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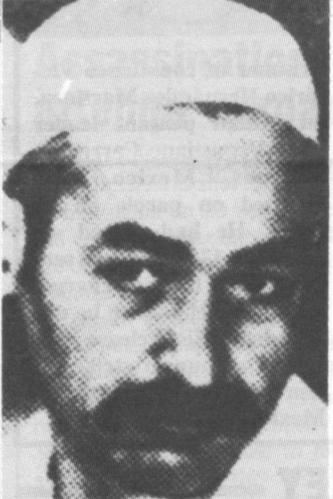
TUNISIA

Trial suspended on first day

The trial of leading Tunisian human rights activist Khemais Chamari on charges of defamation and spreading false information was suspended indefinitely on 23 May.

An AI delegate had gone to observe the trial, which was adjourned on the day it was due to open by the President of the Court, who asked for further evidence in support of the charges.

Khemais Chamari is the Secretary General of the Tunisian League of Human Rights, Vice-



Rachid Ghannouchi, leader of the *Mouvement de la tendance islamique*. AI fears he may have been tortured.

President of the *Fédération internationale des droits de l'homme* and a member of the political bureau of the *Mouvement des démocrates socialistes*, a legal opposition party in Tunisia.

He was arrested on 28 April and held in incommunicado detention in police custody until 11 May, when he was remanded in custody by an investigating judge to await trial. He was released on 22 May on grounds of ill-health.

The prosecution case was based on interviews Khemais Chamari had given to *Radio France International* and *Al Majallah*, a London-based Arabic magazine. On 29 April AI sent a telex to President Bourguiba expressing concern at his arrest and asking for information on the reasons for it.

On 5 and 13 May the organization launched appeals calling for his immediate and unconditional release; having studied the two interviews on which the charges were based AI had concluded that he was being detained for his non-violent political beliefs and was thus a prisoner of conscience.

The AI delegate in Tunisia met the State Prosecutor, the presiding judge and officials from the Ministry of Justice to discuss Khemais Chamari's case.

He also raised AI's concerns over the arrest and detention of Rachid Ghannouchi, the leader of the *Mouvement de la tendance islamique* (MTI), and other members of the movement. Since March they have been held in incommunicado detention by the police and AI has received allegations that they have been tortured. The delegate was told that they were still held incommunicado in police custody, when he asked about their current legal position. AI believes that this is incompatible with Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and fears that such long periods of incommunicado detention may be conducive to the ill-treatment and torture of detainees. □

UN Convention Against Torture in force

The UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment came into force on 26 June, after 20 states had ratified or acceded to it. Adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1984, the Convention is a significant step towards the worldwide eradication of torture.



Demonstrations at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara against restrictions on student associations proposed by the Turkish Government. Hundreds of students were arrested in April during national protests against government proposals to restrict student associations. Some were reportedly tortured in detention.

TURKEY

Mass arrests of students

Hundreds of students were arrested in April after nationwide protest demonstrations against new restrictions on students' associations. In Istanbul and Ankara, detained students are reported to have been tortured.

At the beginning of April a draft bill was submitted to the Turkish parliament proposing a single students' association for each university with compulsory membership.

During 1986 students' associations at individual faculties had gained legal recognition and students strongly opposed this draft bill. It was eventually withdrawn, but peaceful protest actions by students were met with mass arrests and trials in several cities.

In April students organized meal boycotts at university canteens, petitions and protest telegrams. These were followed by demonstrations and hunger-strikes against arrests and ill-treatment of fellow students.

Protesting students in Izmir, Adana, Sivas, Trabzon and Eskisehir were detained. Attempted demonstrations in Istanbul and Ankara on 14 and 15 April were broken up violently by the police. A total of more than 600 students were taken into police custody.

AI received allegations that six students had been ill-treated on 14 and 15 April while in police custody in Istanbul.

They are said to have been forced to stand in a stooped posi-

tion, their heads covered with their jackets, for some 24 hours. Some had their heads hit against a pillar.

In Ankara too, detained students have reportedly been tortured. Nilüfer Aydur of Gazi University alleged that she was tortured for 10 days while in police custody. On trial at Ankara State Security Court she said on 26 May that she had been stripped naked, hosed down with ice-cold water and given electric shocks.

When she still refused to sign a confession, a male student was brought into the room and forced to sexually attack her. She then signed her confession.

The detained students, together with those who have been released, are facing trial at various State Security Courts. They are charged with violating Law 2911 on Demonstrations, which carries prison sentences of between one and three years. Since 1983 this law has been used to ban almost all demonstrations.

AI has called for a thorough, impartial investigation into torture allegations and considers anyone imprisoned under Law 2911 to be a prisoner of conscience. □

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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.

JORDAN

Mazin 'Abd al-Wahid al-As'ad: a 28-year-old writer, he is serving a three-year sentence on charges of membership of an illegal organization — the Organization of the Democratic Front in Jordan.

Mazin 'Abd al-As'ad was arrested, apparently without a warrant, on 6 November 1985 on a street in Amman by members of the General Intelligence Department (GID). He was then held in the GID headquarters in Amman for six or seven weeks and allegedly tortured in order to extract information about his political activities.

He is said to have been subjected to several sessions of torture including *falaqa* (beatings on the soles of the feet) and that on one occasion he had to be given urgent medical treatment.

He is currently said to be suffering from hearing problems and pains in one leg, possibly as a result of his treatment.

Mazin al-As'ad was tried by the Martial Law Court and sentenced in August 1986 to three years' imprisonment. The charges—which he reportedly denied—were membership of an illegal organization aiming to overthrow the constitutional government of Jordan by force and violence and paying contributions to and spreading the literature of that illegal organization.

There are no provisions for appeal after trials before the Martial Law Court. He has reportedly been convicted twice before of membership of an illegal organization, serving a total of about five years in prison.

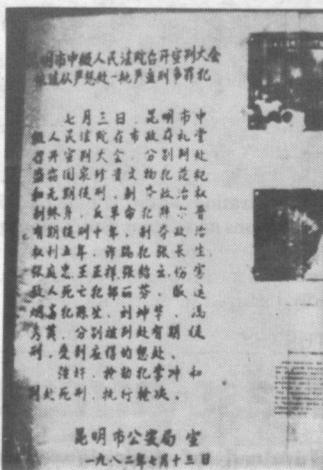
Mazin al-As'ad was not charged with having committed or advocated any act of violence. Also, the Organization of the Democratic Front in Jordan does not have a record of violence nor does it in its publications advocate violence against the Jordanian Government.

■ Please send courteous appeals for his immediate, unconditional release to: His Excellency Zaid al-Rifai / Prime Minister / Amman / The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. □

CHINA

Chen Erjin: a former teacher and statistician, he has been imprisoned since 1981 for political activities associated with the "democracy movement" which flourished between 1978 and 1980.

Chen Erjin was reported to have



Poster of charges and sentences of Chen Erjin and others.

been arrested in April 1981 along with the editors of many unofficial journals founded during the "democracy movement". It was then rumoured that he might have gone into hiding at the time of this wave of arrests. Subsequently, AI received information that he had been tried in Kunming, Yunnan province, on 3 July 1982, and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment with five years' deprivation of political rights. According to a Kunming Public Security Bureau poster, he was charged with "plotting the creation of a counter-revolutionary party". The decision of the Kunming Intermediate People's Court was announced at a public sentencing rally.

Chen Erjin had trained as a teacher in Kunming, graduating in 1966 at the beginning of the Cultural Revolution. During 1975/76, he wrote an essay "On Proletarian-Democratic Revolution", in which he examined the class structure in Chinese society, concluding that a new privileged bureaucratic elite had emerged in the country. He submitted the essay to official publishing houses, following which he was arrested in early 1978. He spent 10 months in prison and was reportedly tortured. The essay finally appeared in a *samizdat* edi-

tion in 1979.

After his release, Chen Erjin travelled to Beijing where he again tried without success to have his essay officially published. He made contact with the editors of other unofficial journals, in particular those involved with the prominent *April Fifth Forum*, some of whom were also arrested in April 1981 and have been adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience.

Chen Erjin is presumed to be detained in Yunnan province.

■ Please send courteous appeals for Chen Erjin's immediate and unconditional release to: His Excellency Zhao Ziyang / Prime Minister / Prime Minister's Office / Beijing / People's Republic of China. □

Death Penalty

AI has learned of 61 people being sentenced to death in 13 countries and of 16 executions in five countries during April 1987.

Freed!



Prisoner of conscience **Victórico Hernández Martínez, an Indian peasant leader from Venustiano Carranza, Chiapas, Mexico, was released on parole on 30 April.** He had served six years of a 12-year prison sentence on a murder charge, which AI believed to be unfounded. His release followed a hunger-strike in April by his supporters in Mexico City.

TURKEY

Erhan Tuskan: a 30-year-old student of economics, he has been sentenced to over 48 years' imprisonment for "making communist propaganda".

Erhan Tuskan was arrested on 24 October 1980, six weeks after the military coup in Turkey. He had been editor-in-chief of *Ilerici Yurtsever Gençlik*, the journal of *Ilerici Gençlik Derneği* (IGD), Progressive Youth Association.

He was tried by military courts in Istanbul and Izmir on charges of "making communist propaganda", proscribed under Article 142 of the Turkish Penal Code. He was convicted in several different trials on more than 20 indictments citing various issues of the journal and individual articles in it.

He was sentenced to a total of 48 years and 10 months' imprisonment, and all the sentences have been ratified by the Military Court of Appeal. Erhan Tuskan has been in prison since October

1980, first in military prisons in Istanbul and now in one of the special "E type" prisons for political prisoners, in Çanakkale.

The IGD was not an organization involved in the political violence of the late 1970s in Turkey, and Erhan Tuskan was neither accused nor convicted of any violent offence. His imprisonment is, therefore, in violation of his right to freedom of expression, safeguarded in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a party.

■ Please send courteous letters appealing for his release to: Mahmut Oltan Sungurlu / Minister of Justice / Adalet Bakanlığı / Ankara / Turkey. □

Arbitrary political arrest and imprisonment

AI estimates that several thousand political prisoners have been held in detention centres throughout the PRK without charge or trial during recent years. To date, the organization has detailed information on over 100 political prisoners believed to be among the much larger number currently confined. Most of them are believed to have been tortured and almost half have been imprisoned for at least seven years.

Approximately one-third of them were members of the PRK's own local administration or militia before their arrest. Others served in the PRK's district or provincial administration, armed forces, or civil police. AI also has information on imprisoned fishermen, factory workers, students, teachers, and Buddhist monks. Its information includes details of political detainees in 14 of the 20 municipalities and provinces into which Kampuchea was divided until early 1987. The prisoners range in age from the early 20s to the 70s.

The PRK authorities do not publish comprehensive data on political prisoners and rarely refer to legal provisions as a basis for arrest and detention. However, they indicate broad categories of political offence which appear to be based on a decree-law promulgated in 1980. The law lists five levels of political offence, ranging from hiding "a traitor to the revolution" to "wrecking the revolutionary state power".

The official PRK news media identify one political offence as "psychological warfare", which apparently includes verbal attacks on PRK pronouncements, policies, or practices. News media accounts also put activities such as "spreading rumours", "distorting facts", and "inciting disunity among the people" under this heading. A woman imprisoned in Kampuchea's eastern Kampong Cham province during 1982 and 1983 testified to AI that her fellow political prisoners included people imprisoned for peacefully calling on Kampuchians "not to believe the Vietnamese propaganda".

A number of detainees were reportedly arrested for printing and distributing leaflets which advocated support for opposition groups. In 1984 the official Vietnamese army newspaper, *Quan Doi Nhon Dan*, reported that two Kampuchean women had been arrested for circulating leaflets describing the appearance of an "Ox God", thereby invoking Kampuchean mythology and suggesting that the PRK "will collapse and be replaced by a three-

party coalition government".

The daughter of a political prisoner arrested in 1979 and believed to be still in Phnum Penh's T3 prison told AI that her father refused to accept a post which might have required him to teach the official PRK version of Kampuchean history. Close associates of the prisoner reported that he argued with the PRK authorities about the accuracy of their version, and the argument ended in his arrest for "treason".

A former prisoner, arrested with six friends in 1982 and held for several months in T3, told AI that the authorities suspected them of opposition activities because they had "frequent private gather-



Guard tower and outer wall of Phnum Penh's T3 prison, as they looked in the 1960s. AI has received numerous reports that political prisoners held in T3 have been tortured.

ings at which the state of the Kampuchean economy was discussed, among other things".

Others at risk of arrest and detention include people who have unauthorized contact with foreigners, particularly when they come from countries not allied with the

PRK, and those who travel between contested zones in various regions of Kampuchea. Kampuchians who correspond with other Kampuchians living under the administration of opposition groups or residing in western countries may also be arrested. □

Prisons and prison conditions

Former prisoners and others consistently report that the prison authorities permit shackling, confinement in unlit cells devoid of light, and severe restrictions on diet, exercise, medical care and contact with relatives and others living outside the prison.

Some political prisoners are said to have suffered permanent physical and psychological damage as a result of such conditions, which often constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and contravene the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Political prisoners undergoing interrogation are often held for lengthy periods in small, dark, poorly ventilated cells. Some of the cells are underground; others are above ground level but have little or no light. Former prisoners have also described grossly inadequate sanitary facilities, sometimes accompanied by a shortage of water. Food rations may be progressively reduced and drinking water restricted as part of the regimen designed to extract "confessions" from political prisoners.

Leg irons attached to chains or rods are often used to immobilize political prisoners. Seventy of the over 100 prisoners whose cases AI has documented in detail were shackled during periods of inter-

rogation. "The rod that held the shackle rings was inserted inside the cell but was inserted through several cells", testified a former PRK ministry worker who had been imprisoned in Phnum Penh. "The rooms were subdivided into small cells so that being in one was like being in a coffin." He said that prisoners could not communicate between cells, but sometimes, "you could hear the sounds of moans, vomiting and coughing."

Approximately half the political prisoners on whom AI has detailed information were confined in dark cells during interrogation. A woman imprisoned in Kampuchea's northern Siem Reap-Utdar Meanchey province described eight months' confinement in a dark cell, from which she later said that she "never really physically recovered". Upon entering the prison, she said, "We went downstairs. I could feel the dampness of the premises, and the air was not like outside . . . [They] pushed me into a dark room. They closed the door and left me in the dark cell."

A wide range of PRK civil and military agents have powers of arrest, sometimes participating in "combined force" arrests with Vietnamese personnel. Prisons are administered variously by PRK civil security authorities or military forces, and Vietnamese officials. Political prisoners are held, at least temporarily, in each of these three prison systems. AI estimates that there may now be more than 200 prisons in the country.

According to a detainee arrested in 1980 and held in Phnum Penh's T3 prison, "Those who died mostly died in the dark solitary confinement cells."

Injuries caused by torture and diseases contracted in severely inadequate sanitary conditions often remain untreated in Kampuchean prisons. Over half the political prisoners whose cases have been documented by AI suffered swelling of the limbs, abdomen and other parts of the body. About a third were debilitated by injuries to bones, muscles or internal organs. Malaria, dysentery, and rectal and urinary dysfunction have also been reported to AI. □

Torture in the PRK

The same PRK security units are believed to be responsible for arrest, interrogation, decisions on detainees' guilt or innocence, and prison administration. Former political prisoners say they and their fellow inmates were often tortured by PRK officials who wanted them to "confess" that they opposed the authorities or to inform on those who did.

The same methods of torture have been consistently described as being used since 1979. They include beatings with truncheons, sharp-edged wooden staves, and iron bars; whippings with chains and rubber hoses; near-suffocation with plastic bags; near-drowning in vats of water; burial alive and forced ingestion of irritant liquids. Former prisoners have also testified that their interrogators administered electric shocks, burned them with hot irons, and shut them in petrol drums, which were then repeatedly struck from the outside. The high noise level causes pain and disorientation.

Former detainees say that both male and female political prison-

Another former prisoner, a farmer in his 40s, gave a detailed account of how he was treated in a Batdambang district prison in 1984. After beating him on the previous day, he said, officials summoned him for another interrogation session. "This time, I was tied up specially for the beatings, with my thumbs held together behind my back", he said. "I was sitting on a plank bench some distance from the table. They kicked me in the chest and on the shins, and they body-punched me with their fists in the stomach. My shins swelled up from the kicks. It was extremely painful. They also whipped me with rattan [cane] and chain." After six days of this, he said, "I felt that I had no hope of survival. I was sure that I was going to die."

Deaths in detention have also been reported. A police interrogator who left the country in 1984 testified to "prisoners being beaten or shot to death by the interrogators". In addition to reports of 12 deaths during or immediately following interrogation between 1979 and 1985, AI has received reports of 34 deaths in the post-interrogation period of detention. Most of the latter were

AI has received information on more than 160 cases in which agents of the PRK's civil police, military, and other security services allegedly tortured political prisoners during interrogation. According to the organization's information, Vietnamese advisors are sometimes present during torture sessions and occasionally participate directly in the torture of detainees in prisons administered by the PRK authorities. Vietnamese personnel have also reportedly tortured political prisoners in detention centres run by Vietnamese officials within Kampuchea.

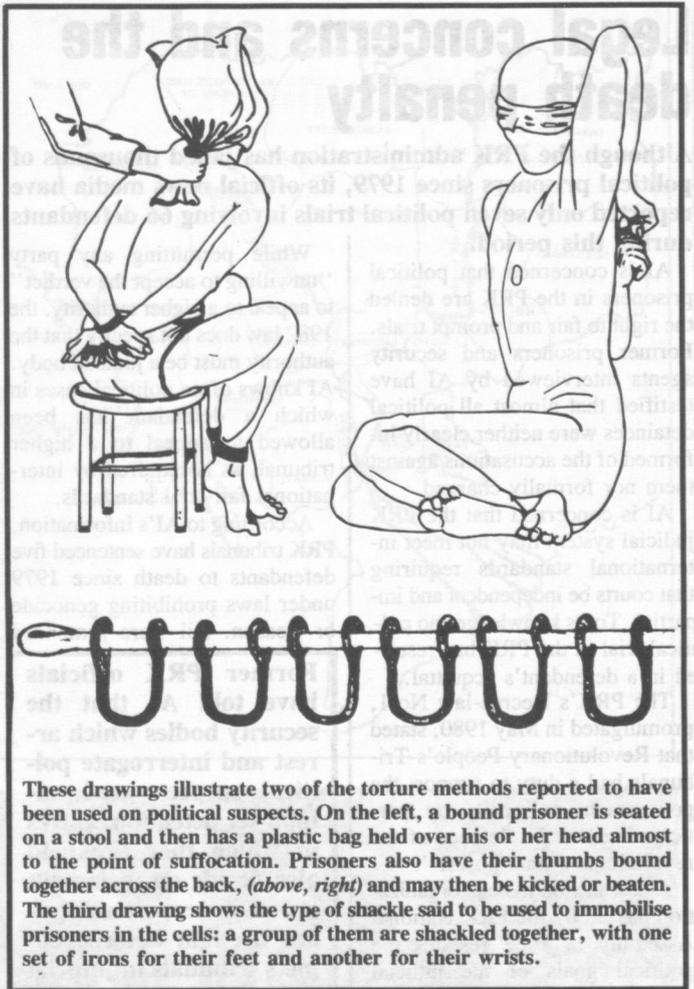
ers were tortured. A woman in her late 20s, held with her children from 1983 to 1985 in a police prison in Kampuchea's northwestern province of Batdambang, testified: "Several times in my cell I saw women coming back from interrogation sessions with bruises from blows to the body, the back, the arms or the legs." She recalled "one woman about 40 years old, with a baby. She came back from a session with wounds on her thighs and buttocks. She had been severely beaten. The wounds were bleeding."

Treatment of 'Misled Persons'

Several foreign press accounts have described "re-education" centres in Kampuchea. Kampuchean classified as "misled persons" are sometimes subjected to "re-education", and civilians undergoing "re-education" are given official instruction under military guard.

AI is concerned that some "misled persons" are restricted without charge or trial because of their political beliefs.

Kampuchean who engage in opposition activity or oppose official policies and subsequently give themselves up to the authorities are apparently considered to be "misled". Their treatment appears to vary widely. Local authorities are said to have discretionary "re-education" powers. A typical term of "re-education", former "misled persons" report, is three months, after which the authorities permit the individual home. "Re-education" under conditions of physical restriction



These drawings illustrate two of the torture methods reported to have been used on political suspects. On the left, a bound prisoner is seated on a stool and then has a plastic bag held over his or her head almost to the point of suffocation. Prisoners also have their thumbs bound together across the back, (above, right) and may then be kicked or beaten. The third drawing shows the type of shackle said to be used to immobilise prisoners in the cells: a group of them are shackled together, with one set of irons for their feet and another for their wrists.

attributed to inadequate medical treatment for injuries caused by torture, from disease or from lack of food.

In March 1986 the PRK promulgated legislation prohibiting torture, but this is not believed to

have ended the practice. To AI's knowledge, no PRK officials have been prosecuted for torturing detainees, and no PRK legislation prohibits Kampuchean judicial bodies from considering "confessions" obtained under torture. □

November 1986 another 4,414 "misled persons" had surrendered. Some Kampuchean formerly designated as "misled" and interviewed by AI claimed that they did not take part in political activities, attributing the administration's suspicion about them to previous residence in Thailand or in areas of armed conflict. Others said they had supported opposition groups.

In some instances, Kampuchean who surrender to the authorities are reportedly arrested and held as political prisoners after their "re-education" regimen is completed. A woman farmer from Svay Rieng province in eastern Kampuchea said that after she surrendered in 1983 and admitted prior contact with opposition groups, she was given "three days of political instruction". Two months later, she testified, "I received a letter from the authorities telling me to come to work, but when I reported for work, I was jailed." □

Legal concerns and the death penalty

Although the PRK administration has jailed thousands of political prisoners since 1979, its official news media have reported only seven political trials involving 66 defendants during this period.

AI is concerned that political prisoners in the PRK are denied the right to fair and prompt trials. Former prisoners and security agents interviewed by AI have testified that almost all political detainees were neither clearly informed of the accusations against them nor formally charged.

AI is concerned that the PRK judicial system may not meet international standards requiring that courts be independent and impartial. To its knowledge, no political trial in the PRK has resulted in a defendant's acquittal.

The PRK's Decree-law No.1, promulgated in May 1980, stated that Revolutionary People's Tribunals had a duty to support the government politically by participating "in the defence of the revolutionary state power".

A new law on judicial organization passed by the PRK National Assembly in 1982 restates the political goals of the judicial system: tribunals are "to strengthen national independence and guarantee construction of the motherland and to advance step by step to socialism". PRK political bodies apparently appoint court officials, at least in part, on the basis of their loyalty to the administration's current policies and goals. PRK law is not known to require court officials to function independently or impartially.

AI's information, which includes reports from former PRK security officers and the state news media, suggests that innocence or guilt in political trials is decided outside the courtroom. Trials are apparently used to exhibit the predetermined guilt of defendants and to publicize sentences. Insofar as this is the case, the fundamental right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty is not upheld. There appears to be a lack of respect for the duty of all public authorities to refrain from prejudging the outcome of political trials.

Although the law passed by the National Assembly in 1982 guarantees the right to legal defence, lawyers permitted to serve as defence counsel must be authorized by PRK political bodies charged with promoting government policies. Such provisions could deny defendants the right to a lawyer of their choice, in violation of international legal norms.

While permitting any party "unwilling to accept the verdict" to appeal to a higher authority, the 1982 law does not specify that the authority must be a judicial body. AI knows of no political cases in which a defendant has been allowed to appeal to a higher tribunal, as is required by international fair trial standards.

According to AI's information, PRK tribunals have sentenced five defendants to death since 1979 under laws prohibiting genocide or treason. All were sentenced

Former PRK officials have told AI that the security bodies which arrest and interrogate political suspects and administer detention centres in which they are held also decide on their guilt or innocence, even if they are brought before people's tribunals in judicial proceedings. A former police officer in Batdambang province, who left the country in 1984, said that in political cases the provincial police itself made "the decisions to send the person to prison". He added that "a really big case" could be "sent to tribunal" but that in such cases, "the tribunal does not have the right to reject the judgment of the interrogators. It only pronounces the sentence."

after trials which apparently lacked internationally recognized safeguards for ensuring fairness. Not one is known to have been allowed to appeal a conviction or sentence to a higher tribunal. Available information indicates that three of the defendants were sentenced to death *in absentia* and another was executed but the fate of the fifth, sentenced in October 1986, is not known.

AI opposes the death penalty without reservation as a violation of the rights to life and to freedom from cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment. According to international legal standards, a death sentence carried out without the right of appeal is an arbitrary or summary execution and thus a violation of the right to life. □

Human rights violations by the Democratic Kampuchea Coalition

In addition to human rights violations committed in Kampuchea by PRK and Vietnamese authorities, AI is concerned about political killings, torture, and arbitrary arrest and detention attributed by former detainees and other sources to parties of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea.

The United Nations has recognized only Democratic Kampuchea since 1976, and officials of the Coalition represent Kampuchea at the UN. Each of the three parties to the Coalition has its own army and its own administrative structure and foreign relations program. Each party also continues armed opposition to the PRK administration and the Vietnamese presence in Kampuchea, and each administers Kampuchean living in refugee camps in Thailand.

AI has information on three detention centres operated by the *Partie* of Democratic Kampuchea, one of the parties to the Coalition. Former prisoners have testified that some prisoners held in these centres are detained arbitrarily, shackled and forced to work in life-threatening conditions. AI has received reports that *Partie* troops have extrajudicially executed Kampuchean living in camps under *Partie* administration. Since 1985 official *Partie* broadcasts have frequently claimed that *Partie* army

units killed non-combatant Vietnamese and other foreign advisors and non-combatant PRK officials during offensive operations in Kampuchea.

AI has identified two prisons run by the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), another party to the Coalition. Military and civil agents of the KPNLF have reportedly executed political and other prisoners at the centres, sometimes bludgeoning them to death with nail-studded staves. AI has received reports that female refugees have been raped and beaten at military camps administered by the KPNLF, and that some died as a result of injuries inflicted by military personnel.

Limitations on its access to Kampuchean camps have prevented AI from obtaining reliable human rights data on areas administered by the third party to the Coalition, the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia (FUNCINPEC). □

AI's concerns in Kampuchea from 1975 to 1979

AI's current work to protect human rights in Kampuchea follows more than a decade of research and appeals to government authorities on behalf of Kampuchean victims of human rights violations. The organization communicated its serious concerns to the Government of Democratic Kampuchea throughout that government's tenure in Phnum Penh from 1975 to 1979.

During those years AI also published information about widespread killings and torture by authorities of the Democratic Kampuchea Government. The evidence indicates that administration policies and practices from 1975 to 1979 resulted in the deaths of between one and two million of Kampuchea's approximately seven to eight million citizens.

After the PRK Government was established in Phnum Penh in 1979, AI continued to document the gross violations that had occurred under the previous administration.

Extrajudicial execution and torture are crimes, recognized as such under international law. According to international standards, such crimes should be thoroughly

investigated by the authorities of the country where they occurred. The standards also require those responsible for the crimes to be brought to justice and that victims or their dependants receive compensation. If there is evidence that individuals now under the jurisdiction of other governments are responsible for such crimes, these governments may extradite them to countries where they will be brought to justice. Otherwise, according to international law, they should try them with respect for international norms for fair trial. □

■ The above text is taken from *Kampuchea: Political Imprisonment and Torture*, published by AI on 3 June 1987.

TURKEY

Iranian refugees summarily returned from Turkey

In a press release issued on 27 May AI said that hundreds of Iranian refugees were being sent back to Iran from Turkey before their claims for asylum had been examined.

AI said that in the past six months alone it had received reports of about 400 Iranians being returned without their claims for asylum being examined by the authorities or by representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Most were summarily returned at the border. Others, AI believes, are being returned from camps in the border area. Some of these have asylum claims pending.

AI believes that some of those returned are at risk of torture, execution or imprisonment as prisoners of conscience in Iran. Since 1979 hundreds of thousands of Iranians have found refuge in Turkey on their way to resettlement in third countries. AI has urged the Turkish Government to ensure that asylum seekers with a

LIBYA

Assassination attempt abroad

Ezzedin Ghadamsi, a former Libyan official, was shot and wounded in Vienna on 20 May. There had been an earlier attempt on his life on 28 February 1985, also in Vienna.

Ezzedin Ghadamsi, who is in his forties, became Libyan Ambassador to Austria in 1971. He left his post in 1980 but did not return to Libya, living mostly in Vienna. He is reported to have since criticized the Libyan authorities. AI fears that this second attempt on his life may be another example of the official policy of "physical liquidation" of Libyan political opponents in force since 1980.

SYRIA

Death in custody

On 27 May AI appealed to President Hafez al-Assad for clarification of reports that Hashem Wafa'i, a 61-year-old Syrian from Homs, had died in custody seven months after his arrest. A former bank manager and advisor to the Council of Ministers, Hashem Wafa'i was reportedly arrested in September 1986 after voicing criticism of corruption in the government administration on a television program. He is said to have died in custody on 4 April. He was married and had four children. □

well-founded fear of persecution in Iran are not returned there.

AI is particularly concerned by reports that at least 10 Iranians were sent back to Iran despite the fact that they had been recognized by UNHCR as refugees under its mandate.

In one case, Turkish border police handed over six Kurdish men to Iranian security personnel in late November 1986. They were said to be members of Kurdish political groups illegal in Iran. AI fears for their safety.

In recent years AI has also learned of Iranian asylum seekers being summarily returned from Pakistan and from the United Arab Emirates. It has called on all states not to send Iranian refugees at risk of human rights abuse in Iran to these countries without assurances that they will not be forcibly returned to Iran. □

GUINEA

Secret trials and death sentences

Fifty-eight people have been sentenced to death after a series of secret trials in Guinea, according to an official announcement on 5 May.

Twenty-one of them were sentenced *in absentia*. Another 133 were given prison sentences and 140 were acquitted.

Among those sentenced to death are relatives of the late President Ahmed Sékou Touré, former officials of his government, senior members of the armed forces (whose identities have not been revealed) accused of leading an attempted coup in July 1985.

The authorities have not disclosed the charges against any of those convicted but have described them as "supporters of Sékou Touré".

AI is particularly concerned because the trials were both secret and summary and because those convicted have no right of appeal.

Earlier reports had led to fears that some of those convicted had been executed extrajudicially, in secret, after the coup attempt. AI is now trying to find out the position of those sentenced to death. Appeals have been sent by AI and other organizations calling on President Lansana Conté to commute the sentences. □

BURUNDI

Restrictions on Christians

Three Roman Catholic priests are in custody and further restrictions have been announced on the Roman Catholic Church in Burundi.

AI has appealed for the priests' release and that of other members of Christian churches and government critics imprisoned for their non-violent opposition.

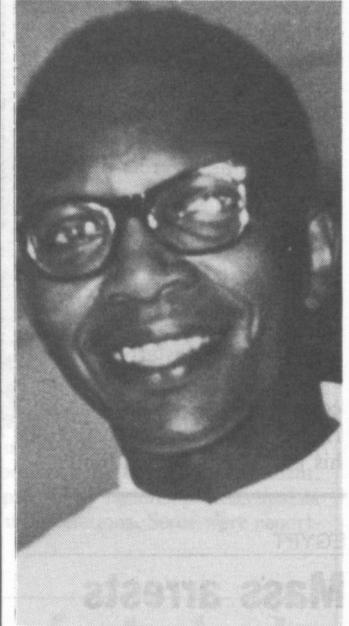
One of the three priests, Father Jean-Baptiste Ndikuriyo, who had been freed at the end of March after three months' detention, was rearrested less than two weeks later. He had thanked his congregation during a religious service for praying for his release. The two other priests were arrested at the same time.

Another priest released in late March was Father Gabriel Barakana, former Rector of Burundi's national university. He had been arrested in mid-1985 and convicted of insulting the President after he helped to prepare a letter which compared Burundi's government to Satan. Four others convicted with him are still in prison (see *AI Newsletter* September 1986).

In recent months, AI has appealed for the release of members of the Roman Catholic Church — the country's largest single denomination — and Jehovah's Witnesses, imprisoned for criticizing or defying the government's restrictions on religious activities. These include a ban on all church services during the work-

ing week and the prohibition of all services in private houses.

AI has also appealed for the release of members of the country's majority Hutu community



Father Gabriel Barakana

arrested for opposing the rule of the mainly Tutsi government. They include 10 teachers who were arrested apparently for protesting at discrimination in the school system against Hutu pupils. □

LEBANON

Executions of prisoners

Executions of prisoners led AI to write to the heads of each of the three main militias in Lebanon—the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), the Lebanese Forces (LF) and Amal.

In May AI asked Nabih Berri, leader of Amal, about reports that Amal guards had killed a number of Palestinian detainees in a prison near Tyre on 4 and 23 December; that a prisoner had been tortured to death on 23 December; that Amal militia had entered Palestinian homes in West Beirut, dragged the inhabitants outside and shot at least 20 of them dead; and that Amal militia had arrested several Palestinians whose bullet-ridden or mutilated corpses were later found in the street—among them 'Issa Kablawi, Maarouf Mourad and Nabil Ahmad Maarouf from West Beirut.

In April AI wrote to Dr Samir Geagea, Head of the Council of the LF. Reports said that between 60 and 65 people had been summarily executed and about 250 people arrested by the LF follow-

ing fighting in East Beirut on 27 September 1986, when forces led by Elie Hobeika attempted to regain control of the leadership of the LF and oust Dr Geagea.

A mass grave was subsequently found at Kfar Habab and at least 30 bodies were reportedly recovered from the sea. AI also asked what had happened to 49 people associated with Elie Hobeika who had been missing since 27 September.

In April AI urged Walid Jumblatt, head of the PSP, to commute death sentences against nine people from the Shouf district accused of murder.

In its appeals to the three militias AI pointed to international human rights standards which prohibit the torture and deliberate killing of prisoners even in times of armed conflict. □

NAMIBIA

New evidence of torture

New evidence of torture in Namibia emerged recently at a political trial in the Windhoek Supreme Court. Security police officers admitted under cross-examination that they had subjected political detainees to violent assaults in order to obtain confessions.

The disclosures were made in February and March 1987 during the trial of two alleged members of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) and six civilians accused of helping them. The eight had all been arrested by South African police and military personnel, at different times and in different places. They had then been held incommunicado and in solitary confinement in a variety of special interrogation centres.

One of the accused, Andreas Johnny Heita, had been shot in the arm when he was arrested. That evening, a captain in the police counter-insurgency unit, COIN, ripped an intravenous drip from his arm and assaulted him.

The captain and two other COIN officers all admitted in court that Andreas Heita had been beaten with a hosepipe, knocked to the ground and seriously assaulted. Andreas Heita took off his shirt in court: the scars on his back, shoulders and head are permanent.

The COIN officers also admitted assaulting two other defen-



Andreas Heita. Security police officers admitted beating him. The scars on his back are permanent.

dants, but denied using electric shocks on Andreas Heita.

They reportedly said they believed it was necessary to use "maximum violence" to get "satisfactory information" from detainees. One was reported to have said in court: "It was all right to do whatever you wanted to detainees as long as you did not unnecessarily kill them."

Following these admissions by the interrogating officers, the prosecution withdrew the confession statements.

There is a long history of torture of political detainees in Namibia: most of the victims have been held under security laws permitting indefinite incommunicado detention for interrogation.

In an earlier case in which four South African soldiers were accused of torturing a Namibian to death, the South African State President intervened to prevent a trial, on the grounds that the soldiers responsible had acted "in good faith." □

Prisoner News

AI learned in May 1987 of the release of 71 prisoners under adoption or investigation. AI took up 133 cases.

EGYPT

Mass arrests

The Egyptian authorities have arrested large numbers of people, particularly supporters of various Islamic groups, under state of emergency legislation.

Hundreds of political activists were detained immediately before the People's Assembly elections on 6 April. Most of those arrested were said to be supporters of the electoral alliance between the Muslim Brotherhood, the Socialist Labour Party and the Liberal Party. On 8 April AI asked the government how many people had been arrested, and who they were.

On 1 June AI wrote to the government again after thousands of alleged supporters of Islamic groups were detained following an assassination attempt on former Minister of the Interior, Hassan Abu Basha, on 11 May.

In both letters AI sought assurances that all the detainees were being adequately protected from the risk of torture and ill-treatment. It called for those held solely for the non-violent expression of their political beliefs to be immediately and unconditionally released.

Some critics of government policy have been imprisoned for periods amounting to several years without having been found guilty of any offence, by being subjected repeatedly to short-term detention under state of emergency legislation. □

South Korea: Torture cover-up exposed

Headlines tell story of one week's furore over student's torture death

Controversy over police involvement in a student's death under torture seized the headlines in South Korea's newspapers day after day for a week in May.

Twenty-one-year-old Park Chong-chol died in the custody of the Anti-Communist Bureau of the National Police on 14 January. Shortly after two police officers were arrested and charged with torturing him to death and the Minister of Home Affairs and the Head of the National Police resigned.

In May the case hit the headlines again when fresh evidence came to light of a police cover-up and three more police officers were arrested for taking part in the torture. On 23 May President Chun Doo-hwan ordered a "thorough" investigation; on 26 May the Premier and Justice Minister together with the Minister of Home Affairs and the Head of the National Security Police were removed from office; on 27

THE KOREA TIMES

- Sun: Chun Directs Thorough Probe of Torture Death
- Tues: 3 Senior Police Officers May Face Arrest Today
- Wed: Premier, Head of NSP Replaced
- Thur: Prosecutor General's Office Begins To Reinvestigate Cover-up Scheme
- Fri: High-Ranking Policemen Found Directly Involved in Cover-up
- Sat: Senior Supt.-Gen. Park, 2 Police Officers Arrested for Cover-up



May the Prosecutor General's Office announced that it had taken over the investigation; and on 29 May three senior police officers were arrested for their part in shielding the torturers of Park Chong-chol. □

ARGENTINA

'Disappeared' children in Paraguay

AI has asked the Paraguayan authorities to help Argentine courts trace two "disappeared" children from Argentina.

The children, a boy and a girl, were born in 1976 and 1977 in the Campo de Mayo military hospi-



tal in Argentina, where there was a secret detention centre for pregnant women. They were allegedly stolen at birth by an army doctor, Major Norberto Bianco, who registered them as his own. Their real mothers "disappeared".

Major Bianco and his wife apparently took the children to Paraguay when an Argentine

court ordered genetic tests to determine the children's identities. There are now warrants for the arrest of the couple.

The boy is believed to be the son of Silvia Quintela Dallasta, who was abducted in Buenos Aires in January 1977 when she was nearly four months pregnant. All AI knows about the girl is that she is known as Carolina Susana. □

CUBA

POC released

Prisoner of conscience Elizardo Sánchez Santa Cruz was released, reportedly for "humanitarian reasons" on 26 May. He is Vice-President of the unofficial Cuban Committee for Human Rights and had been held without charge by the State Security Police at their Havana headquarters since 26 September 1986, except for a brief period in October when he was transferred to the Military Hospital after a hunger-strike. □