged that some detainees were tortured to death and were secretly buried without their families being informed.

The Chinese Government ratified the United Nations Convention Against Torture in 1988, although the authorities have failed to introduce preventive legislation recommended in the Convention such as limits on incommunicado detention. Chinese law lacks sufficient safeguards for

protecting detainees' rights and thereby ending patterns of abuse.

The widespread use of torture has long been reported in China, including in the local press. The most common methods of torture described there are severe beatings; suspension by the arms; assaults with electric batons; whipping or striking the victims and humiliating or degrading treatment. A political prisoner held in the Huangpu detention centre in Shanghai in the late 1970s claimed

that "the use of handcuffs was the most terrifying punishment...they became the most convenient and cruellest disciplinary device for guards who like to maltreat prisoners. The guards devised various ways to use the handcuffs, with names like 'carrying-pole cuffs', 'hog cuffs', 'back cuffs' and 'toilet cuffs'. The most commonly used were simply tight cuffs, which cut into the flesh of the wrists until the bone showed". A Hong Kong businessman detained in the same centre in 1986 gave a similar account of the way detainees were treated.

A senior Chinese law enforcement official recently confirmed that torture was widespread and that instances of torture had increased substantially in recent months. The Deputy Chief Procurator, Liang Guoqing, was quoted by the New China News Agency as saying, on 28 April, that the authorities had investigated 2,900 cases of "perverting justice by bribes, extorting confessions by torture, illegal detention and neglect of duty" from January to March 1990. Of these, 490 were "major" cases involving "deaths and injuries as well as economic

arms. Some detainees apparently died as a result of torture. Nuns are alleged to have been subjected to sexual abuse, and other methods of torture reported during the 1980s included beatings with nail-studded clubs.

In January 1989 the official New China News Agency announced that 27 Tibetans had been publicly tried for offences related to demonstrations in 1987 and 1988. One of them — Yulo Dawa Tsering, a senior monk from Ganden monastery detained in December 1987 — was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and three years' deprivation of political rights on charges of "collaborating with foreign reactionary elements".

In September 1989 the authorities imposed two- and three-year terms of "re-education through labour" on nine nuns who allegedly shouted pro-independence slogans during a traditional religious ceremony. Five other nuns received similar sentences without trial that month for shouting pro-independence slogans on a pilgrimage path often used for demonstrations against Chinese rule. Four monks were brought before a mass sentencing rally, without a trial, in Lhasa during November. They received three-year sentences of "re-education through labour" for participating in demonstrations. □



Buddhist monks demonstrate in Lhasa for independence

Reuters

Repression in Tibet

Chakpori detention centre. There were fears that he might be at risk of summary execution because of his long-term political activities. He had spent about 15 years in prison during the 1960s and 1970s for advocating Tibetan independence.

Martial law regulations prohibited assemblies and gatherings, as well as "instigation of separatist actions". Decree No. 2 of the regulations gave law enforcement personnel the "right to take the necessary forceful measures to expeditiously put an end" to prohibited acts, including immediate detention and "severe and swift"

punishment.

Advocates of independence for Tibet have been persecuted ever since Chinese troops occupied the region in the 1950s. However there has been a sharp increase in human rights violations since pro-independence demonstrations began in September 1987. Reported abuses include arbitrary arrests, long-term detention without charge or trial, unfair trials and summary executions. Political detainees released in late 1988 and 1989 also alleged that police used torture, including severe beatings, electric shocks and prolonged suspension by the

losses". This number far exceeds previous official figures for abuses by police.

The purpose of torture, apart from punishing and humiliating detainees, is to force them to confess to crimes or to denounce others involved in the campaign for democracy. Interrogation may be followed by swift and summary legal procedures that permit the accused little opportunity for defence. Under 1983 legislation courts can try "criminals who gravely endanger public security" without giving defendants or their lawyers advance notice of either the trial date or charges contained in the indictment. In June the authorities called on local courts to use this legislation to "try prisoners quickly and punish [them] severely".

Trials in China fall far short of international legal standards for a fair hearing. Chinese law contains no presumption of innocence, access to lawyers is limited, and trials are often a mere formality, with verdicts and sentences decided in advance. This practice has been officially characterized as

"verdict first, trial second", and was openly criticized by Chinese lawyers in 1988.

Chinese law does not permit access to lawyers until a few days before trial — or in some cases until the trial starts — which gives no time to prepare an adequate defence. In any case the lawyer's role is usually limited to one of seeking mitigation, rather than challenging the legitimacy of the charges, and lawyers may themselves face charges if they mount a vigorous defence of a "criminal", as this is often regarded as "conniving with crime".

Since 1987 members of the Chinese legal profession have expressed dissatisfaction with these procedures. Numerous articles in the official legal press have voiced criticisms of the use of torture to induce "confessions", the limitations on the role of defence lawyers and the practice of "verdict first, trial second".

In such circumstances those brought to trial on charges of involvement with the democracy protests have virtually no prospect of receiving a fair hearing. This has been compounded by an instruction from the Supreme People's Court that local courts should strive "to fully understand...that the objective of the extremely small number of people in engineering the counter-revolutionary rebellion is to strike down the Communist Party, overthrow the socialist system and subvert the People's Republic of China". These are criminal offences in Chinese law and the Supreme People's Court instruction would therefore have been interpreted by local courts as an order that those accused of "engineering" the rebellion should be found guilty.

Although thousands are still held without charge, some of those arrested after June 1989 have been tried and sentenced to terms of imprisonment or to the

death penalty.

Xiao Bin, a worker from Dalian in northeastern China, was the first person known to be sentenced in connection with the protests for peacefully exercising his right to free speech. He was arrested on 11 June after being shown on Chinese television speaking to an American television crew in Beijing earlier that month. On 13 July the authorities announced that he had been found guilty of "spreading rumours" and "vilifying the righteous act of the martial law troops". He was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement".

In late August the first student known to have been tried in connection with the demonstrations was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment on the same charges. Zhang Weiping, an art student, was accused of telling *Voice of America* radio in June that students in Hanzhou had successfully asked provincial government officials to fly the national flag at half-mast to mourn those killed in Beijing. Others convicted on charges stemming from the peaceful exercise of human rights include Chen Zhixiang, a 26-year-old teacher from Guangzhou who was sentenced in January 1990 to 10 years' imprisonment for displaying a poster critical of government leaders.

Secret trials of pro-democracy student activists reportedly began in Beijing during November 1989. Four students from Beijing's Foreign Affairs College were apparently tried that month for "counter-revolutionary" offences, but details of their cases have not been officially revealed. China's 1980 Criminal Law provides punishment for "counter-revolutionary" activities which range from deprivation of political rights to life imprisonment or the death penalty. This law has been used repeatedly to imprison



Teacher Long Xianping was arrested on 19 June. She is serving a two-year prison sentence for "counter-revolutionary" incitement

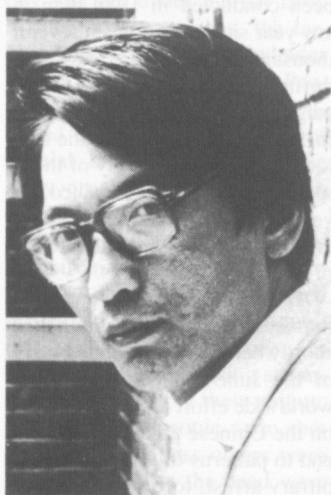
people for peacefully exercising their basic human rights. Officials have acknowledged few political trials during the past year. The fates and whereabouts of many detained intellectuals, students and workers remain unknown.

Other protesters were charged with criminal offences such as blocking traffic, damaging vehicles, attacking soldiers or police, arson or looting. They faced summary trials and executions under the 1983 legislation. On 21 June three workers were shot in Shanghai after a "public sentencing rally" for allegedly setting fire to a train after it had ploughed through demonstrators blocking the track and killed at least six. The next day seven "rioters" were executed in Beijing after being convicted of wounding

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Liu Xiaobo, a lecturer arrested on 6 June, has yet to be charged or tried



Student leaders Chai Ling, Wuer Kaixi and Wang Dan address Beijing students in May 1989



Sentenced to death on television. One of three Shanghai workers executed for setting fire to a train

troops and burning military vehicles in the capital on 4 June.

Only a few dozen executions have been publicly reported, but unofficial sources estimated that several hundred people were executed secretly in Beijing alone after 4 June. Various sources reported that, between June and August, groups of prisoners were shot before dawn near the Marco Polo Bridge in the southwest suburbs of Beijing. One report said that at least eight groups of up to 20 people had been shot there by mid-July. Executions were said to have been carried out elsewhere in Beijing.

The crackdown on activists and supporters of the 1989 democracy movement follows years of repression for the non-violent expression of political opinions or religious beliefs. Several prisoners of conscience have been in custody for nearly a decade because of their involvement with the democracy movement of the late 1970s. Wall posters and unofficial publications produced at that time called on the authorities to respect human rights and to permit free debate. The authorities banned the posters and publications in March 1979 and arrested the movement's leading activists. The arrests continued into 1981. Twenty editors of unofficial publications were arrested in April 1981 alone. Some of the detainees were tried during 1982 in proceedings closed to the public. Upon conviction of "counter-revolutionary" offences, they received prison sentences ranging from seven to 15 years. Several of them, Xu Wenli, Wang Xizhe, Xu Shuiliang and Chen Ezjin, all of whom edited unofficial journals, are still in prison.

The campaign for democracy emerged again in the mid-1980s. Demonstrations calling for

democratic reforms and freedom of the press took place in a dozen major cities during late 1986 and early 1987. Thousands of students took to the streets, supported by workers and members of several professions. The authorities branded the movement "bourgeois liberal" and, in January 1987, launched a campaign to silence its supporters. Many were arrested and academics, journalists and party officials were dismissed from their jobs.

Some of those arrested at that time were released after relatively short periods but at least 15 people were charged with offences ranging from "creating disturbances" and "damaging

old people and children, were reportedly injured, 88 seriously. Police arrested 32 people, 30 of whom were later released. The fate of the other two is unknown although it is reported that they may have died in custody.

Since late 1989, the authorities have arrested more than 30 Roman Catholic bishops, priests and lay leaders in several northern provinces. Government officials have acknowledged the arrests of some Catholics "for breaking the law", and a foreign news agency reported in February 1990 that a government official had said, "It is illegal for them to be loyal to the Vatican". The arrests point to a new crackdown on Catholics

Since the June massacre the Chinese Government has condoned patterns of human rights violations throughout the country

property" to "counter-revolutionary activities". Liu De, a journalist from Sichuan province, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for criticizing official policies during a speech. Workers arrested for supporting the 1987 protests included Xu Jiuyuan, a steel worker from Taiyuan, who reportedly sent letters critical of government policies to Communist Party leaders.

Religious persecution is also widespread in China. Since 1949 Protestants, Roman Catholics and Tibetan Buddhists who refused to join the official "patriotic" religious organizations have been tried and imprisoned, in some cases for over 20 years.

In April 1989 several hundred Catholic villagers were severely beaten by police during a raid on the village of Yutong, Hebei province. Two youths were reported to have died as a result and over 300 villagers, including

who retain connections to the Vatican and conduct religious activities independently of the government-authorized church.

Large numbers of Protestants have also been arrested during the last decade. Preachers, itinerant evangelists and lay-people attending prayer meetings in private homes have been detained for periods ranging from several days to months. Some Protestants have spent years in prison for peacefully practising their religion outside the framework of the official protestant church.

Song Yude, a 34-year-old evangelist from central Henan province, received an eight-year sentence in 1986 for "counter-revolutionary agitation and propaganda". Evangelism is not permitted in China. Preaching and distribution of religious literature is usually permitted only at government-approved locations.

Since the June massacre the

CHINA



JUNE 1989

Chinese Government has continued to commit severe abuses and to condone patterns of human rights violations.

Although the authorities lifted martial law in Beijing during January 1990, no measures of clemency or redress have been announced for those imprisoned as prisoners of conscience, subjected to prolonged detention without charge or trial for political reasons, or sentenced to imprisonment or death after unfair trials. Long-term policies of suppressing the right to peaceful assembly and to free expression of political opinions are still in force, along with the laws that permit the imprisonment of people who exercise these rights.

In addition, the authorities routinely permit police practices which contravene Chinese law, such as prolonged incommunicado detention without charge or trial. Substantive improvements in human rights protection are unlikely without changes in these laws and practices.

More executions appear to have been conducted in 1989 than in any year since 1983, when several thousand people were executed during an "anti-crime" campaign. AI recorded 273 executions in 1989 and believes that the true total is far higher. Many of those sentenced to death or executed last year were convicted of ordinary criminal offences unrelated to the pro-democracy protests.

AI's 1990 campaign to protect human rights in China, launched shortly before the first anniversary of the June 1989 killings, is a worldwide effort to bring pressure on the Chinese authorities for an end to patterns of widespread arbitrary arrest, torture, prolonged detention without charge or trial, unfair trials, summary executions and the death penalty. □

The latest reports...

The following reports are now available from AI national sections or the International Secretariat in London.

The People's Republic of Congo: Twenty-six civilians and members of the security forces have been imprisoned without charge or trial since their arrest in 1987 and 1988 in connection with a plot to overthrow President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The report raises AI's concerns about long-term unlawful detention and makes recommendations to the Congo Government to ensure that the 26 are tried promptly and fairly or released.

(Index No: AFR 22/02/90)

Peru: Human rights violations remained at a high level during 1989. This report describes AI's concerns about human rights violations in the context of widespread political violence — almost 700 deaths were reported in the first three months of 1990.

(Index No: AMR 46/23/90)

Turkey: Despite constant appeals on behalf of thousands of prisoners, including hundreds of prisoners of conscience, AI has seen no fundamental change in the human rights situation in Turkey. Torture is still widespread, and political trials do not meet international standards of fairness. This report calls on the Turkish authorities to take effective measures to safeguard human rights and respect international standards when considering proposed constitutional draft amendments.

(Index No: EUR 44/66/90)

The Philippines: Although the government has repeatedly stated its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, serious violations were regularly reported in 1989. More than 200 real or suspected government critics were killed by government or government-backed forces and over 600 political prisoners remain in detention.

(Index No: ASA 35/02/90)

USSR: Since 1987 over 300 known or suspected prisoners of conscience have been released in the USSR. However, many remain in custody. This report focuses on four such prisoners.

(Index No: EUR/46/90)

PRISONER NEWS

AI learned in April 1990 of the release of 113 prisoners under adoption or investigation. AI took up 100 cases.

COLOMBIA

Presidential candidates assassinated

TWO left-wing candidates in the Colombian presidential elections were assassinated in circumstances suggesting official complicity during the run-up to the elections scheduled for 27 May 1990.

Thirty-eight-year-old Carlos Pizarro Leongómez was shot dead on an aeroplane on 26 April 1990. The gunman, who was killed by Carlos Pizarro's bodyguards, was able to board the aircraft with a sub-machine gun despite the rigorous control of passengers by members of the Colombia security forces.

Carlos Pizarro had been the leader of the M-19 (19 April Movement) armed opposition group since 1986. On 8 March 1990, M-19 became the first

armed opposition group to disarm voluntarily, ending 16 years of armed opposition. Its members were granted a general amnesty by the government and M-19 became a political party under the leadership of Carlos Pizarro.

Less than a month earlier, presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa was shot dead in Bogota's main airport. Bernardo Jaramillo was killed on 22 March by a 15-year-old youth armed with a sub-machine gun who was able to enter the airport unhindered despite the presence of numerous security guards.

Bernardo Jaramillo was the candidate of the left-wing coalition party *Union Patriótica* (UP), Patriotic Union. He had received numerous death threats and at the

beginning of 1989 had resigned the presidency of the UP and left the country after warnings of a plot to assassinate him. He returned in July 1989 to stand as the UP's candidate in the elections.

UP leaders estimate that paramilitary gunmen have killed over 1,000 of their activists since the party's creation in 1985 and have repeatedly denounced the involvement of the Colombia armed forces in the activities of such forces.

AI has called on the Colombian Government to initiate a full and impartial investigation into these killings and has urged that all those responsible, either directly or indirectly, be brought to justice. □

SENEGAL

Torture in Casamance region

AT THE end of May AI published a report detailing cases of torture in Senegal's southern Casamance region. An AI delegation had discussed the report's conclusions and recommendations with senior government officials, including President Abdou Diouf, during a visit to Senegal in October 1989.

Between 1982 and 1989 several hundred people in Casamance were arrested for political reasons relating to a separatist campaign for greater autonomy for the region. Some were convicted of violent acts on the basis of statements to the police which may have been made under duress. About 10 people from the region are still in prison for political reasons, five of whom have been held without trial for over two years.

AI received reports about torture from former prisoners, lawyers and others and presented its findings and recommendations to the government in May 1989. During talks with AI in October the authorities reiterated their opposition to torture, drawing atten-

tion to Senegal's adherence to the UN Convention against Torture in 1986, and their commitment to preventing it.

However, they acknowledged that no official investigation had been carried out into the alleged torture of Casamance prisoners because the correct procedures for submitting complaints had not been followed. They said also that an amnesty declared in June 1988, under which most of the political prisoners from Casamance had been released, prevented the prosecution of any member of the security forces alleged to have committed abuses before July 1987.

AI considers that the Government of Senegal is bound by international law to investigate all allegations of torture, whether or not complaints have been formally submitted in accordance with established procedures. The organization is concerned that failure to investigate torture allegations may lead members of security forces to assume that they may abuse prisoners with impunity. □

YUGOSLAVIA

Kosovo defendants acquitted

AFTER a year in prison and a trial which lasted for six months, Azem Vllasi, former chairman of the Kosovo Communist Party, Aziz Abrashi, Burhan Kavaja, Lazer Krasniqi and 10 others were acquitted on charges of "counter-revolutionary activity" and released on 24 April. The case against another defendant had been dropped earlier.

Most of the defendants worked for the Stari Trg zinc mining complex.

They were accused of having incited ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province to protest against the introduction of constitutional changes reducing the province's autonomy and giving greater powers to the Republic of Serbia, of which Kosovo is a part. AI had adopted them as prisoners of conscience.

In court, many witnesses claimed they had been pressured by police to make incriminating statements about the defendants.

On 18 April the Federal State Presidency announced the pardon and impending release of 108 political prisoners including the writer Adem Demaci, a prisoner of conscience imprisoned since 1976.

Three high school students, imprisoned for peaceful protests against restrictions on education in the Albanian language, have been set free.

Nuredin Aliu was released in April, Valdeta Fejzullai and Nafije Zendeli at the end of January. □

Sudan: Doctor tortured to death

SINCE November 1989, a pattern of torture has been reported at unofficial detention centres in Sudan used by a new security service, known as "Security of the Revolution", which was established after the June 1989 coup.

On 21 April a medical doctor, Dr Ali Fadul, died in custody as a result of torture. He was dismissed from his job following a doctors' strike at the end of 1989 and went underground to avoid

arrest. However, he gave himself up and was arrested in March after his brother had been imprisoned.

Dr Ali Fadul was detained incommunicado for just over a month by the new security service. When his death was announced by the authorities, it was initially attributed to malaria. It then emerged that it had been caused by internal haemorrhaging and that he had probably suffered a fractured skull. □

GUATEMALA

Human rights activists killed

JOSÉ María Ixcaya, a founder member of the Council of Ethnic Communities "We are all Equal" (CERJ), was shot dead in the De La Fe area of Pujulil, Department of Sololá on 1 May. AI believes he was the victim of an extrajudicial execution.

José María Ixcaya was travelling to a May Day demonstration in Guatemala City when three armed masked men in plain clothes shot him. His wife witnessed the killing. He had received numerous death threats

from the security forces, according to CERJ's president, Amílcar Méndez Urizar.

This killing was the latest in a series of recent attacks on human rights activists attributed to the security forces, in which two other CERJ members have lost their lives. AI has received reports that the security forces have publicly ordered their civilian adjuncts to carry out the attacks.

Several members of GAM, the Mutual Support Group of relatives of the "disappeared", were

attacked and wounded on 2 March in the village of Sacpuluc, Chichicastenango, El Quiché, by members of the local civil patrol acting under army orders. GAM members had gone to Sacpuluc to support local people threatened by the army because they had refused to join the civil patrols. The authorities claim membership of these patrols is voluntary.

Later in March CERJ members and government human rights officials were attacked by civil patrolers as they were escorting villagers back to their homes in Parraxtut, El Quiché. The villagers had fled Parraxtut after men

in plain clothes, including members of the security forces, shot and killed a CERJ member on 17 March. On 10 April, another CERJ member opposed to patrol service was killed by men in plain clothes in San Pedro Jocopilas, El Quiché. He had allegedly received death threats from the town mayor and the local civil patrol commander. Human rights activists and their families continue to report death threats from local military officials in El Quiché.

AI has called on the Guatemalan authorities to conduct thorough, independent investigations into these incidents. □

PAKISTAN

Five Ahmadis arrested

FIVE members of the Ahmadi religious group in Pakistan were arrested in January and February in connection with a Friday prayer meeting in Abbotabad, North West Frontier Province. The Ahmadiyya community was founded over a century ago. Since 1984 its claims to be Muslim have been punishable by imprisonment.

A peaceful congregation of about 55 Ahmadis met on 12 January 1990 in a private house. A local Islamic group reported the meeting to the Deputy Commissioner in Abbotabad. On 13 January, the police registered a case against Sahibzada Abdur Rashid, in whose house the meeting was held, and 11 other Ahmadis for offering prayers and reciting from the Holy Koran.

Sahibzada Abdur Rashid was arrested the next day. The other four arrested were Mohammad Akbar from Azad Kashmir, 80-year-old Mohammad Yousaf, Rana Karamatullah and Mohammad Ahmed Bhatti.

They were accused under the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) of offering Friday prayers and reciting from the Holy Koran and, despite the peaceful nature of their gathering, they were also accused of disturbing law and order under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance. They were released on bail in late April. AI considered them prisoners of conscience and is urging the government to withdraw the charges against them.

Amendments to the PPC introduced by former President General Zia-ul Haq in April 1984 prohibit Ahmadis from using Islamic titles or prayers and from calling themselves Muslim. Over 3,000 Ahmadis have been charged under these provisions for practicing and explaining their religious beliefs.

AI has expressed its concern to successive governments in Pakistan that these provisions violate the right to freedom of religious expression and has urged that they be repealed. □

MOROCCO

Islamic prisoners acquitted

FIVE members of the Islamic association al-Adl w'al-Ihsan (Justice and Charity) convicted of public order offences and involvement in an unauthorized association were acquitted by the Kenitra Court of Appeal on 24 April. The court reduced the prison term and fine imposed on a sixth prisoner.

They were among tens of people rounded up since November in connection with al-Adl w'al-Ihsan.

The case of six other members of the Islamic association, al-Adl w'al-Ihsan, who were adopted as prisoners of conscience by AI

after they received two-year prison terms in March, went before the appeal court in Kenitra on 8 May. Thousands of people joined a demonstration outside the court in support of al-Adl w'al-Ihsan. The demonstration was broken up by police and hundreds of demonstrators were arrested. Most have been released.

In these and other related cases trial proceedings reportedly fell far short of international standards. Abdesalam Yassine, the spiritual leader of al-Adl w'al-Ihsan, is reportedly under house arrest. □

RWANDA

Political trials in Kigali

THE first political trials since 1986 took place in Rwanda in March and April when 19 people appeared before the State Security Court and two others were tried by the High Court in the capital, Kigali. None of them appear to have had lawyers and no witnesses were called in any of the trials. Those appearing before the State Security Court were tried before a professional judge, assisted by two soldiers, a university lecturer and a senior official in the President's office. Defendants convicted by this court have no right of appeal.

Those jailed by the State Security Court included at least five people who appear to be prisoners of conscience: Innocent Ndayambaye, a university student, received a five year sentence for allegedly contravening Rwanda's one-party constitution by forming an opposition party after having spent almost four years in pre-trial custody. Four Jehovah's Witnesses were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on 30 April for

disturbing peace and organizing unauthorized gatherings.

Two others received 10-year prison terms after trials before the State Security Court, one for allegedly spying for neighbouring Burundi and another for having contact with Rwandese opposition groups in exile. In separate trials, at least seven people charged with making remarks intended to disturb public order were given suspended sentences and five people alleged to have sent money to an exiled former government minister were acquitted.

In March, two journalists were convicted by the High Court: François Xavier Hangimana was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for criticizing government policy in a newspaper article, while Felicien Semusambi received a six months suspended sentence for discrediting the national security service in a letter he had written to President Juvénal Habyarimana about abuses allegedly committed by the security service. □

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