



Big rise in Iraqi executions

Special courts in Iraq have imposed an increasing number of death sentences in the past few months—according to reports reaching *AI* up to 100 people were executed in a six-week period from the beginning of March this year.

Between 1974 and 1978 *AI* received an average of 100 names each year of political prisoners reported to have been executed in Iraq.

Launching an international campaign to persuade the Iraqi authorities to halt their increasing use of the death penalty, *AI* issued—on 12 June—a list of 257 people reported to have been executed in 1978 and 1979.

Among those executed within the past year are members of the Shi'i Moslem community, Kurds, government officials and members of the armed forces.

Reports of mass arrests and the torture of prisoners in the same period have also been received by *AI*.

Arrests and executions of Shi'is have come against a background of growing opposition to the government from some sections of the Shi'i community, which have openly supported the Islamic revolution in neighbouring Iran.

Shi'is form about half the population of Iraq—most government leaders belong to the Sunni Moslem community which makes up the other half.

Those executed in April 1980 included the prominent Shi'i leader, Ayatollah Muhammad Baqr AL SADR (see June *Newsletter*).

The execution of Kurds has taken place in the context of continuing attacks by guerrillas seeking greater autonomy for the Kurdish community.

- Ahmad Muhammad Karim AL ABLAGHI, 32, a mechanical engineer, was executed in 1977, accused of collaborating with Kurdish fighters. He was alleged to have been severely tortured and to have suffered from a stomach haemorrhage after being forced to swallow nails.

Executions of government officials and others began shortly after Saddam HUSAIN replaced Ahmad Hassan AL BAKR as President in 1979.

- Badan Fadhil ARAIBI, of the



Executed — Ayatollah al Sadr

Organization of Arab Workers and a member of the Central Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions, was executed in August 1979. He was one of 68 people arrested—including five members of the Revolutionary Command Council—following an alleged anti-government plot.

Under Iraqi law it is a capital offence for members of the armed forces—or those who have left the forces since 1968—to be affiliated to any political party other than the ruling Ba'ath Party.

- Amr SULTAN, 31, an army lieutenant, was executed in May 1978, accused of having links with the Iraqi Communist Party and providing it with information.

Most death sentences are passed either by the Revolutionary Court in Baghdad, or by special courts set up by the Revolutionary Command Council.

Trials in both types of court are always held *in camera*.

Other factors affecting defendants' rights:

- judgment is passed by government representatives, not members of the judiciary;
- defendants are held incommunicado before their trials—convictions are often based on confessions extracted under torture;
- no defence counsel is permitted in special courts;
- there is no right of appeal to a higher court □

CROWD JEERS AS TOP LIBERIANS ARE EXECUTED

After the violent overthrow of the government of the late President William TOLBERT on 12 April 1980 (*May Newsletter*), the new military rulers of Liberia announced that officials of the former administration would be tried before a military tribunal for "rampant corruption, high treason and gross violations of human rights".

Over 500 people, including more than 100 senior former officials and administrators, were detained in the capital, Monrovia.

On 17 April proceedings began against a first group of 14 prisoners. All denied charges of treason. They were not allowed defence counsel nor could they produce evidence in their own defence. After hurried proceedings, the military tribunal submitted its verdict on 13 accused to the People's Revolutionary Council, which ordered them to be executed.

They were publicly executed on a beach near Monrovia on 22 April. The prisoners were tied to stakes and shot before a jeering crowd. Their bodies were then riddled with machine-gun bullets.

Those executed included the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Chief Justice and four government ministers.

Five days earlier three soldiers and a civilian were executed on the same beach after they had been charged with murder and looting in the wake of the coup.

On 14 April *AI* appealed to the new Head of State, Sergeant DOE to ensure that the trial of former officials conformed to internationally recognized standards, including the provision of defence counsel. *AI* later appealed to him to halt all executions.

On 29 April Sergeant Doe announced that he would accede to international pressure and halt the execution of former government officials.

Proceedings against the remaining 100 detained officials continued throughout May, and 400 other prisoners remained in custody without charge or trial □

Romania

Psychiatric penalty for dissenters

A wide range of legal and extra-judicial penalties have been used in Romania against political, social and religious dissenters—including imprisonment, “corrective labour”, physical intimidation and compulsory confinement to psychiatric institutions.

Although the number of people imprisoned on overtly political charges—such as “anti-state propaganda”—appears to have fallen in recent years, a number of dissenters have been tried and convicted on criminal charges which *AI* believes to be false—such as “parasitism” and “homosexual relations”. Instances of human rights violations in Romania are outlined in a 20-page *AI* briefing paper published on 30 June.

One example of how the authorities act against dissenters came in February last year, when a group of intellectuals and workers from Bucharest and Turnu Severin announced the formation of the Free Trade Union of Romanian Workers (SLOMR).

In their manifesto they drew attention to increased unemployment and to the forced retirement of dissenters on false psychiatric grounds.

They called for better working conditions and the abolition of special privileges for Communist Party members.

The manifesto won support from workers in a number of Romanian cities.

On 4 March the SLOMR manifesto was broadcast on a foreign radio station. Two days later the telephones of the movement's two representatives—Dr Ionel CANA and an economist, Gheorghe BRASOVEANU—were cut off.

In the next few days a number of SLOMR members were detained by the police.

The authorities then got the relatives of the two representatives to sign declarations that they were insane—the relatives were told that the alternative to confinement in a psychiatric institution would be long terms of imprisonment.

On 10 March Dr Cana and Gheorghe Brasoveanu were arrested. Both were said to have been confined to the psychiatric section of Jilava Prison Hospital soon afterwards.

It was the fifth time in eight years that Gheorghe Brasoveanu had been



Gheorghe Brasoveanu — psychiatric confinement for the fifth time in eight years for criticizing official policies.

confined after criticizing official policies.

Dr Cana was subsequently sentenced to seven years' imprisonment (reduced on appeal to five and a half years') on unspecified charges.

AI has since received reports that Gheorghe Brasoveanu has been sentenced to three and a half years' imprisonment.

Action was also taken against associates of the two men. One, Father CALCIU, a Romanian Orthodox priest and professor at the Orthodox Theological Seminary in Bucharest—an acquaintance of Gheorghe Brasoveanu—was arrested on 10 March 1979.

He was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on charges that have never been made public.

A SLOMR member—Nicolae DASCALU—who had reported the arrest of other members of SLOMR to friends abroad and had also announced that a number of people in Bucharest had decided to apply to join *AI* was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment (reduced on appeal to 10 months') for having disseminated information abroad without legal authorization. (He has served his sentence and has been released.)

Many other SLOMR members were either fined or sentenced to terms of imprisonment of up to six months on charges of “parasitism”. Several are known to have been confined for some weeks in psychiatric hospitals □

News in Brief

Djibouti

An *AI* mission visited Djibouti in January 1980 following reports of torture there in 1978 and 1979.

The mission went at the invitation of the government, which—following a call by *AI* in March 1979 for a public inquiry—had denied allegations of deaths under torture.

AI's delegate, Amand D'HONDT, a Belgian lawyer, discussed these concerns with President Hassan GOULED and other government officials and interviewed prisoners awaiting trial in Gabote and Dikhil prisons.

A detailed report of the mission's findings—including further substantiated evidence of torture—is to be sent to the government □

Uganda

The Chairman of Uganda's Military Commission, Paul MUWANGA, told *AI* on 22 May that ex-President Godfrey BINAISA, who was deposed on 13 May, was safe and well and living in the official presidential residence, State House, in Entebbe.

AI had cabled the Chairman on 19 May because of uncertainty over Godfrey Binaisa's whereabouts. *AI* welcomes his assurances but is concerned at the ex-president's continued house arrest.

In its cable *AI* also asked about 70 civilians detained recently by the army, including a journalist, Roland KAKOOZA.

Mr Muwanga's reply did not refer to them □

Uruguay

A Uruguayan prisoner of conscience, adopted by *AI*, Aida PAGOLA, 57, a nurse, has been released after serving a total of seven and a half years' imprisonment for “subversive association”.

She was a Prisoner of the Month in September 1979 and the appeal on her behalf brought a huge response. *AI* is trying to obtain details of her legal status and state of health □

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in May of the release of 185 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 102 new 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.

Dominique DIATA and Augustin IRIGO, Gabon

Officers in the armed forces, both in their twenties; detained in March 1978, accused of subversion and endangering the security of the state, but not yet brought to trial—now held in a special annexe at Libreville's central prison.

Dominique DIATA, 27, an army officer, was trained at the French military academy of Saint Cyr. Following his return to Gabon in 1976 he was reprimanded for expressing views thought by the military authorities to be critical of the government. His arrest in March two years later, at Mouila army camp, followed more such alleged criticism, this time in a letter to a friend; he was also said to have had "communist" literature in his possession.

That same March saw the arrest of a number of other officers in the armed forces. One was Augustin IRIGO, 28, a naval officer trained at Brest, France; he was arrested at Port Gentil.

Several officers, including Dominique Diata and Augustin Irigo, were interrogated and allegedly beaten and ill-treated by security police in Libreville. They were then taken to the central prison, where Dominique Diata and Augustin Irigo remain—the others have been released.

Earlier this year the Gabonese authorities suggested that cases against them were being prepared and that the two would eventually be brought to trial.

Both are reported to be in ill health, Dominique Diata with a liver complaint and Augustin Irigo suffering from severe depression.

AI believes both are prisoners of conscience, imprisoned for their opinions and for expressing views critical of the government.

Please write courteously worded letters, preferably in French, appealing for the release of Dominique Diata and Augustin Irigo to: Son Excellence Monsieur Bongo, Président de la

République, La Présidence, Libreville, Gabon.

Baliene KHAMDARANIKORN, Laos

Former Director of Civil Aviation; married, with three children; arrested in November 1975 — detained since then without charge or trial in a remote "re-education" camp in Houa Phan Province, north-east Laos.

Baliene KHAMDARANIKORN is one of many officials and civil servants of the previous administration sent to camps for political "re-education" after the Pathet Lao assumed power within the coalition government in the spring of 1975.

Despite promises that "political seminars" organized for them would last only a short time, most former officials sent to such camps are still detained or restricted.

Conditions are reported to be quite harsh, with detainees doing hard physical work on an inadequate diet. Food and medicines are scarce. Communication between detainees and their families is irregular—in some cases letters and parcels never reach detainees.

The authorities have given no reason for the continued detentions; *AI's* information is that most detainees are being held because of their positions under the previous government or for past political activities.

Before his arrest Baliene Khamdaranikorn was a member of the 300-strong *Neo Thang Noum* (Youth) party, formed in about 1971. A centrist group, its members were mainly young intellectuals and civil servants.

Baliene Khamdaranikorn has been adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience—he is not known to have used or advocated violence.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Baliene Khamdaranikorn to: His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihane, Prime Minister, Vientiane, People's Democratic Republic of Laos.

Dr Nikola NOVAKOVIC, Yugoslavia

Sixty-seven-year-old pharmacist with a history of cardiac disorders and rheumatism, said to be seriously ill in detention in Foca prison; tried in August 1977 and found guilty of "establishing contact with hostile organizations abroad" and "hostile propaganda" — sentence: 12 years' imprisonment.

A former member of the Croatian Peasant Party, Dr Nikola NOVAKOVIC was arrested in March 1977. He is said to have been kept in solitary confinement for over four months before his trial in August.

Dr Novakovic was accused of having helped to compile his party's program since 1962, when he travelled to England, the Federal Republic of Germany and other European countries.

Dr Novakovic said he had been visiting former colleagues living abroad; they had discussed political, social and cultural issues but had not taken part in hostile programs.

Denying the "hostile propaganda" charge, Dr Novakovic said that the Yugoslav constitution guaranteed freedom of expression, including public exchange of critical views on the country's political and economic system.

Precise details of Dr Novakovic's condition are not known, but he is reported to have undergone an operation recently.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Dr Novakovic to: President of the State Presidency of the SFRJ, His Excellency Cvijetin Mijatovic, Bul. Lenjina 2, Belgrade, Yugoslavia; and to: Luka Banovic, Federal Minister of Justice, Bul. Lenjina 2, Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

RELEASE

January's Prisoner of the Month, D.A. SANTOSA, Indonesia, was released on 12 April 1980 □

Five years ago a well-known Brazilian journalist voluntarily presented himself to the military intelligence headquarters in São Paulo. Within hours he was dead. The official verdict was that he had hanged himself: a death certificate gave the cause of death as suicide, though the doctor who is alleged to have signed it later said he never saw the body. . . .

Accused doctor before São Paulo Medical Council

Record on torture victims 'falsified'

In an important test case in Brazil the Head of the São Paulo Medical Legal Institute, Dr Harry SHIBATA, has been involved in a disciplinary hearing held by the São Paulo State Medical Council (CRM-SP), accused of falsifying two medical certificates of people tortured while in military custody.

This is believed to be the first case of a doctor in Brazil accused of such malpractices coming before professional colleagues.

One certificate is said to have stated falsely that a prisoner committed suicide, and the second that another prisoner had not been tortured, despite evidence that he had.

Both complaints were made some time ago—the events concerned took place in 1975, before Dr Shibata became head of the institute—but the affair came to a virtual standstill until the CRM-SP elected a new executive last year.

This executive, composed of young doctors, decided to carry on with the proceedings against Dr Shibata, who occupies a senior position in the Brazilian medical hierarchy—the institute which he now heads supervises all medical legal work in the city of São Paulo.

In the past two years the hearing has been postponed about 10 times.

The proceedings and even the existence of the complaints are supposed to be confidential: officially the CRM-SP does not acknowledge the existence of a complaint until a finding has been reached and all appeals completed.

But the case has been leaked to the Brazilian press and a number of articles on the affair have been published, as well as a book, *Dossiê Herzog* (The Herzog Dossier), which came out in São Paulo in 1979.

The latest known development in the proceedings is that on 8 January 1980 Dr Shibata went to the federal capital, Brasília, to complain to the Ministry of Labour about procedures followed in the case.

In February 1980 *AI* sent a medical delegate to Brazil—Portuguese-speaking Dr Tomas FERREIRA, of *AI*'s Canadian Medical Group—to follow up the hearing, which could have an important bearing on 10 other cases



Dr Harry Shibata

in which Brazilian doctors are accused of being involved in torture and of signing false medical certificates.

These complaints have been brought before medical councils in São Paulo and other states.

Although outside observers are not allowed at the hearings, the presence in Brazil of *AI*'s delegate attracted wide publicity in the country's news media and it is expected that this may help towards getting a full investigation of all similar allegations.

Dr Shibata is said to have signed a medical certificate giving suicide as the cause of the death of a well-known Brazilian journalist and broadcaster, Vladimir HERZOG, who died in October 1975—see December 1975 *Newsletter*—soon after presenting himself for questioning at the DOI-CODI, the military intelligence headquarters.

Police pictures of Vladimir Herzog's body led medical experts to challenge the finding, and lawyers acting for the widow, Clarice Herzog, instituted proceedings against Dr Shibata with the state's medical council.

In his defence, Dr Shibata said he

did not see the body or carry out an autopsy—although normal procedure is for the doctor signing the death certificate to examine the body.

In 1978 another doctor wrote to leading São Paulo newspapers claiming that he had been called in to sign the papers; he said he had refused to do so because he had previously discharged himself from the medical legal institute.

The doctor claimed to have attended part of the autopsy and he said that Dr Shibata had not been present.

Lawyers acting for the widow claimed that Dr Shibata's absence invalidated the autopsy report.

Vladimir Herzog died on 25 October 1975. The following year *AI* submitted evidence to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, which included a deposition by a Brazilian journalist, Rodolfo KONDER, who had been held in the DOI-CODI at the same time as his friend, Vladimir Herzog; the deposition was made less than a fortnight after the latter's death.

In his deposition Rodolfo Konder described events at the DOI-CODI during the last weekend of October 1975. He and another prisoner were being held in a room adjacent to one in which Vladimir Herzog was being interrogated and tortured:

"From there we could clearly hear the shouts, first of the interrogator and then Vladimir's, and we heard when the interrogator asked for the *pimientinha* (nickname for electric shock equipment). . . and asked his team-mates for help.

"Someone turned on the radio and Vladimir's screams were merged into the sound of the radio."

The journalist said that he spoke to Vladimir Herzog later that day. The following morning, a Sunday, he was told that Vladimir Herzog had committed suicide.

The corpse was returned to the family in a sealed coffin.

In October 1978 a São Paulo federal judge ruled that the Brazilian Government was responsible for the death of Vladimir Herzog. He stated that the government had never produced any proof that the death was due to suicide. The family is still trying to win compensation from the authorities.

Second falsified medical certificate

In the second case, a former member of parliament, Marco Antonio Tavares COELHO, accuses Dr Shibata of signing a medical certificate which said, falsely, that there were no marks of torture on his body after prolonged interrogation at the DOI-CODI in São Paulo following his arrest in January 1975.

Doctors appointed by the army later examined Marco Coelho and confirmed the existence of injuries on his body.

In September 1975 Marco Coelho showed a court marks of beatings, burns on his left arm, bruises on his legs, bruises on his calves and other marks on his body.

A military court tried Marco Coelho in December 1975 and sentenced him to five years' imprisonment for being a member of the Communist Party. He was adopted by AI as a prisoner of conscience and set free in December 1978.

The São Paulo hearing was continuing earlier this year but it is not known whether it is still in progress.

After a finding by the state body the next step would be for the Brazilian Federal Medical Council to hold a hearing.

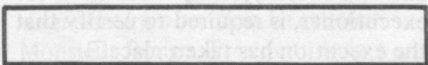
The federal body's proceedings are also secret, and apart from those involved no one is told of the date of any hearing.

The President of Brazil, General FIGUEIREDO, has stated on a number of occasions that the government does not intend to bring to court or punish those involved in torture or repression during the previous 16 years of military rule.

- AI medical groups have been asked to write letters to or articles for medical journals in their countries, emphasizing the importance of the São Paulo State Medical Council's disciplinary hearing and any subsequent hearing which may be held by Brazil's Federal Medical Council □



Official photograph of Vladimir Herzog (above) in the room in which he was alleged to have hanged himself on 25 October 1975. Below, another official picture of the dead man—it was this photograph that led medical experts to challenge the official verdict of suicide.



Zaire

Woman freed after two years

A Zairean woman held for two years at N'DOLO prison in Kinshasa, KISONGA N'Sunda, who was the subject of a Prisoner of the Month appeal in February 1980, was released at the end of April, according to news received by *AI*.

Several prisoners convicted with her in March 1978, including her husband MATANDA Isel, have been moved from an isolated military prison at Angenga, in Equatorial region, to N'Dolo.

AI has heard also that three schoolboys arrested at the end of April 1980 for writing a letter considered critical of the government have now been released.

News of these releases came as *AI* published its report, *Human Rights Violations in Zaire* (see June Newsletter).

Zaire's Foreign Minister, NGUZA Karl-i-Bond, responded to its publication by accusing *AI* of being linked

to the "international left", and of "intellectual dishonesty" and "bad faith"

The Minister said one of the camps cited in the report, Ekafera, had been closed and its inmates moved to a "re-education" camp at Lokandu, in eastern Zaire.

He said also that only 24 students had been detained earlier in the year and that all were released when the Pope visited Zaire in May.

The Minister stated that Zaire had a "clean conscience" over human rights.

In spite of the statement on the release of the 24 students, *AI* remains concerned about large numbers of other students also arrested in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi.

AI is seeking confirmation that Ekafera camp has remained closed and that no new detainees have been sent there □

The Hague

'Disobey all orders to torture'

— UN meeting

Law enforcement officials should be duty bound to disobey any order to torture or to subject anybody to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, according to a recommendation approved at a United Nations Regional Symposium held in The Hague in April.

The symposium, on the "role of the police in the protection of human rights", based its recommendation on a proposal from the Dutch delegation, consisting mainly of police officers and headed by the Commissioner of Police for The Hague.

The recommendation, borrowed directly from the *AI* Declaration of The Hague, states that law enforcement officials "have the duty and the right to disobey or disregard any order, instruction or command, even if apparently lawful, which is in clear and significant contravention of the right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

It was one of a number of important recommendations approved at the symposium, whose agenda included items on "the police and the protection

of individuals against torture" and "the role of human rights in police motivation, recruitment, selection, training and organization".

In this last category attention was focused on the role of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979.

The symposium called for the code to be made available to all law enforcement officials and incorporated into domestic laws or regulations governing law enforcement agencies, and said it should figure at all levels of police training □

JAMAICA HEARINGS ON DEATH PENALTY

Public hearings concerning the death penalty in Jamaica began on 16 June before a committee set up by the Justice Minister, Carl RATTRAY.

AI, which hopes the hearings will pave the way for the abolition of capital punishment in Jamaica, submitted a statement to the committee describing its creation as an encouraging development.

The statement added that careful examination of all the arguments would lead many who support the death penalty to change their minds □

IRISH COURT REJECTS 'DURESS' EVIDENCE

In a judgment delivered in Dublin in May the Court of Criminal Appeal of the Irish Republic rejected as inadmissible in evidence statements alleged to have been obtained from two defendants as a result of their ill-treatment in police custody.

As a result, the Appeal Court acquitted two members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party accused of robbery, alleged to have been carried out for political motives.

The two had earlier been convicted by the Special Criminal Court, a non-jury court set up in 1972 to try offences against the state.

The Appeal Court decided that the Special Court had been wrong in law to admit the statements as evidence.

The appeal hearing, attended by an *AI* observer, highlighted the importance of vigilance in trials with a political background. As early as 1977 *AI* had publicly criticized the Special Criminal Court's treatment of the admissibility of statements □

USA

Condemned man changes his mind

After a last-minute decision to appeal against his sentence, Jack Howard POTTS, due to have been executed on 5 June, was granted an indefinite stay of execution by a judge in the state of Georgia.

The next day Jack Potts, sentenced to death for a murder committed in 1975, told the judge he had decided to drop his appeal.

Under Georgia law the execution date must now be set between 10 and 20 days after the new sentencing order.

AI had appealed to Georgia's Governor, George BUSBEE, to suspend the execution and had asked President CARTER to intervene personally in the case. (The execution would have taken place under legislation signed by the President when he was Governor of Georgia).

AI also appealed to doctors in Georgia not to take part in the execution—the state's law requires two doctors to witness any execution, and one doctor, jointly with the executioner, is required to certify that the execution has taken place □



amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture

Priests murdered in Guatemala

Another three Roman Catholic priests have become the victims of violence in Guatemala.

In the latest attack, on 31 May 1980, a 35-year-old Spanish priest, Father José María GRAN, was shot dead in an ambush on his way to Chajul, in the northern province of El Quiché. Another man was also killed in the attack.

Father Gran belonged to the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

On 1 May 1980 heavily armed men kidnapped a Filipino, Father Conrado DE LA CRUZ, and his assistant, Herlindo CIFUENTES, as they were walking in a street in Guatemala City.



Kidnapped—Father Conrado de la Cruz, left, and his assistant, Herlindo Cifuentes

Herlindo Cifuentes comes from Tiquisate in the southern province of Escuintla and was active in Father de la Cruz's parish work there.

Nothing has been seen or heard of either since the gunmen forced them into a Toyota car the day they were kidnapped.

Less than a fortnight later—on 12 May—a Belgian, Father Walter VOORDECKERS, was murdered in Santa Lucía Cotzumalguapa, also in Escuintla.

Both priests belonged to a Belgian order, the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM).

Colleagues of Father Voordeckers believe that his questions about the disappearance of his brother priest led to his own murder.

Father Voordeckers and Father GRAN are the first foreign priests AI knows to have been murdered in Guatemala.

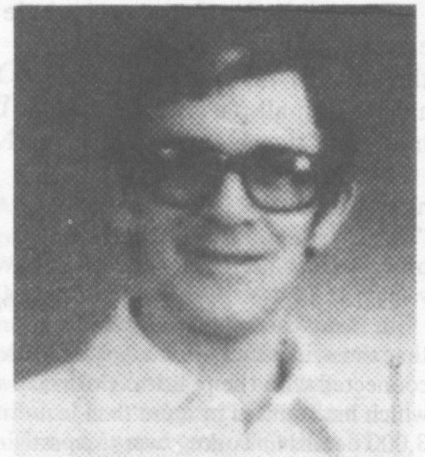
In February 1980 it was reported that the *Ejército Secreto Anti-*

Comunista (Secret Anti-communist Army)—said to be under the patronage of the army—had threatened to kill all Guatemalan-born Jesuits and to expel all foreign members of the order from Guatemala.

This followed a statement by the Presidential Press Spokesman that “the political Jesuits lie in order to contribute to subversion. They throw away their cassocks to become involved in politics.”

About 500 foreign priests are reported to be in Guatemala, 50 of them Belgians.

Two years ago a Spanish nun, Sister Raymunda ALONSO was expelled from Guatemala after the massacre of Panzós, where 100 Kekchi Indians were shot dead by the army



Murdered—Father Walter Voordeckers

on 29 May 1978—she was accused of causing unrest among the Kekchi.

- In June 1978 a Guatemalan priest, Father Hermogenes LOPEZ Coarcita, was murdered in San José Pinula, near Antigua Guatemala, after he had called for the army to be disbanded □

USSR

Forced drug injections for dissenter

A 53-year-old Pentecostalist, Anna CHERTKOVA, is being given repeated injections of a powerful anti-psychotic drug at a psychiatric hospital in Tashkent, Soviet Union, where, according to information reaching AI in London, she has been held since 1973 because of her religious beliefs.

The information is contained in a *samizdat* (clandestine bulletin) smuggled out of Tashkent.

The *samizdat* states that Anna Chertkova—described as a “sane” and “good” woman—is being given injections of sulfazin because she refuses to see an official medical committee and continues to speak out about Christ and her faith.

The drug is said to act on the nervous system and is reported to have harmed her health.

Anna Chertkova is a member of the breakaway wing of the Pentecostalist Church not officially registered or recognized by the state authorities.

She comes from Alma-Ata in the Republic of Kazakhstan and is reported to have been denied living accommodation for several years because of her religious beliefs.

In 1969 she began to build her own house but the authorities pulled it down. She then spent two years living in a hut, repeatedly threatened with psychiatric confinement if she did not leave Alma-Ata.

In 1973 Anna Chertkova was arrested in the street and sent to a special psychiatric hospital in Tashkent.

This is the severest form of psychiatric detention in the Soviet Union and is designated by law only for people who “represent a special danger to society”.

AI has continued to receive reports throughout 1980 of prisoners of conscience being ill-treated in psychiatric hospitals, with drugs being administered to many of them without medical justification.

Please write courteously worded letters expressing concern about the welfare of Anna Chertkova and the measures reported to have been taken against her because of her religious beliefs to: The Minister of Internal Affairs for Uzbekistan: SSSR, Uzbekskaya SSR, g. Tashkent, Ministerstvo Vnutrennikh Del, Ministru □

Torture now systematic in Turkey

Torture in Turkey has become so widespread and systematic that most people now being arrested by police and martial law authorities are subjected to various forms of torture which, in some cases, is reported to have ended in death.

The methods of torture include electric shocks, *falanga* (beating the soles of the feet) and violent assaults on all parts of the body, including the sexual organs.

Some detainees—men and women—have also been subjected to a form of “rape”, with police truncheons and other objects inserted into the anus or vagina.

In many cases there is no evidence that those tortured were in any way connected with the political violence which has resulted in more than 3,000 deaths in Turkey over the past two years (see June Newsletter).

An AI research mission, which visited Turkey from 19 to 30 May, interviewed people who had been tortured and talked to lawyers, doctors, members of political parties, trade unionists and journalists.

A 17-year-old high school student told the mission that on 29 April soldiers had taken her and about 15 other students to police headquarters in Ankara after a gun had been found in the school grounds.

She was tied to a wooden cross suspended on the wall and electric shocks were administered to various parts of her body, including her head, lips, stomach and sexual organs.

She was held in the building for eight days before being transferred to Mamak military prison, where, she reported, male prisoners were given *falanga* and made to walk on broken glass; this followed a prison protest.

The girl was released on 17 May on the instructions of a military court.

A student at Istanbul University, Dilek YURDAGEL, said she was detained on 1 May, apparently for possessing a banned newspaper and left-wing pamphlets.

She was held in a changing room at İnönü Stadium, interrogated, beaten all over her body and given *falanga* and electric shocks.

On 4 May she was taken out of the stadium while a football match was played.

The next day she was transferred to police headquarters at Gayrettepe, Istanbul, interrogated and again given electric shock torture.

Three days later she was taken to Selimiye military headquarters; on 10 May a military judge ordered her release.



Her demokrasinizde, Türkiye'de "Hürriyetçi parlamenter rejim" in varlığını vurguluyorsunuz. Demokrasinin açıldık rejimi okuduğumu söylüyorsunuz. Şimdi soruyor ve açıklama bekliyoruz: FOTOGRAFINI VERDİĞİMİZ ALET NEDİR?

The Turkish newspaper, *Demokrat*, published pictures of this machine in a number of issues in May 1980—the headline asks the Prime Minister, Süleyman Demirel, just what the machine is: according to *Demokrat* it was made in a government-controlled factory and used for electric shock torture.

AI knows of at least three cases of people alleged to have died after torture.

- On 21 April the Turkish daily newspapers *Cumhuriyet* and *Demokrat* reported that Yasar GUNDOĞDU, the Secretary of Enerji-Der, an association of energy workers, had died in hospital after being detained at Ankara police headquarters—according to doctors he had many wounds on his body and his death was due to brain damage caused by torture.
- Osman Mehmet ONSOY was detained on 5 May and taken to police headquarters at Gayrettepe, Istanbul. He was later transferred to Haydarpaşa military hospital in a coma—he died on 22 May.
- Oruc KORKMAZ, detained on 9 January in Kars, was subsequently found dead in prison. He too, according to doctors, died of brain damage. His mother says he died under torture and she has called for a full investigation.

Demokrat reported also on a young woman, Gülseren KAYIN, detained during a protest against the banning of May Day demonstrations. She was taken to the “27 May” police station in Ankara on 1 May and tortured so badly that on 3 May she was taken to

Hacettepe hospital where surgery was performed on her sexual organs.

The doctors who examined her stated that her condition was the result of torture.

Over the past few years AI has frequently raised allegations of torture with the present Prime Minister, Süleyman DEMIREL, and with his predecessor, Bulent ECEVIT□

PRESIDENT'S AMNESTY FREES 40 'POLITICALS' IN TUNISIA

More than 40 political prisoners in Tunisia were freed on 1 June, following a presidential amnesty. They included 23 of the 24 members of the *Ech Chaab* group adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience.

They were arrested in November 1978 in connection with the publication and distribution of a clandestine version of *Ech Chaab*, the official organ of the General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT).

After their trial—part of which was attended by an AI observer—the *Ech Chaab* group received sentences ranging from one to just under four years' imprisonment, and fines of up to 600 Tunisian dinars each. On appeal most of the sentences were reduced by one year.

Eight other prisoners of conscience—adopted by AI—belonging to a left-wing group, *El Amel Ettounsi*, were also freed as a result of the latest amnesty. They were arrested in 1973, 1974 and 1975 and were sentenced, in 1975, by the State Security Court to terms of imprisonment of between six and nine years, mainly for belonging to an illegal organization.

Following similar amnesties 12 members of UGTT's executive bureau were released on 20 March and 1 May 1980; all had been adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience□

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