



amnesty

international newsletter

JULY 1985 VOLUME XV Number 7

Indonesia must account for the missing East Timorese

For more than nine years Indonesian troops have systematically tortured and killed people in the island territory of East Timor. *AI* has launched a campaign to draw worldwide attention to this situation with the publication, on 26 June, of its first full report on East Timor.

On 7 December 1975 Indonesian troops launched a full-scale invasion of East Timor, 10 days after the proclamation of an independent Democratic Republic of East Timor by the *Frente Revolucionaria de Timor Leste* (Fretilin).

Since the invasion hundreds of prisoners have been shot, have died after torture, or have "disappeared" in custody. Indonesian officials repeatedly declared that conditions had returned to normal but each time it was subsequently learned that abuses were continuing.

Access to the territory by outside observers has been limited since the invasion. *AI* has testimony describing warnings to interpreters not to pass on unfavourable information, threats intended to silence East Timorese travelling abroad and the blocking of free movement by visitors.

Indonesian troops were responsible for waves of abuse which peaked during heightened military action against Fretilin forces.

■ In late 1978 and 1979 hundreds were reported to have been executed or to have "disappeared" during "Operation Clean-up".

■ In 1980 many people "disappeared" or are known to have been killed, some of them systematically beaten to death, in



Maria Gorete, 17 when she "disappeared" in 1979. AI is calling for an investigation into her fate.

reprisal for a Fretilin attack.

■ In 1981 a security sweep included the use of thousands of civilians as a human "fence" by advancing Indonesian troops.

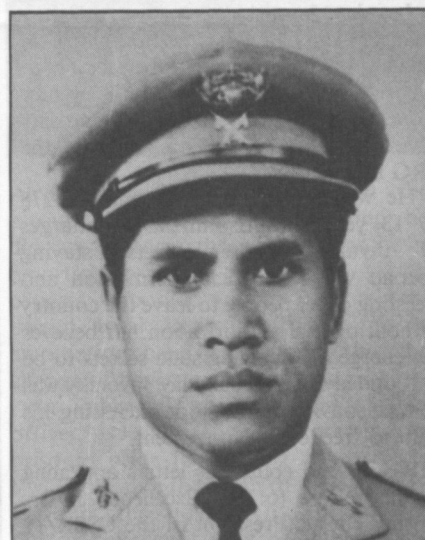
■ In 1983 "Operation Clean-Sweep", aimed at the elimination of Fretilin, resulted in hundreds more "disappearances" and deaths in custody.

Between and since these waves of repression human rights violations continued. Prisoners who surrendered after being promised amnesty were killed



Dominggas da Costa (above) is serving a six-year sentence in Indonesia. AI is seeking clarification of whether she was given a fair trial.

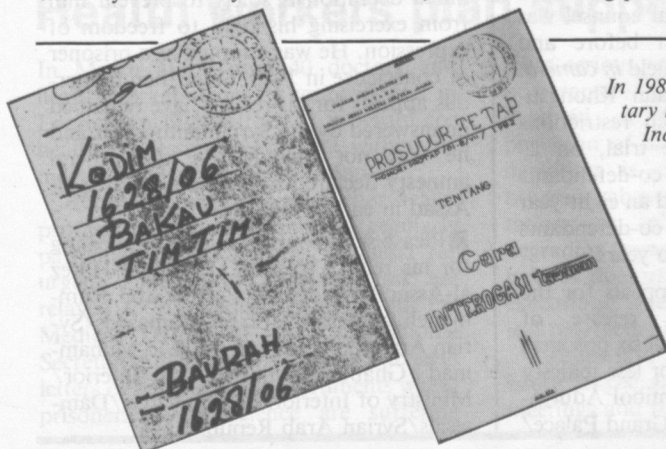
Joao Bosco Soares (below) "disappeared" after surrendering to Indonesian troops in December 1978. AI is calling for his fate to be investigated.



and people merely suspected of disloyalty to Indonesian rule were arrested, imprisoned and tortured. Beatings, electric shock torture, burning with lighted cigarettes and sexual abuse are among the tortures reported.

AI considers it imperative for the protection of human rights in East Timor that the Indonesian authorities take immediate measures to stop torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions.

AI is also calling on the authorities to account for past victims and investigate reports of abuses. It is urging that independent observers be allowed freer access so that the world can judge if the pattern of gross human rights violations is continuing.



In 1983 *AI* received a set of military manuals (far left) issued to Indonesian troops in East Timor, covering a range of strategic problems such as how to break up Fretilin support networks and procedures for interrogating captives. The manual on interrogation methods (left) refers to the use of torture.

Also in this issue: Prisoners of the Month, page 2; Fate of the "disappeared" in Argentina, page 3; *AI* calls for safeguards against torture in Spain, page 5; Health workers and human rights, page 7; Torture in Mozambique, page 8.

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.

Jaroslav Javorsky, Czechoslovakia
A 38-year-old former employee in the hotel industry, he is currently serving a 13-year prison sentence in Valdice Prison. He is reported to be in poor health.

Jaroslav Javorsky was arrested in October 1977 while attempting to assist his fiancée and her eight-year-old daughter to leave Czechoslovakia and join him in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) where he had travelled on a visitor's visa in March 1977. He arranged to meet them in Bulgaria, but all three were arrested on the Bulgarian/Turkish border and handed over to the Czechoslovak authorities. His fiancée was given a 10-month sentence suspended for two years, for "attempting to leave the CSSR without official permission".

Jaroslav Javorsky's parents and their younger son had left Czechoslovakia in January 1976 with official permission to live in the FRG for three years. They subsequently became FRG citizens. Jaroslav Javorsky was granted citizenship of the FRG in July 1984.

He was sentenced in December 1978 to 13 years' imprisonment on charges of divulging state secrets, staying abroad without official permission and assisting other people to leave the country without official authorization. AI believes the charge of divulging state secrets to be unfounded and that Jaroslav Javorsky was in fact convicted solely for exercising his right to freedom of movement.

■ Please send courteous letters appealing for his release to: His Excellency JUDr. Gustav Husak/President of the CSSR/11 908 Praha-Hrad/Czechoslovakia.

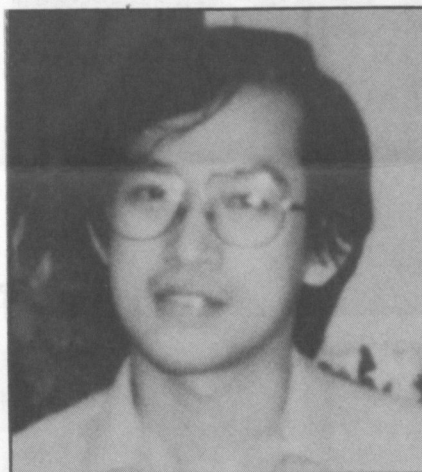
Samaan Khongsuphon, Thailand
A former activist of the Democracy Federation of Thailand, he is one of six prisoners of conscience who have been imprisoned by military tribunals for lese majesty. He is serving an eight-year prison sentence.

Samaan Khongsuphon was arrested by the Santibaan (political) Police on 8 July 1983 in Bangkok. He was then a leading activist of the Democracy Federation of

Thailand, an organization of students, intellectuals, trade unionists and others whose program opposed military dominance over the Thai political process.

Immediately prior to Khongsuphon's arrest the Democracy Federation had played a prominent role in peaceful public protests against attempts by leading military officers to prevent the implementation of Constitutional clauses curtailing the role of the military in government. According to foreign press accounts, members of the Thai Royal Family were rumoured to have supported these officers' efforts to preserve military influence.

Samaan Khongsuphon and two others arrested in early July 1983 were charged



with lese majesty and accused of printing and disseminating a critical history of the reigning Royal Dynasty of Thailand, *The Nine Reigns of the Chakri Dynasty*, which had been circulating underground in Thailand. They were tried under martial law provisions in a court constituted as a military tribunal, which allowed no right of appeal to a higher court. Their access to legal counsel was reportedly restricted both before and during the trial, which was held *in camera*. Despite protests by Samaan Khongsuphon's lawyer against such restrictions and other aspects of the trial, on 29 December 1983 he and his co-defendants were convicted. He received an eight-year prison sentence and his co-defendants were each sentenced to two years.

■ Please send courteous appeals for the immediate, unconditional release of Samaan Khongsuphon and all six prisoners of conscience imprisoned for lese majesty to: His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej/King of Thailand/The Grand Palace/

Na Phra Lan Road/Bangkok 10200/Thailand.

Mahmud Baidun, Syria
A 47-year-old Lebanese lawyer, he was abducted from Tripoli, Lebanon, in 1971. He has since been detained in Syria without charge or trial.

Mahmud Baidun was an active supporter of the ruling Syrian Ba'th party during the government of President Salah Jadid (1966-1970) and one of a group of Lebanese Ba'thists who were given funds by the Syrian Government to produce a Ba'thist newspaper, *al-Raya*, in Lebanon.

In November 1970 a coup brought President Hafez al-Assad to power. In the following months the former President and a number of those who had served in or supported his government were arrested and imprisoned. The new government reportedly requested that *al-Raya*, which had continued to support the previous government, return the funds it had received from Syria. When this was refused, Mahmud Baidun, one of three signatories of *al-Raya*'s bank account, was abducted. He had also remained a supporter of the former government.

Sometime after Mahmud Baidun's abduction it was confirmed that he was being held in al-Mezze military prison near Damascus and was allowed visits from his relatives. In October 1984 it was reported that he had been on hunger-strike for 43 days to draw attention to his plight and to demand his release.

AI believes Mahmud Baidun's continued detention is solely to prevent him from exercising his right to freedom of expression. He was adopted as a prisoner of conscience in 1975. Since then numerous appeals for his release have remained unanswered by the Syrian authorities and he was not included in the general amnesty declared by President Hafez al-Assad in early 1985.

■ Please send courteous letters appealing for his release to: H.E. President Hafez al-Assad/Presidential Palace/Abu Rummaneh/al-Rashid Street/Damascus/Syrian Arab Republic; and to: H.E. Muhammad Ghabbash/Minister of Interior/Ministry of Interior/Merjeh Circle/Damascus/Syrian Arab Republic.

Students tortured in Argentina

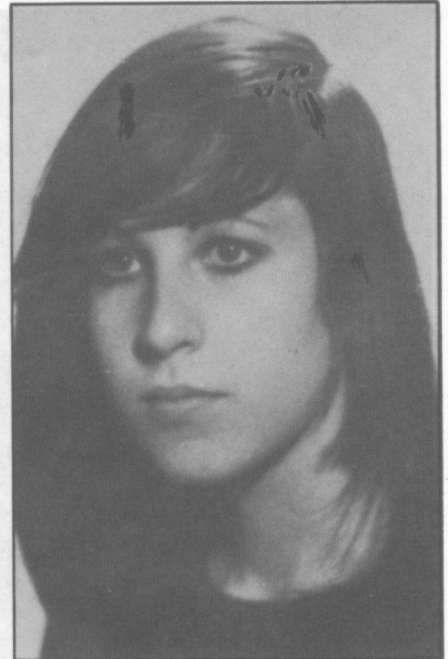
Harrowing accounts of the fate of the prisoners who "disappeared" in Argentina have emerged during the trial of the nine members of the military juntas which ruled the country between 1976 and 1982. Much of the evidence given in court has been reported by the Argentinian press.

Pablo Alejandro Diaz, a prosecution witness, was reportedly one of 10 secondary school students abducted in September 1976 by members of the security forces in La Plata in an operation called the "Night of the Pencils" (*La Noche de los Lapices*). The students were between 14 and 18 years old and had participated in a campaign for cheap student transport. This was apparently the motive for their detention. Three of the group were eventually released. The others have never been seen again. They are Horacio Ungaro, Daniel Rasero, Francisco López Muntaner, María Claudia Falcone, Victor Triviño, Claudio de Acha and María Clare Ciochini. *AI* groups have been campaigning for information on their

whereabouts for a number of years.

On 9 May 1985 Pablo Diaz told the court about his abduction and the secret detention centres in which the students were held: the Arana camp, the Pozo de Banfield and the Pozo de Quilmes. The government-appointed National Commission on Disappeared People has named these centres as places where "disappeared" prisoners were held.

Pablo testified to the torture he had suffered: "They stripped me and...told me they were going to give me a torture session I wouldn't forget. They burnt my lips. Oh I forgot! When they took me they told me they were going to give me the truth machine. I asked them to take me to the machine because I thought it was like the ones you see in films that say if you are lying. The machine turned out to be the *picana*. You could smell burnt flesh when they applied the *picana* to me. They kept asking me to give them names. Afterwards a doctor attended to me. I asked him to give me some water, but he



Claudia Falcone, 16 when she "disappeared".

told me if he did I would die."

"Once one of them said 'bring me some pliers'. I then felt a sudden pull at my foot. The pain was a single one, throughout my whole body. They had pulled out a toe nail."

Pablo heard them talking about one of the other students... "She's dead, throw her to the dogs." "No", another answered, "Bury her, you killed her." He heard another prisoner, María Ciochini, plead with one of the guards not to touch her any more — to kill her, but not to touch her any more.

"One day, in Pozo de Banfield, a humane guard allowed me to see for about 15 minutes Claudia Falcone, the girl I was most friendly with... Claudia said to me 'Thank you, Pablo, for the strength you give me' as I told her to keep calm, that they were going to let us go because we weren't guerrillas, we hadn't planted any bombs. I also talked to her about when we were out, how we'd start a relationship, as boyfriend and girlfriend, whatever. She said to me, 'Pablo, don't touch me, they've raped me'."

A former officer in the Buenos Aires Provincial Police Force, Carlos Hours, testified that some students had been so severely tortured that it was decided it was too dangerous to release them. They were killed.

Pablo Diaz in court.



Argentinian human rights groups demonstrate against "disappearances", May 1983.



AI's interest in the trial

Two *AI* delegates observed the start of the current trial of the nine members of the military juntas.

The first stage of the trial took place *in camera* before the *Consejo Supremo de las Fuerzas Armadas* (Supreme Court of the Armed Forces).

In September 1984 the military court acquitted the nine officers of the charges against them: illegal privation of liberty, torture and homicide.

The second and final stage of the current trial is being heard before the

Buenos Aires Civilian Court of Appeal.

AI's interest in the trial arises from past campaigns to locate thousands of prisoners who have "disappeared" in Argentina. *AI* is also concerned that all appropriate steps be taken to clarify their fate and to bring those responsible to justice.

AI does not take a position on individual prosecutions provided that the defendants are given a fair trial; that the objective of the proceedings is to fully establish the facts and that the fate of the victims is not obscured.

Over 1500 people executed during 1984

In 1984 *Amnesty International* documented 1,513 executions in 40 countries. The true figure is likely to be much higher. It is impossible to give an accurate total of the number of executions worldwide because many governments keep such information secret or fail to provide complete figures.

In Iran, for example, many more executions than the 661 *AI* confirmed are likely to have taken place. In China *AI* confirmed 292 executions but these were mainly based on reports from urban centres and did not include smaller towns or rural areas. Nor do *AI*'s figures include executions in Iraq. Although reports of hundreds of executions in the country were received it was

not possible to confirm them individually.

AI also learned of 2,068 death sentences in 55 countries during 1984. In many countries those sentenced to death are from poor or disadvantaged backgrounds, members of political or ethnic minorities, people who were denied fair trial and prisoners who had been tortured.

Violations

Last year there were hundreds of violations of United Nations safeguards to protect the rights of prisoners facing the death penalty. In Nigeria, where more than 110 prisoners were reported to have been executed in 1984, at least 66 were put to death after trials before special tribunals with no right of appeal to higher courts.

In South Africa, at least 114 people were executed, all but three of them from the black or so-called "coloured" (mixed race) population groups. In other countries people were executed for non-violent crimes such as pornography, smuggling, theft and bribery.

***AI* has learned of 99 people being sentenced to death in 12 countries and of 72 executions in 13 countries during April 1985.**

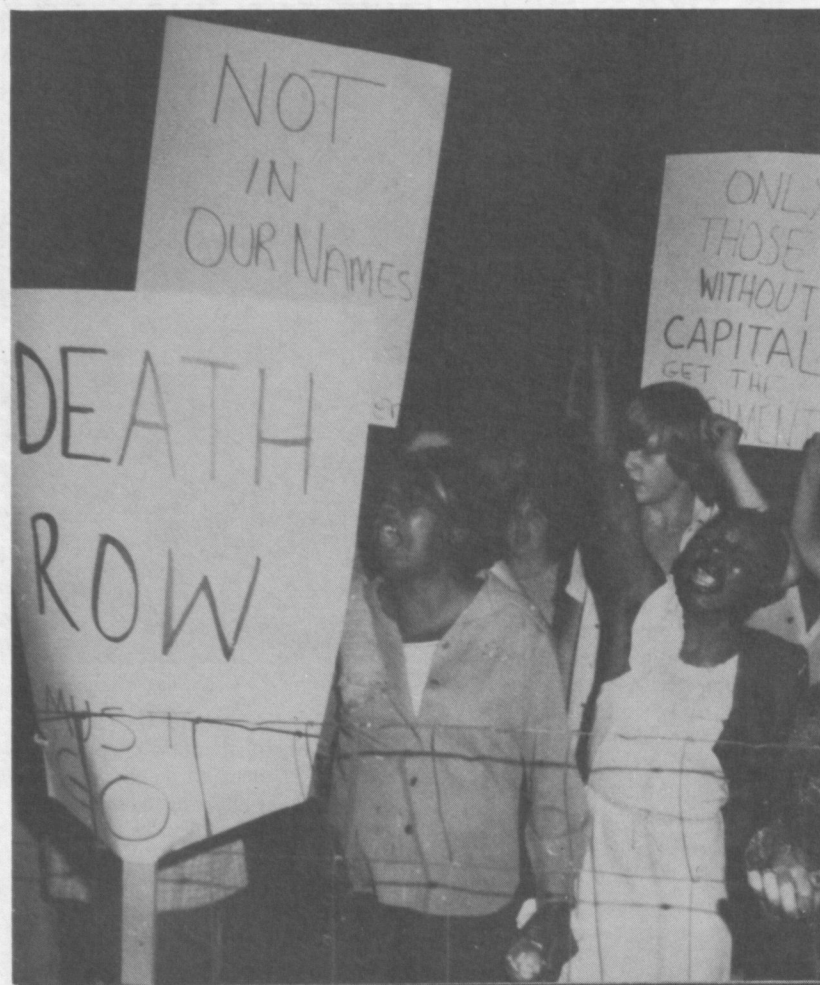
However, a worldwide trend towards the abolition of the death penalty continued in 1984. Western Australia, the last Australian state retaining the death penalty for ordinary offences, banned it last year. Every year since 1975 at least one country has abolished the death penalty. By the end of 1984, 27 governments had abolished the death penalty for all offences and 19 had ended it for all but extraordinary offences, such as certain wartime crimes. In many of the 130 countries which retain the death penalty an execution has not taken place for years. The United Nations General Assembly has twice, in 1971 and 1977, affirmed the desirability of abolishing the death penalty.

Congress

The Seventh UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders meets in Milan, Italy in August. *AI* is urging the congress to consider and improve measures to implement UN safeguards to protect the rights of prisoners facing the death penalty.

Public hanging in Syria

On the morning of 14 May three people were publicly executed in Syria. Tawfiq bin Muhammad 'Abbas (left), Farid bin 'Umar Darwish (right) and Iuhyi al-Din bin Muhammad Adham Hurani were hanged in the Abbasids Square in Damascus. That afternoon three military personnel, Ghassan Hamud Abu Shaqra, Ahmad 'Abd Allah Qatmawi and Allah 'Abd al-Hamid Bakri were executed at 'Artuz, near Damascus. All six had been convicted under the Syrian military penal code of spying for Israel and "jeopardising state security". On receiving reports of these executions *AI* expressed its concern to President Hafez al-Assad of Syria and reiterated its unconditional opposition to the death penalty.

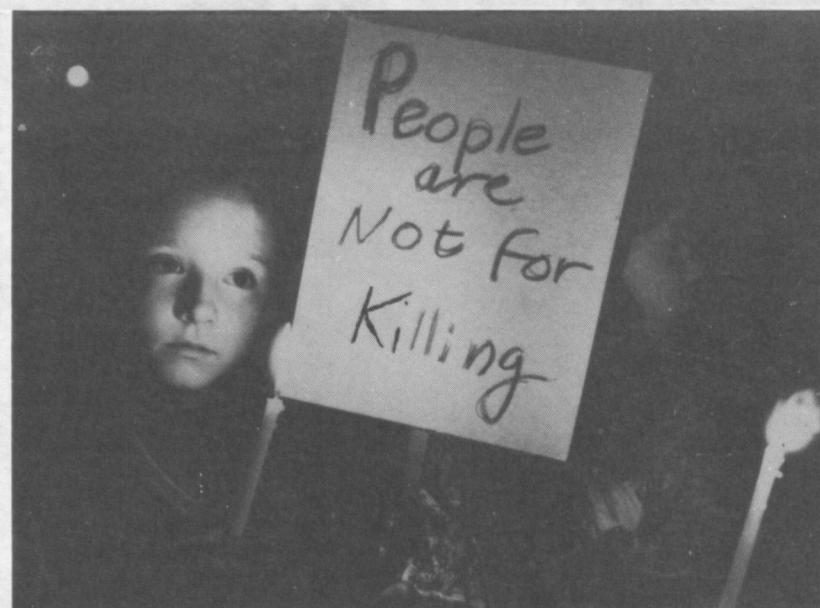


Many joined the vigil (above and left) outside Florida State Prison when John Spenkelink was executed in May 1979.

More on Death Row than ever before

Twelve prisoners have been executed in the United States this year. A number of recent US Supreme Court decisions have narrowed the grounds for appeals in capital cases. It is now feared that the number of executions could increase sharply.

On 1 May 1985, 1,513 prisoners were under sentence of death in 32 states. This is the highest figure ever recorded in the United States and the number is rising steadily. Out of this total at least 30 are reported to be minors. In only six of the states with death penalty statutes is the execution of minors prohibited. To impose the death penalty for a crime committed by someone under the age of 18 is in violation of international standards, in particular the American Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which were signed by the US Government in October 1977. Although the



US government has not ratified these treaties a signatory nation has an obligation to do nothing that would defeat the object of signed treaties.

The cruel, inhuman and degrading nature of executions has been particularly manifest in some recent cases.

In at least two electrocutions the first charge of electricity failed to kill the prisoner and further jolts were ordered. In one execution by lethal injection the prisoner was reported to have taken 10 minutes to die. In another, technicians spent 40 minutes searching the prisoner's limbs for a suitable vein in

which to insert the needle.

Medical technicians and doctors have been involved in administering lethal injections as well as undertaking medical examinations during executions. Following the first execution by lethal injection in December 1982 in Texas, the Secretary General of the World Medical Association said: "Regardless of the method of capital punishment the state imposes, no physician should be required to be an active participant. A physician's only role would be to certify death once the state has carried out the capital punishment."

Spain: *AI* calls for safeguards against torture

Detainees have been tortured and ill-treated by police and civil guards in Spain in recent years despite the introduction of major constitutional and legal changes.

AI's new report "Spain — The Question of Torture" concludes that the continued use of prolonged incommunicado detention of people held under the anti-terrorist law facilitates the use of torture and ill-treatment. The most recent figures available to *AI* show that 673 people were detained under this law between 1 January and 13 November 1984.

In May 1984 *AI* sent a memorandum to the Government of Spain based on investigations into allegations made in 1983 by 11 people, four of whom were detained under ordinary law and seven under the anti-terrorist law.

Beaten

The detainees alleged that they were punched, kicked and beaten, hooded, suspended from tables or bars and partially asphyxiated in water or with plastic bags, by police and civil guards in Barcelona, Madrid and the Basque country. Incommunicado detention, the denial of effective legal assistance, inadequate medical attention and the failure of judicial supervision were

other features of these cases.

AI called on the government to introduce legislation to protect the rights of detainees and to strictly enforce existing laws and procedures. It recommended that the period for which people detained under the anti-terrorist law could be held before appearing in court or being freed should be reduced to 72 hours, as is the case for detainees held under ordinary law; that the courts should improve their supervision of detainees; that the government should review the use the courts make of their powers of supervision and that all detainees should have the right to choose their own lawyers.

A *habeas corpus* procedure, which may help to protect the rights of ordinary detainees, was introduced in May 1984 but *AI* considers that detainees held under the anti-terrorist law will not benefit equally. Petitions in these cases can only be submitted to the Central Examining Magistrate in Madrid. As most of these detainees are held outside Madrid, this will result in expense and delay.

Breaches

In October 1984 an *AI* delegation met senior members of the government in Madrid. The government did

not dispute the facts in *AI*'s memorandum, nor did it deny that there were occasional breaches of the existing laws and procedures. It maintained however that recent legislative changes, notably the introduction of *habeas corpus*, would serve to safeguard the rights of all detainees.

Torture

In December 1984 *AI* received a memorandum from the Spanish Government referring to allegations of torture made by four of the people named in *AI*'s memorandum — Joaquín Olano and José María, Lucio and Víctor Olarra. They had been detained under the anti-terrorist law in July and October 1983 by a civil guard unit based in San Sebastian in the Basque country. All were held in incommunicado detention. The Olarra brothers were released without charge. Olano was charged with involvement in a hold-up of an armoured car but later acquitted.

In February 1985 the San Sebastian courts investigating these cases ordered the prosecution of 11 civil guards on charges of torture.

The government also rejected as unfounded *AI*'s conclusion that

incommunicado detention, even with safeguards, facilitated the use of torture and ill-treatment. It stated that 111 proceedings for torture and ill-treatment, involving 327 members of the State Security Services, had been started since December 1982.

In January 1985 the government introduced new anti-terrorist legislation. However the new law permits incommunicado detention for up to 10 days by judicial order. People held incommunicado do not have the right to choose their own lawyer or to have their family or friends informed of their detention and their whereabouts. The positions of those detained under the anti-terrorist law is therefore unchanged.

Inadequate

The Minister of the Interior's regulations on medical examinations, which proved inadequate in the past, are unchanged and *AI* has received no indication that judicial supervision of detainees has improved.

Despite some recent improvements *AI* continues to be concerned about the inadequate safeguards of the rights of detainees. New allegations of torture and ill-treatment are currently under investigation.

Concern over trial before closed military court in Pakistan

Amnesty International has sent urgent appeals to President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan regarding the trial before a closed military court of 14 officers of the Pakistan armed forces, two police personnel and a lawyer.

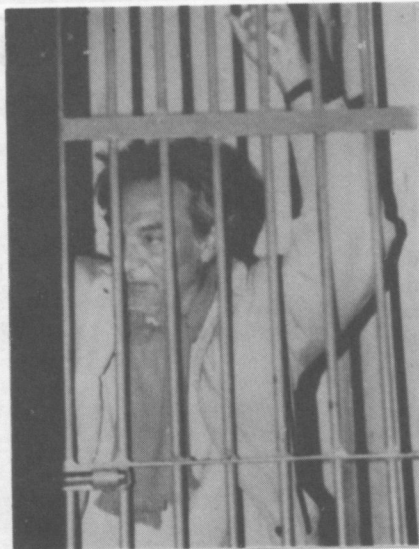
The 17 were charged under the Pakistan Penal Code with "conspiring to wage war against Pakistan" and sedition.

According to AI's information, the prosecution's case is based solely on statements extracted under torture from the accused and two other military officers, Captain Sibtain and Squadron Leader Tahir Maqsood. The latter had been convicted by a special military court on similar charges in a two-day trial in January 1985. They and the other 17 defendants were arrested in early 1984 reportedly by members of the Pakistan security forces.

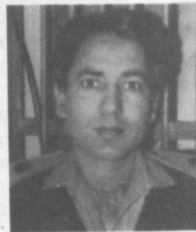
With the exception of the lawyer, who was permitted restricted access to his family in March 1984, all were held incommunicado until at least May 1984.

AI has received reports that the defendants were tortured during their incommunicado detention to force them to "confess". They are said to have had chillies stuffed into the anus, to have been subjected to electric shocks, strapped to blocks of ice, burned with cigarettes, beaten, deprived of food and kept in shackles for the first year of their detention.

The trial began in Attock before Special Military Court No.64 on 8 January 1985. AI has repeatedly expressed its concern to the Pakistan authorities that special military courts fail to comply with internationally recognized standards of fair trial.



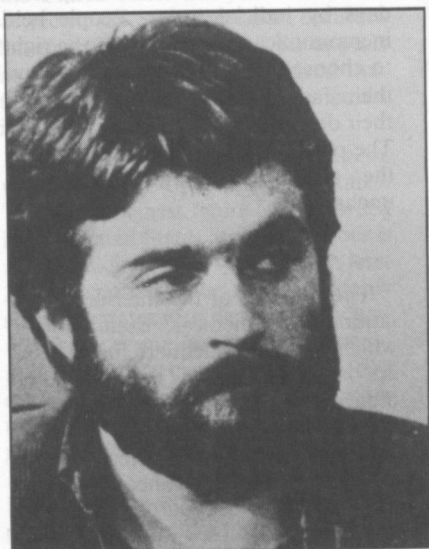
Raza Kazim (above), the lawyer; Major Aftab Chaudry (below left) and Major Nisar Hussain Bokhari (below right), two of the principal accused.



These concerns are heightened when, as in this case, trials are held under the provisions of President's Order No.4 of 1982, which permits *in camera* trial, the prosecution of anyone involved in the trial for the disclosure of unauthorized information about it, changes in the traditional rules of evidence and restrictions on cross-examination of witnesses. Three of the defendants reportedly dispensed with their lawyers following limitations on their counsels' rights to cross-examination. Trial proceedings ended in late May 1985 and the court's verdict is now awaited.

Solidarity activists jailed

Three leading Solidarity activists, Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, Bogdan Lis and Adam

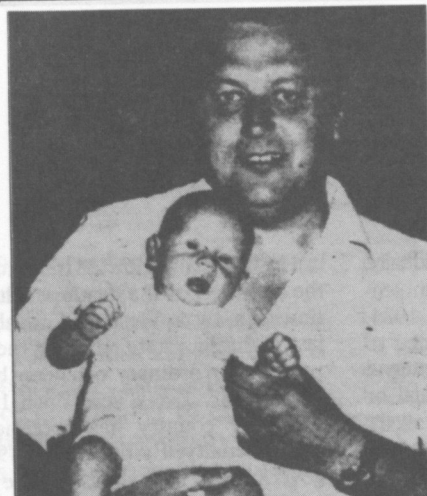


Wladyslaw Frasyniuk

Michnik, were convicted by the Gdansk Voivodship Court on 14 June 1985 on charges of inciting public unrest and occupying leading positions in an illegal organization — the banned trade union Solidarity. Wladyslaw Frasyniuk was sentenced to three and a half years' imprisonment, Bogdan Lis to two and a half years' imprisonment and Adam Michnik to three years' imprisonment. AI has adopted them as prisoners of conscience.

All three were arrested on 13 February 1985 when police raided a meeting of Solidarity leaders in Gdansk reportedly to discuss plans for a 15-minute strike on 28 February in protest against proposed food price increases. The strike was later called off when the government agreed to reconsider its plans.

AI had delegated two lawyers (from France and Belgium) to observe the trial, but they did not receive the necessary visas from the Polish authorities.



Dr Vladimir Roslik

Victims of repression

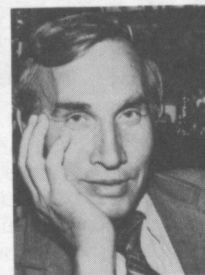
Health personnel have been the targets of repression in some countries.

Dr Nguyen Dan Quê (right), a Vietnamese specialist in thyroid diseases, has been held without charge or trial since his arrest in February 1978 on suspicion of "rebelling against the regime". He was reported to have



openly expressed his criticisms of the government's medical policies.

Dr Anatoly Koryagin (left), a psychiatrist in the USSR was given a 12-year sentence in 1981 because of his work with a human rights



group investigating the abuse of psychiatry.

In Benin, Dr Afolabi Biao was arrested in September 1982 after criticizing the failure of the authorities to improve the conditions at the hospital where he worked. Following a presidential amnesty in August 1984 Dr Biao was released, but was rearrested on 8 November 1984.

In Guatemala and El Salvador there have been numerous incursions by paramilitary death squads linked to the security forces into clinics and hospitals, and many health workers and their patients have been murdered or abducted.

In spite of having received death threats, Dr José Benítez continued working as a doctor and Medical Association organizer in El Salvador. He was shot on 24 May 1980 while on his way to visit a patient.

Gerónimo Loem Lux, a male nurse in the national hospital of La Estancia, Guatemala, was found dead with nine others in a ravine on 15 June 1981.

Violating medical ethics

"...I begged the doctor to make them leave me alone, to comply with the oath he had taken as a doctor, to put his skill to the service of humanity. He answered: 'I'm just doing my job'..."

Ana Ferreira, torture victim, Uruguay 1978

Health professionals in many countries are becoming increasingly concerned at the involvement of doctors and other health workers in torture and related abuses of medical ethics.

The number of health professionals involved in torture and other abuses is probably very small, but their involvement can be central to the infliction of torture. A Chilean university student, arrested by the secret police in Valparaiso in late 1983, alleged in a sworn statement:

"I was stripped and laid on the bed where I was examined by someone who appeared to be a doctor...He took my blood pressure and pulse, listened through his stethoscope...Then he called out that I 'could take it!'..."

It is not only by advising on the ability of detainees to withstand torture that doctors aid the torture process. Torture sessions have been halted so that the doctor can resuscitate the victim and torture can continue.

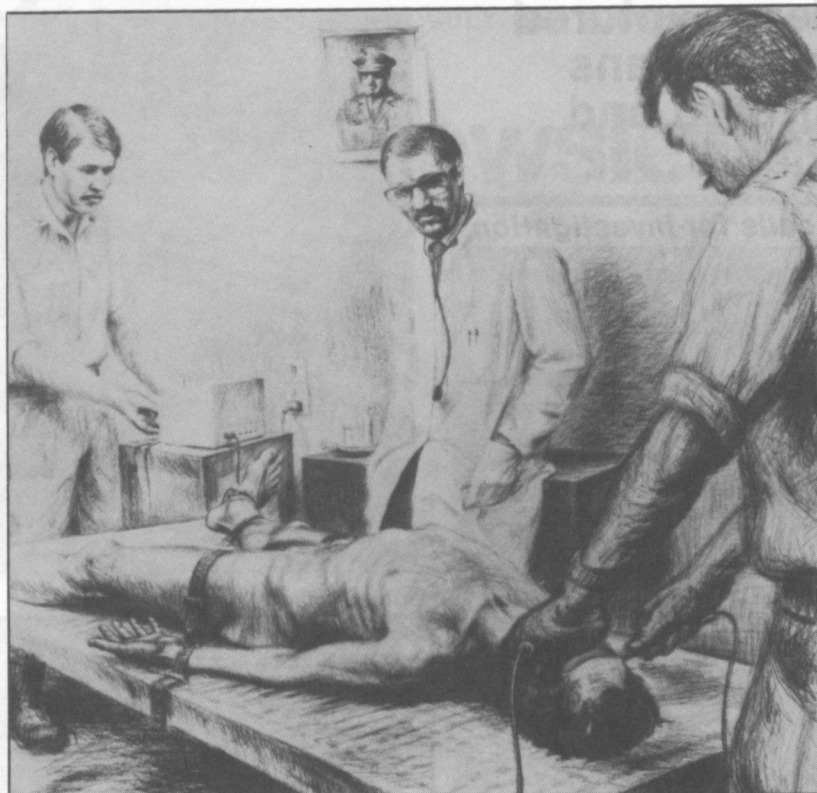
If a victim has died under torture a doctor may give a false cause of death in the death certificate. In mid-April 1984, during the period of military rule in Uruguay, Dr Vladimir Roslik died under torture. The official autopsy gave the cause of death as "cardiac arrest". A second autopsy revealed that Dr Roslik died from acute anaemia following massive internal bleeding. The doctor who signed the false death certificate was later expelled from the Provincial Medical Association of Uruguay. The President of the Association was subse-

quently quoted in the press as saying that about 200 doctors were to be investigated by an ethical tribunal for involvement in torture or medical neglect of political prisoners.

In Sudan, since the introduction of Shari'a law in September 1983, there have been at least 65 cases of amputations of the hand and, in about 20 of these, of the foot as well. In November 1983 a Sudanese team led by a judge and an orthopaedic surgeon visited Saudi Arabia where the punishment is also practised, to obtain advice on judicial procedures and to learn the medical techniques required.

from serious medical problems; medical or paramedical professionals are illegally detained or threatened with death; provision of health services in places of detention is deliberately withheld or otherwise abused as a punishment; amputations or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment are inflicted with the help of doctors; doctors are involved in executions; unexplained deaths of political prisoners occur.

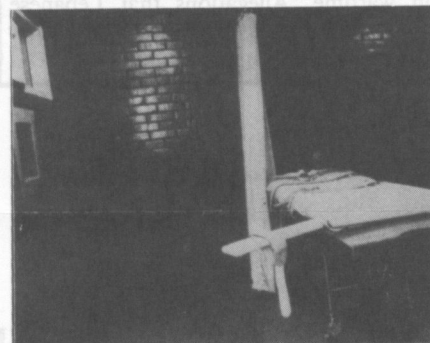
Groups also try to bring human rights issues to the attention of colleagues via meetings and publications.



© Mogens Norgaard

Artist's representation (above) of electric shock torture, based on victims' testimony. A doctor stands by to monitor the effects.

The execution chamber in Huntsville prison, Texas (right). It was while strapped to this trolley on December 1982 that Charlie Brooks was injected with a lethal dose of drugs. Brooks' death was the first by lethal injection in the USA. Two doctors were reported to have monitored the death and at one point to have advised the executioner to continue the injection for "a couple more minutes".



A doctor subsequently attended the execution of such sentences. Although he did not perform the amputations he is reported to have trained the prison officers who did, and to have administered local anaesthetic. No further amputations have been reported since the change of government this year.

In Pakistan "an authorised medical officer" is legally required to examine the prisoner prior to flogging to ensure it "will not cause the death of the convict". If, after the flogging has begun, the doctor believes it may be fatal, it will be stopped until he certifies it can recommence. Both the Pakistan Medical Association (Karachi Branch) and the Pakistan Junior Doctors Association have protested to the government about this form of punishment.

Since the mid-seventies a number of international medical bodies have made strong statements against the involvement of health professionals in torture, to which the United Nations has added its voice. Its *Principles of Medical Ethics*, adopted by acclaim by the UN General Assembly in December 1982, forbids the involvement of health personnel in torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

Health workers plan support for AI

In March 1985, over 40 doctors and health workers from 24 countries met in London to discuss the AI program for health professionals working within the membership of the organization.

About 8000 doctors and other health professionals in 30 countries regularly participate in AI's work. Requests for urgent appeals on prisoner cases are relayed to AI medical groups from the Medical Office of the International Secretariat. The groups are asked to send letters or telegrams to governments when: prisoners of conscience are suffering

Were captured Palestinians tortured and killed?

AI calls for investigation

During a week of armed hostilities in the refugee camps of southern Beirut many Palestinians captured by Amal forces are reported to have gone missing.

Further reports allege that some of these prisoners had been beaten in custody, that 50 bodies had been taken out of Amal's interrogation centre in Beirut, and that others, including some in hospital, had been summarily executed.

On 30 May AI telexed Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Justice Minister Nabih Berri (who is also the leader of the Amal militia) calling for an investigation into these reports and for measures to prevent such abuses.

AI said that such abuses, if committed, would be in violation of international human rights agreements and of the Geneva Conventions on prisoners taken in wartime. Allegations that Lebanese troops had been involved in such acts made government action even more imperative.

AI learned in May 1985 of the release of 116 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 104 cases.



Chatilla refugee camp, West Beirut

© Judah Passow/Network

Torture reported in Mozambique

Since the beginning of 1984 Amnesty International has received regular reports of torture of both political detainees and prisoners suspected of committing "economic" or other criminal offences in Mozambique.

Among the political detainees reported to have been tortured are those suspected of fighting for an armed opposition organization active throughout Mozambique, the *Resistência Nacional Moçambicana* (RNM). Members of the RNM are also reported to have tortured, mutilated

or killed captives. AI condemns the torture and killing of prisoners by anyone, including opposition groups.

Two forms of torture are said to be commonly carried out at Machava, the main political detention centre in Maputo, the capital, and other detention centres in the country. They are: severe beatings inflicted with a variety of instruments including the *chamboco*, sjambok or whip; and a form of ill-treatment known as *cordas* (ropes) in which victims' arms are tightly bound behind their backs and they are then left in this position for several hours or even for days. The ropes are sometimes soaked in fresh or salt water first and contract as they dry out, biting into the victim's flesh.

Floggings

President Samora Machel is one of a number of government officials who have condemned the use of torture. Some members of the security forces have been prosecuted for ill-treating prisoners. However when the government introduced public flogging as a judicial punishment in March 1983, some members of the security forces interpreted the new law as a licence to inflict floggings where and when they wished. Floggings inflicted outside the framework of the law have been criticized by judicial officials but are reported to continue.

AI has expressed concern to the Mozambican Government on a number of occasions and has recommended the introduction of safeguards to prevent torture. It has also urged that all detainees be brought before a judicial authority promptly after being taken into custody. At present the national security service may detain suspects indefinitely without charge and without reference to the judiciary.

■ At the beginning of May 1985 AI issued a 16-page document, "Reports of the use of torture in the People's Republic of Mozambique" describing the use of torture since 1975 and listing steps necessary to prevent it. This is available from AI sections and from the International Secretariat.

Suicide pact in Brazil's jails

On 24 May 1985 AI cabled the Governor of the State of Minas Gerais and the Minister of Justice in Brasilia to express concern at the killings of three prisoners in the Delegacia de Roubo e Furtos police station, in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais.

The killings occurred in May after inmates had allegedly agreed to draw lots to select victims prepared to die in protest at poor prison conditions.

The protest in Minas Gerais began last March in Lagoinha prison and the Delegacia de Roubo e Furtos. Fifteen prisoners have since been killed. There is reportedly severe overcrowding: in Lagoinha prison 300 prisoners are allegedly crammed more than 30 to a cell, many with less than a square foot of space each.

In its cable AI pointed out that these conditions appeared to infringe regulations set out in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and to amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. AI called upon the Brazilian authorities to instigate a full and public inquiry into the recent killings.

The Brazilian Ministry of Justice replied on 3 June assuring AI that the two worst centres in Minas Gerais were to be closed and the prisoners transferred to



Prisoners in the Delegacia de Roubo e Furtos

proper state prisons. The Governor, Senhor Helio Garcia, has said that an emergency prison building program will start soon.

But the killings in Minas Gerais continue: on 2 June another prisoner, 20-year-old La Fayette Rosa Ferreira, arrested for a drugs offence, was reportedly strangled in his cell.