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LAW IS 'UNACCEPTABLE LIMITATION ON FREE SPEECH'

AI CALLS ON BRITAIN TO HALT TRIAL OF 16 MEMBERS OF GROUP SEEKING WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL urged the British Government on 17 June to end prosecutions under the Incitement to Disaffection Act and to repeal the act itself. *AI* called the act "an unacceptable limitation on free speech".

AI also expressed concern at the continued detention without bail of one of 16 persons currently facing trial and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment under conspiracy charges connected with the act. It said in a press statement that it would adopt as prisoners of conscience any of the 16 who are imprisoned.

The act, passed in 1934, outlaws any attempts "maliciously and advisedly" to "seduce any member of Her Majesty's forces from his duty or allegiance to Her Majesty", and also possession of "any document of such a nature that the dissemination of copies thereof among members of Her Majesty's forces would constitute such an offence".

The 16 awaiting trial under the act are pacifists and members of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign. Fourteen were arrested last autumn when some of them were found in possession of a leaflet describing ways that soldiers could legally avoid service in Northern Ireland and giving practical advice to soldiers who "have decided to go absent without leave". The other two were charged under the act this spring. During committal proceedings in March, none of the 14

was charged with actually distributing the leaflet among servicemen nor did the prosecution accuse them of this. Twelve were charged with mere possession of the leaflet and all were charged with conspiracy to contravene the act.

All the defendants have been free on bail since their arrest, but one of them, WILLIAM HETHERINGTON, aged 40, was re-arrested on 5 June in connection with a conversation he had on a train with a sailor. He was remanded in custody on 6 June after being refused bail and taken to Brixton Prison. He was similarly remanded without bail a week later.

In a letter sent earlier to United Kingdom Attorney General SAMUEL SILKIN, *AI* Deputy Secretary General HANS EHRENSTRALE expressed concern at the continuing prosecutions under the act, called for a halt to them and urged Mr Silkin to stop criminal proceedings against all 16 defendants. Mr Ehrenstrale said the use of conspiracy charges was even more disturbing than the charges under the act itself since they raised the maximum punishment of 2 years' imprisonment and a £200 fine, called for under the act, to life imprisonment.

An *AI* spokesman said the organization also considered the act to be incompatible with articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights which respectively guarantee the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and the right to freedom of expression.

BRITON FACES FIRING SQUAD IN UGANDA

AI Deputy Secretary General HANS EHRENSTRALE cabled Organization of African Unity Secretary WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA and several African heads of state on 12 June in a bid to save the life of DENNIS HILLS, a 61-year-old Briton sentenced to death for "treason" by a Ugandan military tribunal.

Mr Ehrenstrale urged the African leaders to appeal to President IDI AMIN of Uganda to commute the death sentence and cease using Mr Hills' case for political ends. President Amin had earlier announced that Mr Hills would be executed by firing squad if the British Government did not comply with a list of demands.

literary career, was not invited to the meeting.

When he was arrested on 18 April—on the same day that the secretary of the Moscow group, ANDREI TVERDOKHLEBOV, also was detained—Mr Rudenko was charged with "anti-Soviet slander" and told that his association with *AI* "compounded his crime". Unlike Mr Rudenko, Mr Tverdokhlebov is still in detention, despite many appeals both inside and outside the USSR for his release.

AI has received no further news of the third arrested member of the *AI* group, SERGEI KOVALYOV, who has been detained since last December. Reports in May (*June Newsletter*) said Mr Kovalyov had been returned to Moscow from Lithuania, but doubts have now been cast on this and other reports since then say he is still in Lithuania.

Paraguay Frees Some Detained Peasants

AI learned in June that some members of one of the communities of peasants in Paraguay who were harassed by a arbitrary arrests last February were released at the end of May. The village communities, members of the Christian-orientated cooperative movement, the Agrarian Leagues, were allocated to *AI* groups as "group adoptions" following the series of arrests. The peasants whose release was reported are members of the San Isidro de Jejuí community.

But *AI* has also received fresh reports that other members of these communities are still being harassed by short-term arrests and brutal treatment. The persecution reportedly is so strong that the peasants generally are afraid to name either the victims or those guilty of the abuses.

Soviet Writers' Union Expels Rudenko

MIKOLA RUDENKO, the 56 year-old science fiction writer and member of *AI*'s Moscow group who was detained by the KGB for two days in April (*May Newsletter*), has been expelled from the Union of Soviet Writers of the Ukraine, according to well-authenticated reports in early June,

The report said that Mr Rudenko had been expelled for "behaviour incompatible with membership in the union". Unofficial reports said he was also charged at the meeting with membership in a "bourgeois organization" (Amnesty International). Mr Rudenko, who has had a long and distinguished

AI Delegate Meets Officials in Taiwan After Government Commutes Sentences

Professor JAMES SEYMOUR, an American sinologist, visited the Republic of China (Taiwan) on 15-21 May as AI's official delegate for talks with government officials. On 20 April it was announced that, in honour of the late President CHIANG KAI-SHEK, sentences of all prisoners were to be commuted. For the first time, this measure was to include political prisoners, of which the government now admits to over 400. Just over half of these are thought likely to benefit from the clemency measure.

While in Taiwan, Professor Seymour was able to meet a number of leading officials, including Justice Minister WANG JEN-YUAN, Minister of State GEORGE K.C. YEH and the Deputy Commander of the Taiwan Garrison Command (the central detention agency), General YUAN CH'ENG-CHANG. He was able to discuss at some length the official attitude towards political imprisonment in Taiwan and to state AI's interest in a number of individual cases under adoption or investigation by AI groups. Professor Seymour also gave a detailed exposition of AI's aims and working methods to the newly-appointed Director of the Government Information Office, DING MOU-SHIH.

The draft bill on the commutations has been presented to the Legislative Yuan (National Assembly), and its full scope will not be known until mid-July.

TWO AI DELEGATES ATTEND UN MEXICO CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

AI appointed two delegates to the United Nations conference held in Mexico from 19 June-2 July on the subject of International Women's Year. The two delegates, Professor BARBARA SPROUL of AI's United States Section, and MARICLAIRE ACOSTA, of the Mexican Section, were hoping to bring to the attention of the participants—who represented governments and non-governmental organizations—AI's concern about the plight of women prisoners of conscience, and particularly about the torture of women detained for political or religious reasons.

AI's list of 252 women detained in 25 countries (prepared in March 1975 and partially updated in April 1975) and a general document relating to the situation of women, political

AI CITES HAITI IN IACHR SUBMISSION

In a submission in June to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS drew the commission's attention to the continuing violations of human rights in Haiti. Although there have been political changes since the presidency of the late FRANÇOIS DUVALIER, the human rights scene remains practically unchanged since the previous IACHR reports on Haiti in 1963 and 1969: arbitrary arrests of prisoners of conscience; no legal safeguards for detainees such as access to defence lawyer, habeas corpus, intervention by magistrate on the validity of the accusations; virtually no trials; appalling prison conditions with no contact with family, not even a priest.

Part of the submission was a list of 74 cases under adoption or investigation by AI groups. Mr Ennals referred to the IACHR's long-standing interest in human rights in Haiti and recommended that a new investigation be made.

detention and torture, was made available to all participants.

AI also presented to the conference for adoption a resolution calling for the need to abolish all forms of torture; adequate conditions and medical care for women in prison and

pre-natal care for pregnant women prisoners and adequate facilities for their children. The resolution also requests the UN's Commission on the Status of Women to receive reliably attested information on the detention and particularly the torture of women prisoners and recommends the granting of a general amnesty for women political prisoners in honour of the International Women's Year. It further calls on all women's organizations to work, at national and international level, for these goals and themselves to act on all instances of the torture of women prisoners brought to their attention.

Judgement Postponed in Lesotho Trial

Judgement on the remaining 22 defendants in Lesotho's second treason trial has now been postponed to 8 July, according to information AI received in June. Nine other defendants were acquitted during the course of the trial, and a further 18 detainees were released when the state decided not to proceed with charges against them shortly before the trial began on 9 April.

Those accused are members of the opposition Basutoland Congress Party and were arrested after an abortive coup in January 1974. Some 22 other Congress Party members received sentences for various offences at the end of the country's first major treason trial in March 1975 (April Newsletter).

Vietnam Confirms Release of Prisoners

The Vietnamese Liberation Radio, (*Sai Gon Giai Phong*), has now confirmed that 1,813 prisoners held on the prison island of Con Son were returned to their homes between 6 and 20 May (June Newsletter). Among their number were more than 500 women. Earlier press reports had spoken of the release of prisoners, mentioning specifically 8,500 prisoners let out of Saigon's Chi Hoa prison, and the return of prisoners from the other offshore prison island of Phu Quoc.

The Prison Reform Committee in Saigon, which operated at considerable risk on behalf of political prisoners under the former Thieu regime, is continuing its work to help rehabilitate former prisoners. According to unconfirmed reports, it is being given space in the former United States Embassy in which to work.

All AI groups with Vietnamese prisoners have now been asked to consider these cases closed. Groups may, however, continue to send money for the time being for the rehabilitation of former prisoners through AI's International Secretariat in London.

Cameroun Frees 50 Political Prisoners

On 17 May, President AHMADOU AHIDJO of Cameroun announced the release of 50 political prisoners to mark the inauguration of his fourth presidential term of office. Those freed include the former Bishop of Nkongsamba, Monsignor NDONGMO, sentenced to life imprisonment after the commutation of his death sentence in 1971.

Last December, AI called for a general amnesty for all political prisoners in Cameroun (January Newsletter).

UNESCO Grants AI Consultative Status

AI has been given consultative status with UNESCO following a meeting of UNSECO's executive board in May. The board decided to admit AI to Category B among non-governmental organizations—"Information and Consultative Relations". Previously, AI had been placed in Category C—"mutual information relationship".

The new status will enable AI to play a much more direct role in relation to UNESCO's program than was previously possible. The change was reflected almost immediately. On 16 and 17 June, AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS and MARIE-JOSE PROTAIS, a member of AI's International Executive Committee, attended a meeting in Paris of the

Prisoners of the Month Campaign

Participants in the Campaign are reminded that appeals must only be sent to the officials named at the end of each case. In *no* circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner.

Irina STASIV-KALYNETS, Soviet Union

IRINA STASIV-KALYNETS (born 1940) is a Ukrainian poetess. Both she and her husband (the poet Igor Kalynets) were arrested during the widespread purge of the Ukrainian intellectual community in 1972 and 1973. She was convicted of "anti Soviet agitation and propaganda", consisting of her having espoused Ukrainian nationalist sentiments. She was sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment to be followed by 3 years in exile. She is presently serving her sentence in the strict regime women's camp (ZhKh 385/3) in the Mordovian prison complex.

She and several fellow Ukrainian women prisoners in the colony requested in 1974 to be allowed to donate part of their work earnings (most of which they are not allowed to spend) to a fund for Chilean prisoners of conscience. This request was officially refused, as was their request in 1973 to be allowed to mark Easter with religious ceremonies, including giving confession.

Over the past two years it has been reported a number of times that Mrs Stasiv-Kalynets is suffering from serious liver and kidney disorders. Members of her family have tried to send her medicines for treatment of her condition along with warm items of clothing. On each attempt, the parcel has failed to reach the prisoner. It is unlikely that Mrs Stasiv-Kalynets is receiving adequate medical treatment.

Please send politely worded cards appealing for her release to: SSSR, Moscow, Kremlin, Mr L I Brezhnev, General Secretary, Central Committee, CPSU.

Eduardo VIERA, Uruguay

EDUARDO VIERA, a 60-year-old journalist and member of parliament until its dissolution in June 1973, was first arrested in December 1974 after an investigation into the pro-communist newspaper *El Popular*, of which he was the editor, which has since been closed. In January 1975, Amnesty International made an urgent intervention on his behalf as his incommunicado detention, his precarious state of health and the maltreatment of other detained members of the Communist Party all gave serious cause for concern. At the end of January a judge ordered his release but Señor Viera remained in custody, under the emergency legislation of *Medidas Prontas de Seguridad*, till the end of March.

A month later he was re-arrested and charged with *atentado a la fuerza moral de las fuerzas armadas* (which means literally "attack on the morale of the armed forces"), which can cover virtually any criticism of the armed forces or the expression of political views which do not conform to the "democratic republican system" as interpreted by the present government. This charge can carry a penalty of up to 6 years imprisonment.

Please write courteously worded cards calling for his release

and stressing the basic rights of freedom of association and expression to: Sr Secretario del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional, Casa de Gobierno, Plaza Independencia, Montevideo; *and to:* Sr Presidente del Consejo de Estado, Palacio Legislativo, Montevideo.

Victor NAMUNERA, Tanzania

VICTOR NAMUNERA is a freelance journalist who has been detained without trial under the Preventive Detention Act for over seven years. His health is reported to be poor, and he suffers from epilepsy. Mr Namunera is a Mozambiquan citizen, but apparently while working in Kampala, Uganda, in 1967, he was arrested and handed over to the Tanzanian authorities. He does not know why he was arrested, and he has never been charged or brought to trial.

Under the Preventive Detention Act (1962) Mr Namunera may be detained indefinitely, but his release could be secured by a presidential amnesty, as was the case recently when 157 people were freed in April 1975 on President Julius Nyerere's orders to mark Union Day and the 11th year of unity between Tanganyika and Zanzibar. *Please send courteously worded cards for his release to:* Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, State House, P O Box 9120, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

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News from Past Campaigns

VALENTYN MOROZ of the Soviet Union, who was on the *Prisoner of the Month Campaign* in July 1971, has been threatened with transfer from Vladimir Prison to a psychiatric hospital, according to reports reaching AI's International Secretariat in June. Mr Moroz, a 39-year-old Ukrainian historian, was sentenced in 1970 to 6 years in a prison, 3 years in a corrective labour colony, and 5 years in exile.

After physical attacks on him by criminal cell-mates in 1972 he was held in solitary confinement in Vladimir Prison for over 2 years. Since late 1974, after a hunger strike lasting over five months, he has been lodged with a cell-mate with whom he finds it possible to live.

This spring Mr Moroz's father wrote to medical officials at Vladimir Prison asking that Mr Moroz be given food (such as honey) which would alleviate his stomach condition. In reply, the prisoner's father was told that Mr Moroz was in need of treatment in a psychiatric hospital. The prisoner's wife, Raisa Moroz, took up the matter with prison medical officials and told them that in her opinion Mr Moroz is not in need of psychiatric treatment and that he appears now to be somewhat improved in health and disposition. In return she was asked: "Could a normal man stay on hunger strike for five months?"

Report Confirms Brutality in Grenada

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote on 11 June to Prime Minister ERIC GAIRY of the Caribbean island of Grenada, expressing the hope that all charges against members of the opposition New Jewel Movement would be dropped, in the light of the report of the Duffus Commission of Inquiry into the breakdown of law and order and police brutality in Grenada.

"It is made quite clear by the report that these men were subjected to deliberate harrassment and persecution by the

Standing Committee of UNESCO Non-Governmental Organizations. In addition, they met with UNESCO Director-General AMADOU-MAHTAR M'BOW.

AI already enjoys consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the Council of Europe, is recognized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (see page 2) and has observer status with the Organization of African Unity (Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees).

police and that any police evidence against them must be regarded with suspicion," Mr Ennals wrote "On pages 136 and 137 of the report the commission completely demolishes the police case against the members of the New Jewel Movement, and I urge you to use all your influence to have any proceedings against these men dismissed."

AI Concerned at Trial in Switzerland

AI cabled Chancellor KARL HUBER of the Swiss Confederation on 18 to express concern at the trial of JOSEF LANG, a soldier charged with violating article 98 of the Military Penal Code of Switzerland. The cable said Mr Lang's conviction would violate freedom of expression as guaranteed in the European Convention on Human Rights.

Article 98 is aimed at preventing subversion of the armed forces. However, Mr Lang merely contributed to a demand in a leftwing journal for the introduction of democratic rights in the army and for the repeal of the so-called Hirsoly order which drastically restricts freedom of expression.

In June 1973 AI Legal Adviser NIGEL S. RODLEY observed a similar trial in Yverdon, Switzerland. The accused were acquitted (July 1973 *Newsletter*). Six months later, a military tribunal, after a hearing *in camera*, reversed nine of the 10 acquittals, but suspended all sentences for two years (January 1974 *Newsletter*).

Mali Releases 15 Political Prisoners

Fifteen political prisoners were released in Mali on 2 June, presumably as part of the amnesty announced, although not actually implemented, by the country's president, Colonel MOUSSA TRAORE, in January (February *Newsletter*). Those freed were reported to include associates of former President MODIBO KEITA whose government was overthrown in a military *coup d'état* in September 1968.

Observer Testifies in US on South Korea

English lawyer, BRIAN WROBEL, a member of AI's mission to the Republic of Korea (May *Newsletter*), testified before the United States Congress Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on International Organizations and Movements at its hearings on human rights in South Korea on 23 May. The sub-committee, chaired by Congressman DON FRASER, heard evidence of intimidation, torture and the abuse of the judicial system for political ends. It also heard the account of Father JAMES SINNOTT, an American Catholic priest expelled from Korea for his work on behalf of political prisoners.

The mission's report has also been submitted to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs for its hearings on South Korea.

PRISONER RELEASES AND CASES

The International Secretariat learned in May of the release of 81 AI-adopted prisoners and took up 66 new cases.

AI Member Named to HR Commission

NIC KLECKER, Chairman of AI's Luxembourg Section, has been named his country's representative to the European Commission on Human Rights. Dr Klecker, a 47-year-old teacher and Doctor of Philosophy and Letters, has been chairman of the section since 1970. In a letter of congratulations written on 29 May, AI Legal Adviser NIGEL S. RODLEY, speaking on behalf of the International Secretariat, told Dr Klecker:

"Amnesty International considers the commission to be the most important organ with regard to securing the protection

of human rights in Europe. I am sure your appointment will further enhance the valuable work of the commission and I might add, in addition to my previous congratulations, our congratulations to the government that was enlightened enough to nominate you."

Lawyers Confirm Torture in Argentina

Four French lawyers who visited Buenos Aires in May 1975 on behalf of the International Human Rights Federation and Pax Romana, the Roman Catholic organization, said in their report which reached the International Secretariat in June that detainees were subjected to various forms of torture during interrogation, such as the use of electric shocks and simulated executions. The commission charged that "right-wing extremist organizations enjoy a quasi-impunity which gives rise to suspicions that they are blessed with at least the tacit complicity of police". The French lawyers heard allegations that the police have made some detainees wear stereophonic headphones through which high frequency signals were passed in order to break down their resistance without leaving any visible marks.

Lately, threats and attacks have often been extended to entire families. On 30 May 1975 the press reported the kidnapping by unidentified persons who claimed to be policemen of the wife and two children of printing worker LUIS NAVALESE. He belonged to the leftwing printers union which was dissolved several months ago. Its leader, RAIMUNDO ONGARO, is now in prison. One of Mr Ongaro's sons was shot dead last month and another son was the victim of an attempted extra-legal detention but managed to escape.

During recent months, AI has drawn attention to the climate of terror that exists in Argentina, in which leftwing extremists assassinate officials and rightwing squads operate against leftists. In February AI issued a statement (March *Newsletter*) accusing Argentina (along with Uruguay and Paraguay) of gross violations of human rights since the imposition last November of a state of siege that allows for arrest and detention without warrant.

AI News in Brief

AI Concern at Public Execution Reports in Vietnam

Following press reports that Saigon had witnessed its fourth public execution after a trial by people's court, AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote on 10 June to the Foreign Minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG), Mrs NGUYEN THI BINH, restating AI's opposition in principle to all forms of capital punishment and requesting official comment on the reported executions.

The letter recalled that, at an earlier meeting between Mr Ennals and Mrs Phan Thi Minh of the PRG's Paris delegation, Mrs Minh had stressed the PRG's policy of re-education and rehabilitation precluded any policy based on revenge, including the use of capital punishment. It reaffirmed that AI welcomed Mrs Minh's assurance as a sign of a true spirit of national reconciliation and inquired about the PRG's intentions regarding the death penalty and the new judicial system in South Vietnam.

AI Prepares for Mission to Chile

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS and the researcher on Chile, DAVID BRAHAM, attended a briefing session in Paris in June with the United Nations Human Rights Commission before their imminent mission to Chile to investigate allegations of violations of human rights.

Yen For a Walk in Paradise

Group 8 of the Japanese Section raised more than 250,000 yen (£380) on 4 May in a campaign based on the women in prison list published by AI. One feature of the campaign was a "walkathon" around Pedestrian's Paradise in Ginza, Tokyo. Members of the group walked around and around Pedestrian's Paradise—one girl walking a total of 50 kilometers—while other members collected donations from people in the street. At the end of the walk, members released helium-filled balloons, each with the name of one of the women prisoners on it.

Change of Address

The new address of AI's Japanese Section is Room 54, 3-18 Nishi-Waseda 2-chome, Shinjuku, Tokyo 160, Japan.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN GUATEMALA

FARMER TELLS HOW HE WAS ABDUCTED, TORTURED AND SHOT

Unexplained violent deaths in the rural areas of Guatemala have been common during the past decade. The story of EFRAIN DAVID PINEDA is but one of many similar stories that are rarely revealed. Señor Pineda, a farmer from El Salvador, has lived in the village of Palo Alto in Guatemala for 13 years. on 23 May 1975, after leaving the fields for lunch, two plainclothesmen called at his house. They produced military police credentials and took him away. After leaving him in a cell in the jail of another village for several hours, they took him to an isolated area by car.

He was tied to a tree, beaten repeatedly, shot in the leg and chest, untied and left for dead. He managed to crawl to the village of Pecoate and was taken to hospital. Mr Pineda Cárcamo, who is now recovering in hospital from his injuries, says that he does not know the reason for the attack.

Hundreds of unexplained deaths in the rural areas of Guatemala have been reported in the last several years, many of them apparently with an end in intimidating peasants from beginning political mobilization. Of 683 political assassinations reported during 1973 in the Guatemalan press, 70% took place in the rural areas. Most of them were peasants dragged out of their houses and shot, many after having endured torture. In January 1975 at least 41 people died by violent means and for political reasons.

In those cases in which assailants are even partially identified, they are often described as "well organized groups of heavily armed men who arrive in automobiles that have no registration plates". Some of these anonymous death squads are composed of men "dressed in olive-green uniforms".

AI has just submitted a document to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, compiled from press reports from July 1974 to January 1975, that illustrates the incidence of political violence in Guatemala. According to this partial survey, 27% of the corpses of victims showed clear signs of torture or mutilation, including multiple fractures and severe burns.

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to President KJELL LAUGERUD on 21 May 1975, submitting a list of victims of violent death in Guatemala, in response to President Laugerud's announcement of an official inquiry into police participation in death squad activity.

On 29 June AI issued a news release announcing the submission of the dossier to the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Kenya Inquiry Cites Torture Chamber

In its report of early June to the Kenyan Parliament on the assassination of the popular politician JOSIAH MWANGI KARIUKI, a parliamentary select committee has alleged that police used torture to

Former Greek Torturers to be Freed

According to press reports from Athens, the first trial of police officers accused of torture during the seven-year military dictatorship was scheduled to start on 20 June in Salonica. Two gendarmes are charged by a woman lecturer with having tortured her for five days in September 1968. They were at the time serving at the General Directorate of National Security in Salonica.

Trials of about 100 army and police officers charged with torturing political prisoners are expected to follow shortly. Leaders of the ousted military junta will also go on trial, probably in Athens, during July.

intimidate witnesses who testified before the committee.

The murder of Mr Kariuki on 3 March near Nairobi has caused one of the most severe crises in the history of independent Kenya. The select committee was appointed by Parliament to uncover both the facts about the murderers and the alleged failure by the police to investigate the assassination.

Mr Kariuki was a flamboyant reformist leader who, after losing his post in the government, several years ago, became a leader of opposition within the one-party state. He built his support on calls for wider distribution of wealth, for improved schools and housing and for guarantees of full legal rights to the poor. He had spent 7 years (1953-60) in prison under British colonial rule, and emerged with many scars and a permanently crippled leg as a result of torture.

The select committee charges that the police have attempted to cover up the murder by intimidating witnesses who saw Mr Kariuki hours before his death in the company of commanding officers of the police and security forces. The report says that one witness was intimidated "by being shown the torture chamber where some unfortunate was being beaten up". A member of the select committee, MARK MWITHAGA, told Parliament during a debate on the report that a taxi driver had been deafened by police torture and that other witnesses were told by the police that they would be shot if they told the truth.

AI POLICE SEMINAR CALLS FOR ANTI-TORTURE CODE OF ETHICS

Police officials from eight European countries, meeting at an AI-sponsored seminar at the Peace Palace in The Hague 19-20 June, called for a sweeping international police code of ethics, including the duty of policemen to disobey any order to inflict torture.

The seminar was attended by members of police forces, police authorities and of national and international police organizations from Austria, Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.

"Aware of the grave problems regarding the enforcement of the international rules forbidding torture or any inhuman or degrading treatment, the participants supported the creation of an international code of police ethics," the participants said in a communique at the end of the seminar.

Noting the responsibility of the police "only to the properly constituted government under law" and the obligation of the police to prevent violations of the law, apprehend and prosecute law-breakers and maintain order and public security under law, the communique said the code should contain at least the following requirements and basic provisions:

—The duty of police to maintain and promote human rights, in the principle of which police officers should receive proper education and training.

—The code should apply to all individuals and organizations, including secret services, military police, armed forces and militia.

—Summary executions, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and generally every violent act against the physical or mental integrity of the individual

should be prohibited in all circumstances, including civil strife or war.

—There should be a clear-cut chain of responsibility where-by civilian or military superiors are personally liable for acts of torture committed under them.

—Police officers and all others covered by the code have the right to disobey or disregard any order, instruction or command, even if lawfully made within the context of national legislation, which violates those basic rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and also the duty to protest against any such orders.

—Police and other officials who detain persons should follow the instructions of doctors or other competent medical workers regarding such persons.

—Those covered by the code should inform the proper national and international bodies of any activities that contravene the code and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

—No party to the code should be penalized for resisting or protesting against orders that contravene the provisions of the code.

—Parties to the code have a personal and corporate duty to support those who need such support as a result of adherence to the code.

—Any national or international body which adopts the code should maintain some appeals mechanism for those who claim the code has been violated.

—Any party to the code who complies with it is entitled to the active moral and physical support of the community in which the party performs his or her duty.

APPEALS

Religious Prisoners in Romania

In April of this year AI submitted an extensive memorandum to the Romanian government concerning prisoners of conscience in Romanian prisons. Included in AI's submission was mention of 13 members of the Christian sect the Seventh-Day Adventists, who were imprisoned because they refused to join with other Christian groups in Romania in support of the Front of Socialist Unity.

It is alleged that they suffer particularly harsh treatment in prison because they refuse to do prison labour on Saturday and Sunday. Their ill-treatment allegedly includes over-crowded cells, shackles, cold showers in the winter and severe whippings (up to 30 strokes).

Two men, Mr ZECIANU and Mr SIMESCU, are reported to have died under these conditions. Others have been beaten, and one man, Mr BUZDUBAN, has allegedly been sentenced to 13 years' hard labour.

Although this information is now absolutely confirmed, AI's fears are increased by the fact that its submission to the Romanian government in April has received no reply. *Please send courteously worded letters, requesting an official inquiry into the health and legal status of religious prisoners of conscience in Romania, with special reference to members of the Seventh-Day Adventist sect, to: His Excellency Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Bucharest.*

Antonio GENTA, Uruguay

ANTONIO GENTA, a trade union leader detained and allegedly tortured by the Montevideo police, is reported to be in a delicate state of health after having suffered two heart attacks. Mr Genta is married with six children, and his wife is pregnant.

In spite of ill-treatment he confessed only to being a trade unionist. He is awaiting trial by a military tribunal.

Please write courteously worded letters, asking that Mr Genta receive the necessary medical attention, to: Señor Secretario General del Consejo De Seguridad Nacional, Casa de Gobierno, Plaza Independencia, Montevideo, Uruguay; and to: Señor Ministro del Interior, General Linares Brum, Ministerio del Interior, Calles Mercedes y Julio Herrera y Obes, Montevideo, Uruguay.

ILO Mission Confirms Torture in Chile

On 29 May, 20 months after the military coup, a commission from the International Labour Organization (ILO) that had visited Chile at the end of 1974, published a report that corroborates allegations that torture and political assassination continue to be as severe now as they were during the first months after the coup.

The ILO fact-finding commission was led by JOSE LUIS BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO, former head of the International Court of Justice. The other members were HAROLD S. KIRKALDY, a British lawyer and professor at Cambridge University, and JACQUES DUCOUS, French lawyer and member of the French Council of State.

After a three-week official visit to Chile, the commission concluded that Chile's military government had tortured labour leaders to death or executed them because they had participated in trade union activities. They said there was evidence that one of the junta's aims was to "eliminate or prevent any large-scale opposition to its policy" by trade unions. The commission expressed great concern about the "disappearance, in some cases without trace, of persons arrested by the authorities".

Meanwhile, in an apparent effort to demonstrate that abuses of authority are punished in Chile, President AUGUSTO PINOCHET promised interviews with imprisoned torturers. However, other government spokesmen later contradicted the President. Officials of the Ministry of Justice said that the military personnel named in the list of 12 provided by order of the President had been convicted of common law offences against the public, not of torture.

"There are no torturers in Chile", said ORLANDO JEREZ, National Director of Social Communication, "either in the jails or out."

A further statement came from presidential press secretary FREDERICO WILLOUGHBY who, supporting President Pinochet's claim that torturers are punished, said: "I know that there are some in jail, really. It must be that the officials in charge of providing the names are protecting the services."