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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Crimes of hatred

Sexual identity is highlighted in AI's campaign against torture

IN June 2001 AI launched a report on torture and ill-treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people as part of its campaign against torture.

Torture of LGBT people is a worldwide problem – AI has documented cases on every continent – but one that is greatly under-reported. The stigma surrounding homosexuality in many cultures means that homophobic violence by state officials goes unreported, uninvestigated and unchallenged. While some governments deny that such torture takes place, others openly justify it in the name of morality, religion or ideology.

Many countries around the world criminalize homosexuality, providing fertile ground for torture. In some countries, cruel punishments such as flogging are applied by law as a sanction for the “crime” of homosexuality. In many others, torture is meted out as an extra-judicial punishment by police or prison guards.

Torture and ill-treatment are not limited to countries where homosexuality is illegal. People who come into contact with the law for other reasons may also be ill-treated because of their real or perceived sexual identity. Violence, including rape and other sexual abuse, against LGBT people in prisons is widespread. The AI report also documents the abuse of LGBT people in prison and medical institutions and the use of ill-treatment as a means of preventing LGBT people from meeting socially or organizing publicly and campaigning for their rights.

Torture in prison and police custody is just the tip of the iceberg of violence targeted at LGBT people. For many, the most common experience of violence is in their homes, schools, places of work or on the street. Although the perpetrators are not state officials, the ill-treatment is often just as brutal and harmful. The purposes are similar and the consequences just as damaging.

AI's campaign aims to hold governments to account for their obligations to end the torture of LGBT people, whether inflicted by agents of the state or private groups and individuals. AI is campaigning for repeal of “sodomy” laws and other legal provisions which have been shown to facilitate torture. It is calling for specific preventive safeguards for LGBT people in custody and effective protection for LGBT refugees fleeing torture and for human rights defenders working on issues of sexual identity.

The AI report, *Crimes of hatred, conspiracy of silence: Torture and ill-treatment based on sexual identity* (AI Index: ACT40/016/2001), was launched on 22 June in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where LGBT activists who have attempted to hold the police accountable for torture and ill-treatment have themselves faced physical violence.



Two soldiers relax in front of a defiant message from demonstrators. The words *pouvoir assassin*, meaning ‘regime of murderers’, have been a common chant in anti-government protests.

Silencing the protesters

Hundreds are killed and injured by security forces during mass anti-government protests in the Kabylia region of northeastern Algeria

SCORES of men, women and children have been killed and hundreds injured at the hands of the security forces as anti-government protests have rocked Algeria, particularly the Berber-dominated region of Kabylia. The protesters, mainly young, took to the streets during April, May and June to express their deep-seated anger at the Algerian authorities whom they see as repressive and unconcerned by their plight.

The protests were triggered by the death of a secondary-school student, Massinissa Guermah. He was shot dead on 18 April in a gendarmerie station at Beni Douala, some 20km from Kabylia's main town, Tizi Ouzou. According to the authorities, the weapon fired accidentally when it slipped out of a gendarme's hands, but this version has been challenged by witnesses who say they heard Massinissa Guermah plead his innocence to gendarmes before two rounds were fired.

Like Algerians all over the country, the Kabyles have seen their prospects for the future significantly worsen over the last decade. Not only have many been victims of a brutal internal conflict that continues to ravage the country, but socio-economic problems such as soaring unemployment, a severe shortage of affordable housing and corruption have driven the young to despair.

Official casualty figures at the end of May put the number of protesters who had been killed in Kabylia at more than 50, with some 1,300 injured. However, information from independent sources such as local human rights activists indicates that the number of deaths may be considerably higher. In addition, many of those arrested in connection with the protests have allegedly been tortured and ill-treated, receiving punches, rifle butt blows and kicks to their bodies and heads and being threatened with rape.

The security forces concede that some “excesses” were committed, but claim that in most cases they acted in self-defence against protesters who were throwing stones at them and that dozens of their number were also injured.

However, there are reports that gendarmes fired on young protesters standing more than 100 metres away. Protesters were also dispersed with tear gas and then chased through the streets. Some were shot in the back as they fled advancing security forces; others were allegedly pursued to their homes and shot dead once they were inside. In all cases, the security forces appear to have used live ammunition. The use of tear gas has itself led to deaths and injuries; a six-year-old girl reportedly died of asphyxiation after inhaling gas when a tear



AI members join the 2001 Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney, Australia.

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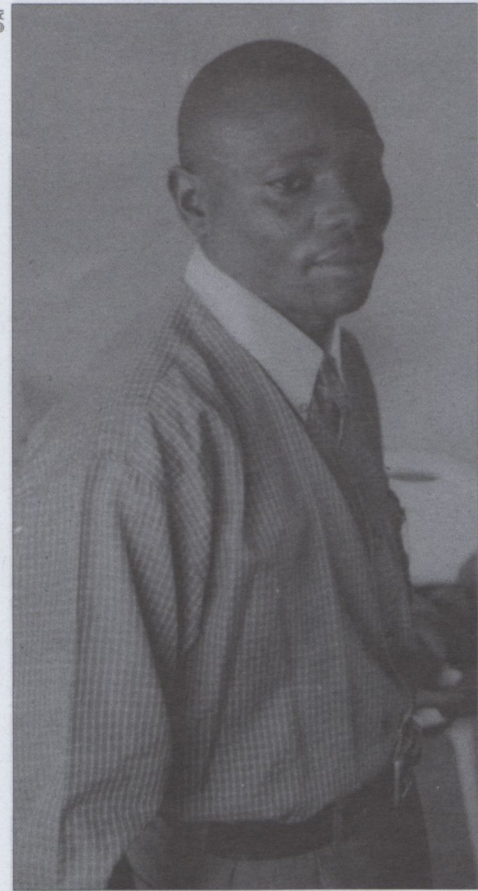
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A culture of torture and impunity

Torture is rampant in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and perpetrators are rarely held to account. AI launches a new report on the issue, and says it is time for change.



Vital Ndaboba Badheka

AS a student leader responsible for maintaining order on his college campus and reporting back on student activities to a government committee, Vital Ndaboba Badheka, an English-language student in the capital Kinshasa, had no particular reason to fear that he would fall foul of the DRC authorities.

But on 16 November 2000 at around 9.30pm he was arrested by the military after intervening to calm trouble on campus following the theft of a student's bag by a soldier. He was one of 12 students who were put in a truck at gun-point, ordered to shut their eyes, beaten and then told they would be shot the following day. They were taken to Kokolo military barracks.

Over the next 12 hours the students were subjected to a terrifying ordeal at the hands of soldiers, which included public whippings and beatings, and being repeatedly threatened with execution. Both upon arrival at the barracks and later in the night, the students, who had been stripped naked, were given 25 lashes each on the back, buttocks and legs. They were ordered to do press-ups and handstands against a wall, and any faltering was punished with further whippings. When they were finally allowed to get some rest, by lying on a concrete floor, they were unable to sleep because of the pain

from their wounds and mosquito bites (the guards forbade them to swat the mosquitoes).

In the early hours of the next day they again faced further beatings and whippings, and were made to clean up human excrement in the cell with their bare hands. At around 10am they were put in a truck and told they were going to be executed. In fact, the soldiers drove them straight back to the college campus and freed them.

A local government representative later expressed regret at what had happened and promised to ensure that those responsible for the students' torture would be punished. However, no action is known to have been taken against any of the soldiers involved and none of the students has received compensation for what they endured.

The ordeal of these 12 students is sadly far from unique in the DRC. The army, security and police forces routinely ill-treat and torture detainees, safe in the knowledge that torturers are virtually never brought to justice. Indeed, both the government and the various opposition forces that control the north and east of the country appear to condone, and sometimes explicitly order, the torture of detainees. Journalists, human rights defenders, politicians, students and many other Congolese have fallen victim

without any means of defending themselves or of seeking reparation after the event.

On 26 June – the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – AI highlighted the scandal of torture in the DRC with the launch of its report, *DRC, Torture: a weapon of war against unarmed civilians* (AI Index: AFR 62/012/2001). The launch took place in Belgium, the former colonial power in the DRC, and participants included a Congolese victim of torture on whose behalf AI had previously campaigned. It also coincided with Belgium taking over the presidency of the European Union, and was timed to bolster Belgium's pledge of making the DRC one of its priority concerns.

Please write to the DRC Minister of Human Rights, expressing your concern at the torture of Vital Ndaboba Badheka and 11 other students, and the failure of the DRC government to fulfil its obligations under the UN Convention against Torture as well as under other international human rights treaties to which the DRC is a state party. Send appeals to: Professeur Ntumba Luaba, Ministre des Droits Humains, Ministère des Droits Humains, 33/C Boulevard du 30 juin, Kinshasa-Gombe, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Opinion

When is rape of women torture – and when should the state be held responsible?

THERE is no international legal definition of what constitutes rape. It varies between different national systems of criminal law. AI defines rape as the forced or non-consensual penetration of the human body with the penis, or with an object, such as a truncheon, stick or bottle.

Rape is a crime of violence, aggression and domination which affects women disproportionately and therefore falls within the definition of an act of violence against women. Sex is used as the means of exercising power over the victim. The goal for the offender is gaining control, degrading and humiliating the victim.

The UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) defines torture as an act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is:

- intentionally inflicted on a person
- for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind,
- when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.

The act of rape always fulfils some of these criteria: rape always causes severe physical and mental suffering; and rape is always a deliberate act by the perpetrator. The perpetrators of rape always aim, among other things, to intimidate, degrade, or humiliate their victim.

However, the state cannot be held responsible for every case of rape under the international prohibition of torture. The key factor is whether the rape is committed by a state official, or with the consent or acquiescence of officials.

Rape by prison, security or military officials always amounts to torture. Even if the rape happens in the victim's home, in a field or on the street, the victim is, by definition, under the physical control of the perpetrator, and thereby in a form of detention.

The main point of contention has been whether the rape of a woman detainee by a security, military or police official could, in some circumstances, be constructed as a "personal" or private act, and therefore a common criminal act rather than torture. A number of decisions by international and regional bodies have ruled that rape by such officials always amounts to torture.

Rape of women by men who are not public officials, i.e. by private individuals, constitutes torture for which the state is responsible, in AI's view, if the state has not acted with due diligence to prevent or punish the crime. For example, laws governing rape are often inadequate and many countries do not recognize and prohibit marital rape. In some countries a woman who alleges rape may herself be prosecuted for illicit sexual relations. Frequently, the rules of evidence make it very difficult for a woman to win a court case. Restrictions on women's movement and legal rights may further hamper access to justice. In many parts of the world, the police routinely fail to investigate abuses reported by women and the courts appear biased against women victims. AI holds states responsible when they fail to take measures to protect the fundamental rights of women.

International human rights treaties not only regulate the conduct of states and set limits on the exercise of state power, they also require states to take action to prevent abuses of human rights. States have a duty under international law to take positive measures to prohibit and prevent rape and to respond to instances of rape, regardless of where it takes place and whether the perpetrator is an agent of the state, a violent husband or a total stranger.

Fighting for truth in Aceh

Since the Indonesian government ordered a military clampdown in Aceh, human rights defender Aguswandi has been stranded in the United Kingdom. He cannot wait to get back.

AGUSWANDI is only 23 but he has already seen more than most people do in a lifetime. For the last six years, he has campaigned tirelessly to raise awareness of the human rights atrocities being carried out by the Indonesian military in Aceh province, northern Sumatra, during operations against the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), an armed pro-independence group. Many of the victims have been civilians – men, women and children.

What started out as an interest in student politics, after joining the law faculty of the Syiah Kuala University in Banda Aceh, has become a personal mission for Aguswandi. Since February 2000, he has coordinated the Aceh office of the Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence (Kontras) – which both monitors the human rights situation in the territory and campaigns to end state violence. His position carries with it a considerable degree of danger.

In May 2001 – while Aguswandi was out of the country speaking at the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and holding talks in London – the Indonesian president announced new security arrangements to deal with GAM. However, the reality meant sending extra military to Aceh and an escalation in human rights violations. GAM has vowed to fight back and has also been responsible for serious abuses. With foreign journalists and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) restricted from operating in the area, human rights activists and humanitarian workers are in even greater danger.

"At the moment a lot of activists are leaving Aceh because they are being deliberately targeted by the military. The Indonesian government doesn't want people to be monitoring the situation there. Some activists are still in Aceh but it is very difficult to operate," he said.

"Kontras has hundreds of volunteers, many of them students or villagers, who monitor the situation for us. Before, it was easier to investigate and they could be more public and open. People had enough confidence to give them information on torture and killings. But now it is very difficult. People are scared and the volunteers have to work undercover.

"Even if they get information, it is very difficult to then get it to the office in Banda Aceh. Public places where they can fax and telephone are now being watched by the police. We do get information, but it is often long after the event has happened."

The situation for human rights defenders took a turn for the worse when activists from Kontras, other NGOs and eight journalists were summoned for questioning after publicizing a case in which police were alleged to have raped a number of women. One of the activists, Teungku Al-Kamal, was shot dead along with his lawyer and driver. As of late May, there had been no investigation.

Aguswandi, as one of those also summoned, was warned by many of his colleagues to remain in Europe until the situation calmed down. He is being supported by AI and other human rights groups. But after three months away, he is now keen to get back. "My colleagues in Aceh have told me it is too dangerous to return. But I want to go back as soon as possible as it's work I believe I have to do. Yes, it's dangerous, but it's also a challenge.

"The problem is that the government is using force to try and maintain national integrity and it doesn't care about the civilians. It is a similar problem to East Timor, but because Aceh does not have a similar history it doesn't get the same publicity. However, the human rights violations and the behaviour of the military towards the people are the same. And today it is worse than ever."



Aguswandi, a human rights defender from Aceh.

REMEMBER...AI members should not take up cases from their own countries

worldwide appeals

BELARUS

Anniversary of 'disappearance'



On 7 July 2000 *Russian Public Television* cameraman Dmitry Zavadsky (pictured) drove to a Minsk airport to meet journalist colleague Pavel Sheremet. Although his car was found at the airport he has not been seen since and his wife, Svetlana, and their young son have received no word from him.

The investigation into the reported "disappearance" of Dmitry Zavadsky, aged 27, has been cloaked in controversy, eliciting domestic and international criticism for its perceived lack of transparency and impartiality. In the course of the investigation several leading state officials examining the case were dismissed, while other officials have reportedly refused to comment on the case. However, it is thought that several past and present members of the elite police unit, Almaz, are currently in custody charged in connection with his abduction and possible murder, and are expected to come to trial in mid-2001. In contravention of various international human rights

standards the trial is expected to be held behind closed doors.

It is alleged that Dmitry Zavadsky, who worked on a documentary film in Chechnya with Pavel Sheremet, had information suggesting that former and current Almaz officers had been active combatants on the Chechen side against Russian forces. Svetlana Zavadsky reportedly stated that, upon his return from Chechnya, her husband began to receive telephone calls from an unknown person requesting a meeting with him. She maintained that her husband, suspecting the Belarusian security services were behind the calls, refused to consider the request. AI has repeatedly called for an immediate and impartial investigation into the possible "disappearance" of Dmitry Zavadsky and for the results to be made public.

➔ Please write, expressing concern at the reported "disappearance" of Dmitry Zavadsky and request that those responsible be brought to justice in the course of a fair trial, which is open to public view and according to international standards. Send appeals to the Belarusian Prosecutor General, Viktor Sheyman, ul. Internatsionalnaya, 22, Minsk 220050, Republic of Belarus.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Detained for their beliefs

Yunus Murang, Freddie Chong and Haji Malai Taufick remain in detention without trial or charge in Brunei after being arrested in December 2000 under the Internal Security Act (ISA). The three men, all Christians reportedly linked to the Borneo Evangelical Church, were accused of "cult" activities that sought to convert by deception members of the country's majority Muslim community and so threaten inter-religious harmony. AI believes the detainees to be prisoners of conscience (POCs), detained for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of religion as enshrined in the international human rights standards and the Brunei Constitution.

The emergency powers of the ISA allow the Minister of Home Affairs, on command of the Sultan, to detain any person deemed to be a threat to national security. The minister is empowered to sign two-year detention orders, renewable indefinitely. ISA detainees are

denied their rights to a trial, to legal counsel and to be presumed innocent. During prolonged interrogation, whilst held in isolation and denied access to lawyers, family members and independent medical attention, ISA detainees are at risk of torture or ill-treatment. According to recent reports, the three detainees were subjected to intense psychological pressure, including threats of indefinite detention without trial, unless they admitted "subversive" activities or cooperated in a process of Islamic re-education. At least one detainee was reported to have been held for two months in a darkened cell.

➔ Please write, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the three POCs. Ask that, while in detention, they be allowed regular access to family, lawyers and doctors. Call for guarantees that they will not be tortured or ill-treated. Send appeals to: His Majesty, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Prime Minister's Office, Istana Nurul Iman, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Fax: +673 2 241717.

SAUDI ARABIA

Torture of possible POC



Sheikh 'Ali bin 'Ali al-Ghanim (pictured) was allegedly beaten, denied sleep and suspended from the ceiling by his legs during his first months in custody. AI is concerned that he may be imprisoned solely for peaceful activities relating to his Shi'a religious beliefs.

The 39-year-old father of five was arrested in August 2000 while returning from a holiday in Syria. He is believed to have been charged with carrying out opposition activities against the government, and travelling to Iran and Iraq without the government's permission.

He was tried in secret at *al-Mabahith al-'Ammah* (General Investigations) prison, where he had been held since his arrest, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. He is believed to have been moved, around 10 May, to Dammam Central Prison. He has not been given access to a lawyer throughout his detention and trial.

Only followers of a state-sanctioned version of Sunni Islam are permitted to practice their religion in public in Saudi Arabia. Members of religious minorities and political opponents of the government face arbitrary arrest, and are often subjected to torture or ill-treatment in detention. In rare instances when they are charged and brought to trial, the proceedings invariably fail to meet the most elementary standards of fairness.

➔ Please write, expressing concern at the allegations of torture. Ask the authorities to investigate, make the findings public and bring those responsible to justice. Express concern that he may have been imprisoned solely for the non-violent expression of his beliefs and, if so, would be a prisoner of conscience, who should be released immediately. Send appeals to: His Majesty King Fahd bin 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud, Office of H.M. The King, Royal Court, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin 'Abdul 'Aziz, Minister of the Interior, Ministry of the Interior, P.O. Box 2933, Airport Road, Riyadh 11134, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Fax: +966 1 403 1185.

USA

Child offender due to be executed

Napoleon Beazley is due to be executed in Texas on 15 August 2001. He was sentenced to death in 1995 for a murder in Tyler, Texas, which occurred when he was 17 years old.

The trial jury's finding that Napoleon Beazley would be dangerous to others in the future, and therefore should be executed, had little support. He had no prior arrest record and the state produced no evidence of any other violent acts by him. Many witnesses testified at his trial about good aspects of his character and his potential for rehabilitation. He has been a model prisoner.

Since October 1997, Texas has carried out a third (four) of the world's known executions of child offenders—individuals who were under 18 at the time of the crime. The USA as a whole has carried out eight such executions in the same period, while Iran is reported to have carried out three and the Democratic Republic of the Congo one. Seventy-seven per cent of the 31 inmates on death row in Texas belong to racial or ethnic minorities. Napoleon is African American, convicted of killing John Luttig.

A February 2001 *Houston Chronicle* poll showed that only 25 per cent of people in Harris County, Texas, and 34 per cent statewide support the death penalty for child offenders. The Texas House of Representatives recently passed a bill that would have raised the death penalty eligibility age to 18, but the bill failed in the Senate. International law prohibits the execution of child offenders in recognition of their immaturity, impulsiveness, and capacity for change.

➔ Please send appeals to the following two officials from the original trial, asking them to ask the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to recommend clemency for Napoleon Beazley in line with commonly held standards of justice and decency: Sheriff J. B. Smith, 106 E. Elm Street, Tyler, Texas 75702, USA; and to: Jack Skeen Jr, Smith County District Attorney, 100 N. Broadway, Tyler, Texas 75702, USA.



Ireland and Rena Beazley hold a photograph of their son Napoleon who is due to be executed in August.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

ZIMBABWE

Death of gay and lesbian activist

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Polyana "Tsitsi Tiripano" Mangwiro who lost her courageous fight against AIDS last month. Polyana was an outspoken defender of gay and lesbian rights in Zimbabwe and faced discrimination from many groups, as well as rejection from many in the women's movement. During 1998, Polyana was the subject of an AI alert and in the following year AI hosted Polyana on a speakers' tour that took her to the USA, Canada and Europe.

MOROCCO

Birthday greetings from the Prime Minister

In May Moroccan Prime Minister Abderrahman Youssoufi sent AI a message to offer his "sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding" of the organization. Abderrahman Youssoufi had been adopted as a prisoner of conscience by AI in 1963, after being imprisoned for his activities as a political opponent.

UN SMALL ARMS CONFERENCE

SMALL arms are used to commit gross violations of human rights, crimes against humanity and war crimes in many parts of the world. There is an urgent need for governments to address the proliferation and misuse of these weapons. In July the UN is holding an international conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. AI welcomes the UN decision to focus on this issue, but it is concerned that the conference may not address some of the key contexts in which small arms are used to cause suffering on a massive scale. For more information see: *The Terror Trade Times* (AI Index: ACT 31/002/2001).

WEST AFRICA

Human rights defenders action

THE need for increased protection of human rights defenders by governments and the international community was highlighted at the launch of an AI action in Dakar, Senegal, in April 2001. Human rights defenders (HRDs) from across West Africa attended the event, which also highlighted the vital role being played by HRDs and the abuse and harassment they suffer as a result of their work. The launch was followed by a series of workshops and seminars to help lay a good foundation for campaigning over the coming months and for long-term protection for HRDs.



Members of the Ticuna people who met an AI delegation in the state of Bahia, April 2000, prior to the indigenous march in protest against the official celebrations to mark Brazil's 500th anniversary.

Justice for the Ticuna people

Thirteen years after the massacre of 14 Ticuna Indians in northern Brazil, justice finally prevails

ON 18 March 2001 a federal court in Manaus, capital of the state of Amazonas, sentenced the men responsible for the massacre of 14 Ticuna Indians in 1988 to prison terms of between 15 and 25 years. These are the first ever convictions in Amazonas under the "genocide law", which carries a sentence between 12 and 30 years for the crime of genocide of Indians. These convictions stand as a clear testimony to the bravery of the Ticuna people and the tenacity of AI members around the world who continue to fight against impunity.

On 28 March 1988, a group of 100 Indians – men, women and children – from four Ticuna communities were holding a meeting at Capece Creek, an area traditionally inhabited by the Ticuna. It was a time of high tension between the Ticuna and the local non-indigenous community as the Brazilian government's National Indian Foundation had begun to work towards officially transferring land to the Indians. This move was resisted by local settlers who were illegally occupying and living off the land in question.

While the meeting was in progress a group of gunmen arrived. The Indians told them that they had come in peace and were unarmed, but the gunmen opened fire.

Six of the 14 Indians killed were children, as were several of the 23 injured in the attack. Most of those killed had tried to escape by boat. The bodies of 10 of the victims, which were apparently swept away in the river, were never recovered.

Although federal police found the gunmen who had allegedly taken part in the attack still armed the following morning, they did not arrest them. It was some time before the police took statements from the men the Ticuna had identified as their assailants. One week later, only five suspects had been interviewed and charged.

The campaign for justice was long, arduous and at times dangerous for the Ticuna. AI members joined in their battle. The constant flow of letters from around the world helped to sustain the motivation of those fighting for justice.

During a visit to Brazil in April 2000, AI delegates met with members of the Ticuna and local NGOs who expressed their gratitude for the support they had received, as well as their concern that their people continue to suffer threats and harassment from the local community.

Today AI members around the world join the Ticuna people and their supporters in celebrating this important milestone. Nevertheless there is still a long way to go. While five of the gunmen are now serving prison sentences, AI continues to call for the imprisonment of those six men who were tried and sentenced *in absentia* for their role in the massacre and who, to this day, remain at liberty.

As AI celebrates its 40th anniversary, its members continue to campaign against longstanding impunity to help bring human rights abusers to justice.

Getting their teeth into fundraising

When a surplus of dental mirrors became available, an enterprising AI group in Russia knew exactly what they could do with them

RAISING money is never an easy task, especially when you live in a country with no tradition of charitable donations and the average wage – if it is paid at all – does not even cover basic living costs. In Russia, AI groups have had to become very creative to raise money.

One student group in the Siberian town of Tomsk came up with a novel way of fundraising after making contact with the manager of a local factory. His business once belonged to a thriving industrial complex producing medical instruments for the military. But as money dried up and there was less demand for such equipment, the factory manager was forced to consider other options. The company had a surplus of tiny mirrors, used by dentists to check people's back teeth. With slim chance of selling the mirrors abroad, the company decided to transform them into badges.

The students in Tomsk leapt at the chance of being able to take advantage of this scheme, and publicize AI and raise funds at the same time. The factory manager agreed to colour the mirrors, which wasn't an easy task to do, using the machinery at his disposal.

Now the mirrors have become AI badges, showing the candle on a pale blue background with the words, "Don't be silent over torture". They sell for US\$1 each. The group has used all its international contacts to sell the badges, and from their remote corner of Siberia they are now doing a roaring trade. One member of AI in Germany actually took the badges to her dentist, who then distributed them at a conference for dentists.

If that wasn't enough, the group has also come up with another successful project to raise AI's profile (if not its funds). They have reached an agreement with the University of Tomsk's English department to use AI's material in future exams.

The badges are made to order, in Russian as well as in English, and a few are available by contacting the European Development Team at the International Secretariat (IS). For more information on the Tomsk group, contact Olegos Pelioukpassidis by e-mail: olegos@amnesty.tomsk.ru We also want to hear any other great fundraising or awareness-raising ideas and initiatives from AI groups and sections. Please contact us at the IS address below.



Updates and Good News

GUINEA

Political opposition leader and POC Alpha Condé was released on 18 May 2001 after nearly two and a half years in detention. He and two other POCs were granted a presidential pardon. After his release Alpha Condé said: "Thanks to the support of AI members, I never felt alone."

ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Ghassan Muhammad 'Attamleh, an Israeli-Arab who was detained without charge or trial apparently in connection with his political activity during the current *Intifada* and featured in our April 2001 appeals, was released on 3 June 2001. He thanked AI for campaigning on his behalf, saying: "AI's groups played a major role in my release and I am thankful to them."

SRI LANKA

Two members of a ship's crew, who were hijacked by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, were handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross on 7 April 2001. W.A. Anton Fernando and K.P. Richard were the last of the eight crew to be released following the hijacking in August 1995.

continued from front

gas grenade landed in the courtyard of her home.

On 2 May, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika ordered a commission of inquiry into the events in Kabylia. The commission has begun its work, but faces widespread distrust among a population accustomed to commissions that have in the past led to reports lacking credibility or no report being published at all. There are also fears that evidence is being lost. Despite repeated efforts, some families of victims have allegedly been unable to obtain autopsy reports on their

dead relatives, and witnesses report that in some cases local authorities have confiscated them from doctors.

Moreover, no concrete measures have been taken to investigate the thousands of other human rights abuses committed in Algeria since 1992 by the security forces, state-armed militias and armed groups. Although the number of killings, "disappearances" and cases of torture has fallen since 1998, a high level of violence continues to blight the whole country. This year an average of between 200 and 300

people, many of them civilians, have been killed in attacks and clashes every month, just as they were last year.

Please write, expressing concern at the recent killing of dozens of civilians by the security forces in Kabylia. While welcoming the establishment of a commission of inquiry, urge the authorities to ensure that all the killings are subject to an immediate, full and impartial investigation; that investigating officials have full access to all material evidence, including autopsy and forensic

evidence; that the results of these investigations are made public; that those responsible are brought to justice; and that, where applicable, superior security force officers are held responsible for failing to report unlawful use of force or firearms or other violations of human rights.

Send appeals to: His Excellency Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Republic of Algeria, Présidence de la République, El Mouradia, Alger, Algeria. Fax: +213 21 609618 or +213 21 691595. E-mail: president@el-mouradia.dz



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