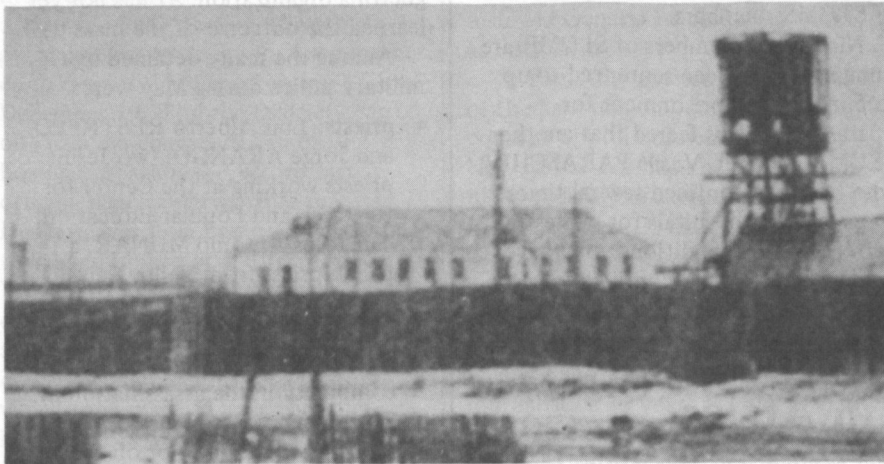




## 'Helsinki monitors' in labour camps

The total number of people in the Soviet Union known by *AI* to have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment, exile or similar deprivation of liberty, or to have been forcibly confined to psychiatric hospitals for exercising their human rights since the 1975 Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe has risen to over 321. Others arrested during the same period are currently awaiting trial.

Among the hundreds of prisoners of conscience are 11 "Helsinki



copyright: *La Pensée Russe*

monitors" who are being held in penal institutions characterized by medical neglect, chronic undernourishment and excessively heavy labour in unsanitary and sometimes physically dangerous conditions. The photograph shows a camp in the Mordovian complex of corrective labour colonies.

Most of these monitors are serving sentences of 12 or more years' imprisonment and exile. Another three are serving sentences of internal exile, while one, Oles BERDNYK, is presently being held in custody in the KGB investigation prison in Kiev.

*AI* announced this most recent information on the first anniversary of the trials of the "Helsinki monitors" which received widespread international attention last year. The defendants were members of the unofficial groups set up by Soviet citizens to review their country's compliance with the human rights provisions of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference.

Three of the monitors, Levko LUKYANENKO, Viktoras PETKUS and Oleksa TIKHY, are serving parts of their sentences in "special regime" corrective labour camps. These are among the most severe types of penal institutions in the country (August 1978 *Newsletter*).

All three have previously served

lengthy terms of imprisonment.

Levko Lukyanenko had been released from prison after 15 years as a prisoner of conscience only one year before his most recent arrest. He is now serving a sentence totalling 15 years' imprisonment and exile.

Mr Lukyanenko is being held with Mr Tikhy in the same labour colony in Mordovia as that in which Alexander GINZBURG was kept until the April exchange of prisoners between the USA and USSR in which Mr Ginzburg was released into exile abroad.

Inmates in the Mordovian labour colony work at polishing glass for chandeliers but have no respirators to protect their lungs from the glass dust. They have no protective gloves and despite the cuts they get while working they have to immerse their hands in ice-cold water and sand.

Food at the camp, which has been described by Mr Ginzburg's wife as "totally devoid of vitamins", consists of rotten cabbage, watery gruel and salty herring.

## Uruguay urged to dismantle state torture apparatus

Six years ago the armed forces of Uruguay intervened in the political life of their country, bringing *de facto* civilian rule to an end in what, until then, had been regarded as the "Switzerland of Latin America".

Today, parliament remains dissolved, the trade union movement banned, and political parties banned or suspended. Non-violent dissenters fill the country's detention centers and prisons. The torture of political prisoners continues unabated.

To coincide with the sixth anniversary of the military intervention on 27 June, *AI* has issued a dossier urging the Uruguayan authorities to dismantle the state's torture apparatus, to return to civilian justice and to release all prisoners of conscience.

*AI*'s major concerns in Uruguay are:

- large-scale imprisonment of non-violent political opponents and of trade unionists;
- illegal detention procedures and lack of legal safeguards, including prolonged incommunicado detention;
- maltreatment and torture, sometimes resulting in the prisoner's death; and secret arrests, known as "disappearances", by the armed forces and police;
- trial of civilians before military tribunals whose procedures do not ensure a fair trial;
- detention without trial under the emergency provisions of the Prompt Security Measures;
- arrests and forcible return of exiles and refugees in neighbouring countries to Uruguay;
- prison conditions.

In a statement issued on 27 June *AI* said: "All safeguards against unlawful detention have been eliminated in Uruguay. There are no longer any domestic remedies against arbitrary imprisonment, torture and death at the hands of the armed forces and the police".

## Romania

### Trade unionists in psychiatric hospitals

Arrests, imprisonment, and confinement in psychiatric hospitals have followed attempts by Romanian workers and intellectuals to form a trade union.

Fifteen workers and intellectuals from Turnu Severin and Bucharest announced the foundation of a Free Trade Union of Romanian Workers (SLOMR) in February 1979. According to the founding declaration, the protection of human rights affecting working conditions was to be the new union's principal concern. The declaration called for improved working conditions and an end to bureaucratic privileges and the forced retirement of political dissidents on "psychiatric" grounds.

Following the broadcast of this declaration on Radio Free Europe in early March, a number of the founding members were detained, including Ionel CANA, a medical doctor, and Gheorghie BRASOVEANU, a Bucharest

economist. Both men are now reported to be confined to Jilava Prison Psychiatric Hospital.

As new members joined the trade union, arrests increased. One SLOMR member, Nicolae DASCALU, an English teacher who had announced the intention of a number of Bucharest citizens to form an *AI* group, was sentenced on 26 May to 18 months' imprisonment on charges of violating press laws and imparting false information about his country abroad. He had telephoned Romanian exiles in Paris to complain of the arrest and harassment of SLOMR members.

Nine other members of SLOMR are known to have been sentenced to up to 5 months' imprisonment for "parasitism". It is feared that another SLOMR member, Vasile PARASCHIV, who has been confined several times to psychiatric hospitals for protesting about working conditions, may have been re-arrested and confined once again to a psychiatric hospital.

## Four million refugees in Africa

Four million refugees are now estimated to exist throughout Africa. One million have fled repression within the white minority ruled states of southern Africa and have received protection mostly in neighbouring independent states. Three million have fled armed conflict and political persecution in other states including Equatorial Guinea, Uganda (under Idi AMIN's rule), Ethiopia (especially Eritrea), Chad, Guinea, Rwanda, Burundi, and in the former Spanish Sahara.

Increasing awareness and concern within Africa, particularly by the All-Africa Conference of Churches, led to the Pan-African Conference on Refugees, which met in Arusha, Tanzania, from 7-17 May. The conference was sponsored by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Ministerial delegations from most OAU member states attended, as did observers from several governments and non-governmental organizations working for African refugees.

In view of its concern for refugees who are or could become prisoners of conscience, *AI* sent two International Secretariat staff members as observers.

The conference made several impor-

tant recommendations, arising from preliminary work by committees of experts meeting in January to discuss papers on the social, economic, administrative and legal problems of refugees in Africa. A paper was presented to the January meeting on the detention and imprisonment of refugees. The recommendations of the conference are to be presented to the OAU Council of Ministers and OAU Heads of States meetings later in the year.

The conference highlighted the humanitarian spirit in which African states have granted asylum to refugees and given them assistance, usually at great cost to their own struggling economies. In most cases there has been careful observance of the provisions of the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, which is an advance on the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. However, the African refugee problem is now far greater than a decade ago.

In addition to a series of recommendations for the improved protection of and increased assistance to refugees, the conference proposed the creation of an African center for study and training in refugee law, humanitarian law, and human rights.

## Colombia

### Mass trial opens in Bogota

Political arrests continued in Colombia during the month of May. Priests, professionals, and trade unionists were among the targets of President Julio César TURBAY Ayala's anti-subversion campaign which began in January.

As the President undertook a nine-country foreign visit from 7 June to 7 July, a mass trial of approximately 200 people was being held before a military tribunal in Bogota. The 200 were accused of links with the *Movimiento-19* (M-19) a leftwing guerrilla organization. *AI* has not yet learned the outcome of the mass trial.

Among the many detained by military police during May were:

- **priests:** Luís Alberto RESTREPO and Jorge ARANGO, two Jesuit priests working at the Center for Research and Popular Education, and Jesús Antonio MUNAR, a parish priest from Tello, Neiva (central region).
- It is reported that the military have charged the two Jesuits with complicity in the assassination in September 1978 of the former Minister of the Interior on the grounds that the Jesuits were acquainted with a former member of their center who is a defendant in the assassination case.
- **medical doctors:** Brucha LEIVOBISCH, Oswaldo LAZALA and Antonio IGLESIAS, all of whom practise at the Hospital San Juan de Dios of the National University of Bogota. They were arrested for giving medical attention to an alleged member of the M-19 organization.
- **lawyers:** Alberto ALABA Montenegro, Jorge AGUDELO and Jorge MORALES, all of them active in the defence of political prisoners.
- **peasant leaders:** Hernán MONSALVE and Octavio Jesús ORDONEZ, as well as trade unionists of Anchicayá in Valle de Cauca, and public sector workers at the National Statistics Administrative Department.
- **academics:** Luís ARROYO and Adriano ARDEDEIS of the Faculty of Philosophy of the National University.
- **actors:** members of the Experimental Theatre in the south western city of Cali.

On 4 June *AI* requested the government to give assurances of legal safeguards in all cases.

# Campaign for Prisoners of the Month



Each of the people whose story is told below is a prisoner of conscience. Each has been arrested because of his or her religious or political beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin or language. None has used or advocated violence. Their continuing detention is a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. International appeals can help to secure the release of these prisoners or to improve their detention conditions. In the interest of the prisoners, letters to the authorities should be worded carefully and courteously. You should stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. In no circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner.

## Dr Veselin MASIC, Yugoslavia

A medical doctor has been sent to prison by a court in Yugoslavia after being accused of having private conversations about the political conditions in his country.

Dr Veselin MASIC, a 56-year-old gynaecologist from Brcko, was sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment on 15 December 1978 by the District Court of Tuzla, on charges of "spreading hostile propaganda". According to official Yugoslav newspaper reports, Dr Masic was found guilty of maligning social and political conditions in Yugoslavia and of denigrating his country's political system and non-aligned policy. It was stated that these charges were based on conversations which took place at Dr Masic's flat or in the homes of his friends during which he allegedly depicted falsely and maliciously social and political conditions in his country. Dr Masic reportedly denied these charges and pleaded not guilty.

*Please write courteously-worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Dr Veselin Masic to: His Excellency Mr Josip Broz Tito, Office of the President of the Republic, Bulevar Oktobarske Revolucije 70, Beograd, Yugoslavia.*

## Mario Argentino PAOLETTI and Guillermo ALFIERI, Argentina

Two Argentine journalists whose popular local newspaper opposed the military government have been imprisoned and are reported to suffer impaired health as a result of torture.

Mario PAOLETTI and Guillermo ALFIERI worked for *El Independiente* in the town of La Rioja.

At the time that Sr Alfieri joined the newspaper, the provincial governor of La Rioja, who had been appointed by the new military government of President Juan Carlos Onganía, began to harass *El Independiente* by accusing it of waging an extreme leftwing anti-government campaign.

Sr Paoletti turned it into a coopera-

tive in the early 1970s—a decision which the government viewed as a "subversive" act. Both Sr Alfieri and Sr Paoletti were summoned to the local military barracks on 24 March 1976, immediately after the coup which installed General Jorge Rafael Videla as President.

Sr Paoletti was tried and acquitted of the "subversion" charges and the court of appeal ordered his release. However he has been held continuously in administrative detention and is now in detention in La Plata. He is reported to be in poor health as a result of being tortured while in detention. He has lost 15 kilograms in weight and his voice has been impaired. Sr Paoletti who is a short story writer as well as a journalist, is 30 years old and is married with three children. His case has been taken up by PEN International, the writers' organization.

Sr Alfieri is also being kept in administrative detention. He was held in Sierra Chica Prison and in late 1977 was transferred back to La Rioja. He is reported to have been severely beaten in an attempt to extract a confession. He is known to have lost a number of teeth as a result and is in poor health.

*Please write courteously-worded appeals asking for the immediate release of Guillermo Alfieri and Mario Argentino Paoletti to: Excmo General Jorge Rafael Videla, Presidente de la República Argentina, Casa Rosada, Buenos Aires Capital Federal, Argentina.*

## Mahanth THAKUR, Nepal

A Nepali university lecturer has lost his post as a result of his allegiance to the banned Nepali Congress Party (NCP) and has been detained without trial since September 1977.

Mahanth THAKUR was a lecturer in ancient history at the University of Janakpur, Janakpur campus, about 200 kilometers southeast of Kathmandu. The university administration is reported to have dismissed him

from his teaching post in February 1976 because of his allegiance to the banned NCP.

On 3 September 1977 he was arrested in Jaleswar under the provisions of the Treason (Crime and Punishment) Act, known as the Raj Kaj Act. He is now being detained without trial and it is not known whether he has been charged with any offence. He is currently detained in Jaleswar Jail, Mahottari District, Janakpur Zone, Nepal.

All political parties in Nepal were banned in 1960 after the late King Mahendra, father of the present King, staged a *coup d'état* dissolving the parliament and banning the NCP, which had formed the first democratically-elected government in Nepal. Since then persons suspected of sympathizing with or belonging to the banned NCP have been imprisoned for long periods without trial. But now, after a month of violent anti-government demonstrations, King Birendra announced on 24 May the establishment of a Special Election Commission to hold a referendum on the re-introduction of a multi-party system. Depending on the outcome of the referendum the NCP may be legalized again.

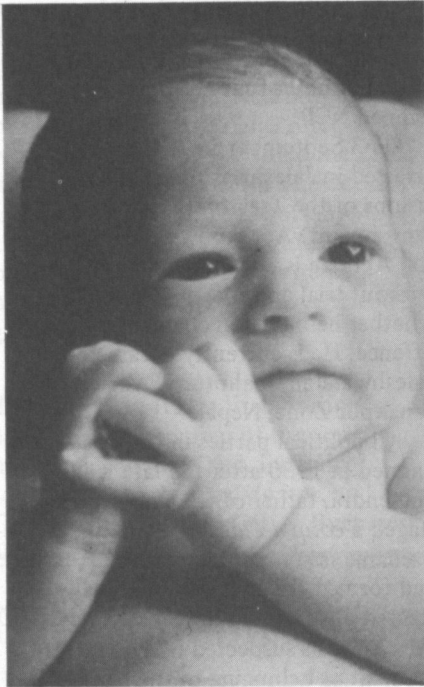
Many political prisoners are held under the Raj Kaj Act, but the government does not classify them as political prisoners. In prison they are given the same treatment as convicted criminals. They are often charged with sedition which is defined to include bringing "into hatred or contempt or inciting disaffection towards His Majesty or members of the Royal Family".

According to information received by AI, Mr Thakur suffers from a serious eye infection needing prolonged and continuous specialist medical treatment which the prison facilities cannot supply. Despite this he has only once been allowed to consult local specialists.

*Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for the prompt and unconditional release of Mahanth Thakur to: Mr Surya Bahadur Thapa, Office of the Prime Minister, Kathmandu, Nepal.*

Thousands of people are known to have disappeared in Argentina since the military coup that brought General Jorge Rafael Videla to power in 1976. Those who are missing are believed to have been abducted for political reasons, in many cases by government agents. At the beginning of June *AI* submitted a computer list of 2,665 names of "the disappeared" to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States which will be sending a mission of inquiry to Argentina later this year to investigate political imprisonment and disappearances in the country.

## The missing people of Argentina



Simón Antonio Riquelo was arrested with his mother in Buenos Aires on 13 July 1976 when he was only 20 days old — three days after this picture was taken. His mother is now known to have been illegally transported to a prison in neighbouring Uruguay. But of Simón there has been no trace. He is the youngest of those listed in the *AI* computer list.

Human rights organizations in Argentina estimate that the total number of those who have disappeared for political reasons in their country may be as high as 15,000. This estimate is based on surveys they have conducted in 20 towns.

Two years ago the Supreme Court of Argentina received more than 20,000 writs of *habeas corpus*. These included repeated applications by families who have failed to trace relatives although eye-witnesses have testified they were abducted by security forces.

In February this year the Supreme Court complained to the government that its own efforts to locate missing people had met with no cooperation from the country's police, army or security forces.

*AI* has received an unprecedented mass of detail in these cases. It needed the assistance of a computer to help its Research Department cross check the thousands of names, identity card

numbers, nationalities and dates of reported abductions.

In addition to the names on the computer list *AI* has details of disappearances in hundreds of other cases.

As well as the Argentinian citizens who have disappeared the *AI* computer list includes names of nationals of 28 other countries who have also been abducted. Among the countries are Britain, Cuba, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Syria, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

### Mission of inquiry

*AI* hopes that the mass of detailed information it has now provided to the Organization of American States will enable the forthcoming mission of inquiry to obtain precise information from the Argentine government on the whereabouts of those who have disappeared.

In a statement issued on 20 June *AI* said: "The families themselves have been stonewalled. The authority of the Organization of American States may

help to break the official silence.

"Relatives seeking information about missing members of their families who have been abducted are now facing increased harassment. The homes of some of them have been the target of bomb attacks and over the past two months relatives themselves have been abducted."

From the testimonies of detainees who have subsequently been released (and who have usually been warned not to speak about their detention), *AI* has been able to piece together a characteristic train of events in the lives of the *desaparecidos* (disappeared people).

During their captivity they are kept hooded and blindfolded; as a result they have great difficulty in recognizing their place of detention. Nevertheless, a number of prisons have been clearly located throughout Argentina. During 1977 perhaps as many as 60 secret camps, often military barracks or garrisons, were used as prisons. The detention camps vary in size; sometimes there are few prisoners, some-

NAME	ID CARD NO	NATIO	AG	PAN	CHILD	PROFESS	DATE	PLACE	HAB.C
BETA-RAUL WALTER	DNI 10.755.320		24				31 MAY 77	MENDOZA	
BETEGUI-LILIANA BEATRIZ	L C 10.967.838	AR					SEP 76	MAR DEL PLATA-BAP	YES
BEV-EDUARDO RAYMUNDO	C I 5.392.367	AR	48			FM	14 APR 76	SAN ISIDRO-BAP	YES
BEV-LUCIA		AR				DM	14 APR 76	BUENOS AIRES	
BEY CE GALLINA-MARTA		AR	35	YES-2		MD	24 FEB 77	B.AIRES	
BEYNALDO-JOSE PEDRO		AR	26			LB	6 MAY 77	LA MATANZA-BAP	
BEYNALS-HECERACIO		AR	23			DM	5 JUL 77		YES
BEYNAUC-HECTOR SERGIO	DNI 4.393.958	AR	35	YES-1		AR	24 OCT 76	BUENOS AIRES	YES
BIANO-HECTOR JORGE		AR	31	YES		AR	17 NOV 77	BUENOS AIRES	YES
BICCI-EDUARDO LUIS	DNI 9.326.742	AR	21			ST-MD	30 MAR 77	LA PLATA-BAP	
BICCI CE RESCIONO-FRANCESCA	DNI 13.193.312	AR	20	YES			30 JUN 77	BOSCH-BAP	
BICERO-DANIEL ALBERTO		AR					16 SEP 76		
BICINI-GUILLELMO		AR	28	YES		ST-LY	MAY 77	TEMPERLEY-BAP	
BIDAC-LIDIA		AR					19 APR 76	LA PLATA-BAP	
BIMADA-HECTOR ARIEL	C I 10.417.195	AR		YES			3 DEC 76	ROSARIO-SANTA FE PRIV.	YES
BINALDI-MARIO	DNI 7.641.894	AR	28	YES		LB	30 JUN 77		
BINGA-FRANCISCO		IT	30	YES-3		FM	29 OCT 76	QUILMES-BAP	YES
BIC CASAS-MIGUEL ANGEL	C I 1.345.028	UR	29	YES-1		FM	24 DEC 77	BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE	YES-3
BICS DE CORDOBA-ALICHA		AR	27	YES		JR	27 JUL 78	SAN NICOLAS-BAP	
BICS-JOSE IGNACIO	L E 4.631.912						24 MAY 78	TEMPERLEY-BAP	
BICS-OSCAR DIJONISIO		AR	37	YES-1		FM	2 NOV 77	BUENOS AIRES	
BIQUEL-CIPON ANTONIO		UR					13 JUL 76	B.AIRES	
BIQUEZA-JUAN JOSE		AR	24			ST	9 JUN 77	LA PLATA-BAP	YES
BISAU-JUAN CARLOS	C I 2.755.207	AR	46	YES-5		PS	21 JUL 76	BUENOS AIRES	YES
BITTER-GUILLELMO DANIEL		GE/AR					1 NOV 76		
BITTER-MARCELO		AR	19			AF	OCT 76	BUENOS AIRES	
BIVELLI-ROBERTO ABEL	L E 10.151.613	AR	25	YES		ST-AR	9 OCT 76	LA PLATA-BAP	

times there are several hundred. Systematic torture and summary executions are routine in these camps. Frequently, the *desaparecidos* are handcuffed and chained. They are usually subjected to torture and physical abuse.

On three occasions the Argentine government has published lists of people who, it claims, were thought to be missing but have since been found (12 April 1978—232 people; 7 August

1978—201 people; 14 December 1978—159 people). However, no names on the government lists have ever corresponded to the cases known to *AI*.

President Videla was quoted in the daily newspaper *La Prensa* on 6 September as saying: "I admit that there are people who have disappeared. I admit that perhaps there has been too great a repression. But now we are trying to stabilize the situation". *AI* considers it imperative that the

Argentine government clarify the fate of those who have "disappeared" so that families may at least know whether their missing relatives are alive or dead.

Despite repeated assurances by the military authorities that they have contained the guerrilla threat in Argentina, a state of siege is still in force and more than 3,000 political prisoners are known to be in detention, most without charge or trial.



Until they were stopped by the authorities late last year, every Thursday the "Mad Mothers", as they are called, walked past the presidential palace Casa Rosada on Plaza de Mayo, calling out their grief for their lost husbands, sons and daughters.

Despite censorship and the risk of retaliations, the families of the victims and human rights workers within Argentina have increased their campaign to press the government for information on the disappeared. In May 1978 they published in the daily newspaper *La Prensa* a list of 2,500 missing people whose cases had been presented to the Supreme Court. In November 1978, they submitted another petition denouncing the disappearance of 1,542 people, signed by 1,221 relatives of missing people. The signatories stated that they were appealing to the court because all other means of establishing the whereabouts of the disappeared had failed. The petition emphasized that the abductions had been conducted by uniformed men with firearms and vehicles and had all the appearances of an officially sanctioned operation. This petition, like all previous requests and complaints, has elicited no information from the government.

Just before take-off, the wife of a prominent Argentinian surgeon and five of their children are forcibly disembarked from flight 284 of Aerolineas Argentinas by uniformed security forces.

All the passengers witness the abduction. Mother and children are bound and blindfolded and driven to a military establishment where they are held for six days. The children are then abandoned on a Buenos Aires street corner in the middle of the night, after being told that their mother would be released after a "problem of documentation" had been solved. It was February 1977. More than two years have passed since then, and the whereabouts of Sra Nelida Sosa de Forti remain unknown.

A 14-year-old boy is arrested by men in civilian clothing as he leaves school one afternoon in Ciudad Alberdi, Argentina. His headmaster immediately lodges a complaint at the local police station. A senior officer tells him that the boy has been detained by the Intelligence Corps of the army, which is carrying out inquiries, but promises that the boy will be released shortly. Nearly three years since the August 1976 kidnapping, there is no further news of Juan Angel Nughes.

A young girl and her brother are taken from their home in Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires province, to the local army base known as GADA 601. They are tortured for six days. She is transferred to a secret detention camp for six months until she is taken back to Mar del Plata and acknowledged to be an official prisoner. Following another six months she is cleared of all charges and released into exile. Patricia Perez Catan still bears the marks of electric torture. More than two years after the January 1977 abduction, the only news of her brother, Jorge, is that somebody saw him alive in a secret camp in early 1978.

## Human Rights Committee receives new reports

At its sixth session in April, the Human Rights Committee (set up under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) considered initial reports from Chile, Bulgaria, Romania, Spain and a second report from the United Kingdom responding to questions posed at a previous session.

Chile was asked about the fate of people who have disappeared and whether steps were being taken to investigate the continuing allegations of torture and degrading treatment.

Both Bulgaria and Romania were questioned on procedures providing for the confinement of individuals to mental institutions.

Spain was questioned closely on its anti-terrorist legislation and whether article 7 of the Covenant, which provides that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, was being enforced.

The United Kingdom was asked about its methods of interrogation in Northern Ireland and the practice of obtaining confessions subsequently used in court.

The Committee decided the information provided by Chile was inadequate and invited the government—which

accepted—to provide specific information on restrictions applicable to the rights and freedoms under the Covenant during the present state of emergency.

At the beginning of the session, there was a suggestion that Iran might submit a new report to the Committee. The Committee considered a report at its fourth session in July 1978. At a subsequent meeting the Iranian representative indicated his government's willingness to prepare a new report. He said gross violations of human rights in Iran had been covered up by people cooperating with the old administration. He felt the present report before the Committee therefore should be discounted.

In March of this year article 41 of the Covenant, which allows one State to bring a complaint against another, came into force with the tenth ratification of this optional article by New Zealand.

Several States parties to the Covenant who should have submitted reports long ago have failed to do so. These include Colombia, Iraq and Uruguay.

Fifty seven States are now legally bound by the Covenant and 21 by its Optional Protocol.

## Czechoslovakia Professor sentenced to 18 months

The District Court in Prague 6 has imposed an additional 18-month prison sentence on Professor Jaroslav SABATA on 10 May (January and May *Newsletters*). Professor Sabata, sentenced in 1972 to 6½ years' imprisonment for "subversion", was released in December 1976 on 3 years' probation. He was subsequently re-arrested and sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment in January for "assaulting a policeman". On 10 May the Prague District Court added to this the 18 months remaining from Professor

Sabata's first sentence.

*AI* sent a telegram on 9 May to the Prague District Court asking the court to take into consideration the amount of time Professor Sabata has already spent in prison and his poor health, and asking the court not to extend his present term in prison.

In a letter to the Czechoslovak Minister for Foreign Affairs *AI* protested that the lawyer it had sent to observe Professor Sabata's trial had been denied an entry visa into the CSSR.

Professor Sabata, a 52-year-old psychologist, is being held in Litomerice Prison and is reported to be seriously ill. He is adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience.

### News of Past Campaigns

Dr Peter KONDOFERSKY of Bulgaria (November 1978 *Prisoners of the Month Campaign*) has been released. On 15 May Dr Kondofersky's daughter who lives in France informed *AI* Group 50 in France that she had received news of her father's amnesty.

### Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in May of the release of 126 prisoners under adoption or investigation and took up 254 new cases.

## Hungary Prisoner released

*AI* learned in March of the release of Hungarian prisoner of conscience Maria DOMBOVARI-LORINCZ who was confined to a psychiatric hospital in early 1977, after having made public statements criticizing the presence of Soviet troops in Hungary and alleging lack of religious freedom in Hungary.

## Iraq Communists arrested

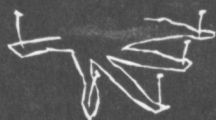
Arrests are continuing of members and supporters of the Iraqi Communist Party (ICP).

*AI* is currently working on behalf of 18 ICP members including journalists, lawyers, publishers, a doctor and a poet who have been arrested at various times since late 1978. None of them is known to have been charged or tried.

Seven of them were arrested on 21 November 1978 and have been held incommunicado at the Security Headquarters in the capital, Baghdad. All but one are former army officers who resigned in 1963, including Suleiman Yousif ISTIFAN, a member of the central committee of the ICP and chairman of *AI Rouwad* publishing house. (*AI* reported in the March *Newsletter* that Mr Istifan had been released but has now heard that he is still in detention.) There are fears that they could be among the 27 Iraqis who are officially reported to be under investigation for suspected political activity within the armed forces, an offence punishable by death.

The others who were arrested at the end of April or mid-May 1979 include Sa'ad Yahya KHAF, a member of the executive committee of the Iraqi Lawyers Union; Abdul Salam AL NASIRI, a member of the editorial board of the ICP daily newspaper *Tariq Ash Shaab* and the monthly journal *Al Thaqafa Al Jadida* and a member of the central committee of the ICP; Dr Abdul Samad NAMAN and his son Zaid, a final year student at the Faculty of Engineering at Baghdad University; and Yousif AL SAIGH, a poet.

The campaign against the ICP has been marked by extensive arrests (unofficial sources put the figure at over 10,000), short-term detention without charge or trial, and routine torture that in some cases has resulted in death (*March Newsletter*).



amnesty international

# campaign for the abolition of torture

## appeals

Amnesty International opposes the torture of prisoners in all cases, wherever and whenever it is practised. Any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is a violation of the international human rights standards unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. International appeals can help to alleviate the plight of prisoners being subjected to cruel treatment. Your letters should follow carefully the instructions given below.

### USSR

#### Nun confined to psychiatric hospital

A 50-year-old Russian Orthodox nun has been confined to a special psychiatric hospital in the Soviet Union, the most severe form of psychiatric confinement in the country. She was arrested for making canvas belts embroidered with words from the 90th psalm and selling them to Christians.

Valeria MAKEYEVA is one of many nuns who were displaced when their convents were closed down by the government in the 1960s. Nuns such as Valeria Makeyeva have been sent home or forced to support themselves by selling their own handicrafts.

The Russian Orthodox Church has existed in a state of compromise with the Soviet government since the mid-1920s. It is allowed to hold religious services, but acknowledges the power of the state in such spheres as education. Between 1960 and 1964 ten thousand Russian Orthodox churches are believed to have been closed and over half the monasteries and convents shut down. It is thought that only about 15 religious houses now remain open.

Valeria Makeyeva was arrested on 15 June 1978 on charges of "engaging in prohibited trade". She was then sent to the Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry in Moscow for examination. Doctors there declared her "non-accountable" for her actions.

AI does not know to which psychiatric hospital she has been confined and is particularly concerned that she has been confined to a special psychiatric hospital, a form of confinement reserved under Soviet law for those who "represent a special danger to society".

This is Valeria Makeyeva's second confinement to psychiatric hospital.



In 1972, she spent seven months in Moscow's Psychiatric Hospital Number 5 for selling prayer books.

AI has adopted Valeria Makeyeva as a prisoner of conscience on the grounds that she is detained for her religious beliefs rather than for authentic medical reasons.

*Please write courteously-worded letters to LI Brezhnev and NA Shchelekov, the Minister of Internal Affairs who is responsible for special psychiatric hospitals in the USSR, urging the immediate release of Valeria Makeyeva. Express concern that she is apparently being confined for political rather than for medical reasons, and ask for her official diagnosis to be made public. Write to: SSSR, g Moskva, Kreml, LI Brezhnevu; and to: SSSR, 103009 Moskva, ul. Ogarieva 6, Ministerstvo Vnutrennikh Del SSSR, Ministru NA Shchelekovu.*

### Pakistan

#### Amputations: two sentenced

Two convicted thieves have recently been sentenced to have their right hands amputated in Pakistan. They are among at least seven people who are reported to have been sentenced to amputation since special *Shariat* (Koranic law) courts were set up in Pakistan in February to administer Islamic laws against theft, drinking alcohol and fornication.

Allah DITTA was convicted of stealing two oxen and on 10 May in Okara, Punjab, was sentenced to amputation of his right hand. On 17 May the *Shariat* Court of Pakpattan, Punjab, ordered the amputation of Ghulam MUSTAFA's right hand for stealing clothes and household articles.

The handing down of these sentences follows the introduction of new legislation by President ZIA-ul-Haq in February. Among provisions of this legislation are death by stoning as a maximum punishment for adultery, and mutilation in the form of amputation of the right hand from the wrist and of the left foot from the ankle as maximum punishments for theft committed for the first and second time respectively.

To AI's knowledge, none of the sentences of amputation meted out by the *Shariat* courts has been carried out. In May one amputation sentence was overturned by a District Judge in Multan, while two other sentences were suspended until 7 June by an Additional Session Judge in Sahiwal.

AI regards amputation and stoning as violations of article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which prohibits "torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment", and of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in Resolution 3542 (XXX) of 9 December 1975.

*Please write courteously-worded letters urging that the amputation sentences passed on Allah Ditta and Ghulam Mustafa be commuted. Write to: His Excellency President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, The Presidency, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.*

# More than one hundred and thirty face electric chair in Florida, USA

Immediately after the execution of John SPENKELINK in Florida's electric chair on 25 May an *AI* mission to the United States of America pleaded with Florida state officials for the commutation of death sentences facing more than 130 prisoners on death row.

The mission delegates were Louis BLOM-COOPER, Queen's Counsel of London, England, and Professor David WEISSBRODT of the Faculty of Law of the University of Minnesota.

They reported: "We are gravely concerned that the electrocution of John Spenkelink this past Friday is not just an isolated instance of the revival of the death penalty in Florida, but may unfortunately be the first of a number of executions likely to be carried out in coming months.

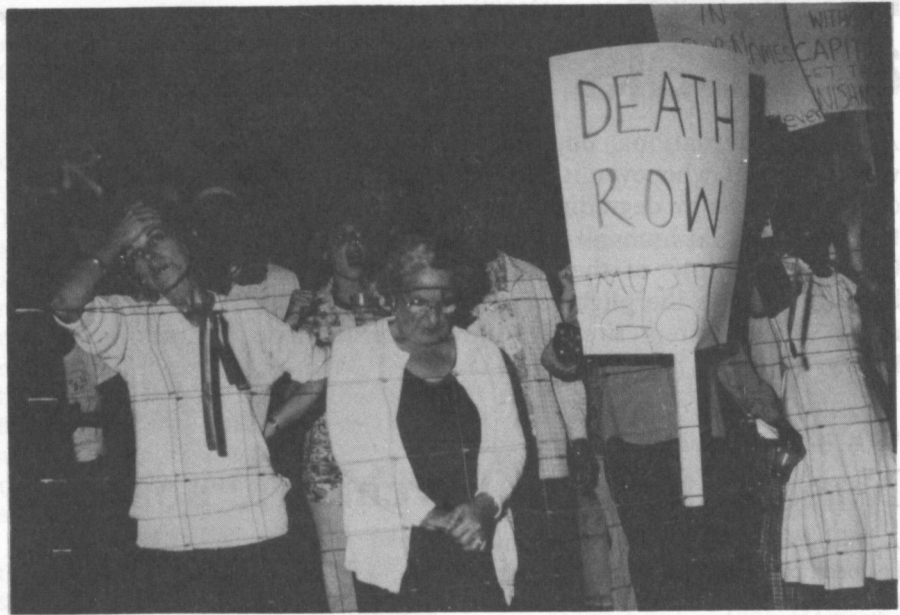
"Having had talks with state officials in Tallahassee, we are convinced that the Governor, supported by the Attorney General, is determined to make executions a regular feature of Florida's criminal justice system.

"In the course of our mission, we were afforded facilities to talk with a few prisoners under sentence of death. We were impressed, as would anyone who met them, with the simple fact that these were citizens who would have something to contribute if their lives were spared.

"We understand that neither Florida Governor GRAHAM nor any member of the Cabinet, including Attorney General SMITH, has ever visited any of the prisoners on death row. Were they to acquaint themselves with each of the human beings they seek to destroy we doubt that any executions would take place."

## The electric chair

John Spenkelink was the first man executed in the United States since Gary GILMORE willingly faced a firing squad in Utah on 17 January 1977. Before that, no executions had been carried out since 1967. (AP reports:) Spenkelink was pronounced dead at 10.18 am. at the Florida State Prison. He received the first jolt of 2,250 volts at 10.13 am. After the first surge which singed the skin on his right calf, sending smoke into the death chamber, Spenkelink received another jolt.



Demonstrators gathered throughout the night near Florida State Prison to protest against the execution of John Spenkelink.

A doctor was then called to check his heart at 10.14 am. Finally at 10.18 am he made a third check, lifted the death hood to look at Spenkelink's eyes, and checked his pulse. Spenkelink was dead.

The execution, which was to have begun promptly at 10.00 am was inexplicably delayed until 10.11 am, when the venetian blinds separating official and media witnesses from the electric chair were opened, showing Spenkelink already strapped in the huge, oaken death chair.

He was wearing a white gown rolled up at the sleeves and blue trousers. A towel was placed under his chin. A leather harness was placed around his head, over his chin and arms. Legs and ankles were secured to the chair with wide leather straps.

Spenkelink was fastened so securely in the head harness that he could not open his mouth and stared impassively at the 32 people who witnessed the execution on the other side of the glass partition. About a minute after the blinds were drawn, a black hood was lowered over Spenkelink's face. Several attendants inside the death room stepped back from the death chair and the first jolt of electricity was delivered.

When the jolt surged through his body, Spenkelink clenched his left fist. Then his hand began to curl and blacken.

## Amnesty International seeks Secretary General

The Secretary General serves as the chief executive officer of the International Secretariat and represents *AI* to governments, international organizations and the general public.

Under the direction of the International Executive Committee, elected by the membership, the Secretary General organizes the work of the International Secretariat and provides the *AI* movement with sound and consistent political judgement on widely varying human rights issues and situations.

**Closing date:** 31 July 1979

**Appointment:** April 1980

**Terms:** Salary £10,000 with annual increments (non-negotiable); five-year contract (renewable); relocation expenses paid. Applications and nominations to: The IEC, c/o Personnel Office, Amnesty International, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England.

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