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newsletter

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SIERRA LEONE EXECUTES EIGHT

AI protested to Sierra Leone on 23 July at the execution of eight persons convicted of alleged conspiracy to overthrow the government of President SIAKA P. STEVENS by force.

In a cable to President Stevens, Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS expressed *AI*'s "profound shock and dismay" at the execution of the eight. They included former Minister of Finance MOHAMED FORNA, who resigned from the Stevens government in 1970, and former Brigadier DAVID LANSANA, who had previously been sentenced to death in a 1970 treason trial but was subsequently pardoned and released.

The executions, which took place on 19 July, were the sequel to a major treason trial last autumn and a court martial in January and February this year. Both trials concerned an alleged anti-government plot that culminated in July 1974 with explosions at the Freetown residence of then Minister of Finance C.A. KAMARA-TAYLOR (December 1974 *Newsletter*) who has just been named Prime Minister of Sierra Leone.

Fifteen persons were sentenced to death before the civilian court and seven before the court martial. One civilian subsequently won his appeal against the death sentence and was freed. Of the remaining 21, 13 reportedly have had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment by President Stevens.

"These executions add to the shameful increase in the use of capital punishment in Africa," *AI* said in a statement. "In recent months sentences of death for political offences have been passed on Africans in Somalia, Rhodesia, Dahomey and Sierra Leone. Yet the international silence that has greeted these sentences is in stark contrast to the worldwide publicity given a few weeks ago to the case of Denis Hills, the British lecturer sentenced to death in Uganda." (see page 4)

AI SEEKS RELEASE OF THOUSANDS DETAINED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL mounted an urgent action campaign in July in an attempt to help the estimated 6,000 persons detained in India following the emergency declared by Prime Minister INDIRA GANDHI's government.

AI national sections sent letters and telegrams to the government expressing concern at the round-up of alleged opponents of the regime and at the unprecedented suspension of fundamental human rights guaranteed in the Indian constitution. At the same time leading officials of the sections visited Indian embassies in their countries to deliver first-hand messages calling for the release of the detainees.

The emergency, declared on 26 June, was followed by the imposition of censorship, the arrest of such prominent opposition leaders as JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN and MORARJI DESAI, the expulsion of a number of foreign journalists and the banning of 26 leftwing and rightwing opposition groups.

The arrests, which have continued daily, followed growing

public protests in India calling on Mrs Gandhi to resign pending her appeal before the Supreme Court against her conviction on 12 June on a charge of election malpractice.

On 27 June, *AI* Deputy Secretary General HANS EHRENSTRALE cabled Mrs Gandhi urging her to take immediate steps to free all those arrested. Mr Ehrenstrale said the arrests "constitute a departure from the longstanding traditions of democracy in India".

Mr Ehrenstrale also urged that medical care be provided for Mr Narayan, who suffers from heart disease, diabetes and a kidney infection. Mr Narayan, a follower of Mahatma Gandhi, was later moved from prison to Chandigarh Hospital.

Also on 27 June, *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS called on the Indian High Commissioner in London, B.K. NEHRU, to discuss the arrests and the imposition of total censorship.

Most of those arrested are held under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, under which they can be detained for periods of up to 24 months.

VIGILANTES IN HONDURAS MURDER PEASANT LAND REFORM LEADERS

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to President ALBERTO MELGAR CASTRO of Honduras on 8 July expressing concern at the assassination by vigilante groups and hired assassins of leaders and sympathizers of militant peasant federations pressing for application of the agrarian reform law passed last January.

On 14 July the bodies of two priests who "disappeared" on 25 June, as well as the bodies of five other persons, including two women, were uncovered in the city of Juticalpa, capital of Olancho Department in northeastern Honduras, after investigators of the military government brought in earth-moving equipment.

Juticalpa was the scene on 24 June of an attack by army units and armed cattle ranchers on the local headquarters of the *Unión Nacional Campesina* (UNC), during which five persons, including one soldier, were killed and a number wounded. Many persons were detained after the assault. In his letter, Mr Ennals voiced concern at the detentions and at the killings and disappearances related to the attack. He asked the President for a full inquiry into the incident.

Among those arrested after the attack were the two priests whose bodies were later found buried in Juticalpa and who were known to be sympathetic to the peasant cause: Father JEROME CYPHER, a 65-year-old American known locally as Padre Casimiro, and Father IVAN BETANCOURT, who was a Colombian.

In a statement on 30 June decrying the violence, the arrest and subsequent "disappearance" of the two priests and the expulsion from the department of three other pro-peasant priests, the Archbishop of Honduras, Monsignor SANTOS, said the priests had been accused of "initiating rebellion". Father Casimiro reportedly was stripped and beaten and led away in his underwear. The army later issued a statement alleging that while being transferred for interrogation with five other prisoners, Father Casimiro "escaped with the other accused". Military spokesmen later said that two ranchers and three military officers, including the ex-head of the armed forces in the department had been charged with complicity in the killings.

According to UNC and other sources in Honduras, more than 200 rural trade unionists have been imprisoned in recent months by local courts acting under pressure from landowners (who dominate most facets of rural society). The sources allege that peasant activists are often charged with actions unrelated to trade union work—for example, theft—and convicted on the basis of false testimony by landlords and their employees.

AI REPORT URGES END TO UNTRIED DETENTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

An *AI* report published on 7 July urged the abolition of detention without trial in Northern Ireland and recommended the reinforcement of the legal rights of arrested persons and improvement in the conditions in which detainees are held.

The report by Dr ALFRED HEIJDER, an eminent Dutch lawyer and member of *AI*'s International Executive Committee, who visited Belfast last October to examine the working of the 1973 Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act, was published to coincide with the committee stage in the debate in the British Parliament on an amendment bill. The bill is based on the recommendations of a special committee set up under LORD GARDINER which last November examined the question of the legal rights of persons detained without trial in Northern Ireland.

Dr Heijder, Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Amsterdam, submitted his report to the Gardiner committee. Among his recommendations were that:

- detention without trial should be abolished.
- written statements or confessions should not be accepted as evidence unless made in the presence of a lawyer chosen by the arrested person.
- detained persons should be allowed prompt access to a lawyer of their choice and that the courts set up under the Emergency Provisions Act (the so-called Diplock Courts) should be restructured so that instead of the courts consisting of one judge sitting alone, there be three judges or a judge and two lay assessors.
- conditions at the Maze prison, where most of the detainees are held, should be brought into line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and that a complaints machinery be established to look into all complaints against the police and army.

"We very much regret that Professor Heijder's recommendations are not included in this bill," *AI* said in a statement. "As it stands, the bill reinforces the powers of the security forces in Northern Ireland, increasing to an unacceptable extent the already unusual discretionary powers at their disposal. In light of repeated statements by the United Kingdom government that the rate of release of detainees depends on the prevailing political circumstances, the present detainees have, in fact, become hostages to the will of others."

USSR DROPS RUDENKO CHARGES

The Soviet Union has dropped all charges against MIKOLA RUDENKO, the 56-year-old science fiction writer and member of *AI*'s Moscow group, according to information reaching the International Secretariat in July.

The reports said that the authorities had also returned some of the material confiscated from Mr Rudenko when he was arrested in Kiev on 18 April and held for two days by the KGB. Mr Rudenko, who had been charged with "anti-Soviet slander", was subsequently expelled from the Union of Soviet Writers of the Ukraine (July Newsletter).

There has been no further news, however, of two other detained members of the *AI* Moscow group: physicist ANDREI TVERDOKHLEBOV, the group secretary who was also detained on 18 April, and biologist SERGEI KOVALYOV, arrested last December. But the secretariat in London understands that the

Moscow group is still functioning and carrying on work for its adopted prisoners in Spain, Yugoslavia and Sri Lanka.

DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS SIX AFRICAN NATIONS

AI Deputy Secretary General HANS EHRENSTRALE left London on 10 July at the start of a mission to West Africa which will take him to Chad, Cameroun, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mali and Congo.

Mr Ehrenstrale was to speak to government officials in the first five of the abovementioned countries as a follow-up to the *AI* campaigns for general amnesties in those states which took place between November 1974 and last March.

AI Mission Visits North and South Yemen

JOHN PLATTS-MILLS, an English lawyer, visited the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen from 23 May to 2 June, as *AI*'s official delegate, for talks with government officials. Mr Platts-Mills was accompanied by the researcher for the Middle East, KATRINA MORTIMER.

In the Yemen Arab Republic, Mr Platts-Mills met with a number of leading officials, including the Head of State, Colonel IBRAHIM AL HAMDI, Prime Minister ABDUL AZIZ ABDUL GHANI and Minister of Foreign Affairs ABDULLAH AL ASNAG, to discuss *AI*'s aims and working methods. At *AI*'s request, the President said his country would ratify the 1966 United Nations Covenants on Human Rights and support the proposal at the next meeting of the UN General Assembly to prohibit torture. The delegates visited three prisons in Sanaa and later discussed prison conditions, political imprisonment and the country's legal system with Minister of the Interior YAHYA AL MUTAWAKKIL.

In the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the two delegates met with President SALEM RUBIA ALI and officials from the Ministries of the Interior, Foreign Affairs and Justice. They also met and talked to 12 political detainees in Al Mansura prison in Aden, including several adopted by *AI*. They also had long discussions with a Ministry of Interior official and with the Director of Prisons, ALI MUQBIL, about political imprisonment, detention without trial, prison conditions and the problem of missing persons.

King Asked to Free Prisoners in Morocco

AI urged KING HASSAN II of Morocco to mark his 46th birthday on 9 July by declaring a general amnesty for all political prisoners in the country. In a letter to the King, Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS asked for the amnesty "in furtherance of the spirit of national unity" which the royal government has been fostering for the past year in the wake of Morocco's territorial dispute with Spain over Spanish Sahara.

An *AI* statement said the organization has been concerned for the past five years at the suppression of human rights in Morocco. Major political trials in Marrakesh in 1971 and in Casablanca and Kenitra in 1973 saw the sentencing of leftwing activists to severe prison terms. *AI* observers who attended the trials denounced the torture inflicted on the accused and the obstacles placed in the path of defence lawyers.

In spite of releases earlier this year, several hundred people remain in prison in Morocco for political reasons. *AI* itself has 120 individual cases on file but believes this is only a fraction of the true total.

Wave of Arrests in Dominican Republic

AI has strongly criticized the current wave of arrests in the Dominican Republic, describing it as a government attempt to stifle dissent in the country. Hundreds of people, among them prominent politicians and trade unionists, have been detained

Prisoners of the Month Campaign

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

Pollant Jabavu MPOFU, Rhodesia

POLLANT JABAVU MPOFU, General Secretary of the Agricultural and Plantation Workers' Union and a prominent member of the African National Council (ANC), was detained in terms of the Emergency Powers (Maintenance of Law and Order) Regulations in July 1973. Apart from being one of Rhodesia's leading trade unionists, he was Deputy Secretary for Culture, Arts and Science on the National Executive of the ANC at the time of his arrest. He has been neither charged nor brought to trial.

Although some 80 political detainees were released as a result of the short-lived agreement signed in Lusaka, Zambia, in December 1974, between the ruling Rhodesia Front government of Ian Smith and the ANC led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Pollant Jabavu Mpofo continues to be detained at Wha Wha Prison, Gwelo.

Pollant Jabavu Mpofo has been troubled by poor health for several years and has had to undergo hospital treatment during the period of his present detention. However, while his poor health was sufficient to cause an earlier detention order to be lifted—in 1965—the Smith government has ignored more recent appeals for his release on medical grounds.

Pollant Jabavu Mpofo is married and is the father of seven children. His home is in Salisbury.
Please send courteously worded appeals for his release to:
The Hon. Ian Smith, Prime Minister, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

Vasili RASCOL, Romania

VASIL RASCOL is a minister of the Pentecostal Christian sect, 36 years old and married with two children. He was imprisoned in May 1974 and sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment in July the same year for distributing religious literature and bibles brought to Romania by a Christian friend from the West. He was sentenced on the basis of the new press law, passed in March 1974, which declared that it is illegal for a Romanian citizen to possess and disseminate literature received from abroad without official permission. Because the law does not stipulate any particular type of literature, any reference to religion by the court officials was avoided so that, on the record, there is no evidence of religious persecution.

However, nine leading Christians of different denominations sent a written protest to the authorities. Despite the protest the trial went ahead and several believers attended. According to eyewitnesses, Mr Rascol, after refusing an official defence attorney, was not permitted a personal defence lawyer of his own choice. Three important witnesses were not present at the trial, and Mr Rascol himself was not allowed to testify. The 2 year sentence which he received is

the maximum penalty under the new law.

The prosecution of Mr Rascol must be regarded as a violation of the principles set out in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (articles 18 and 19) and the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (articles 18 and 19) which was ratified by Romania on 28 October 1974.

Please send courteously worded cards appealing for his release to: His Excellency Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Bucuresti, Romania.

SOH Joon-shik, South Korea

SOH JOON-SHIK, aged 27, is the younger of the two Soh brothers, who have just completed their fourth year in a South Korean prison following a widely-publicized trial for "espionage activities".

The two brothers, both students at the time of their arrest, are Koreans born in Japan who, in 1967 and 1968 respectively, went to further their studies at Seoul University. In April 1971 they were arrested on charges of having led a spy-ring for the North Koreans. Forty-nine others were arrested at the same time. This was a few days after massive student riots had taken place in South Korea.

Since the conviction of the brothers is known to have rested on very slight evidence and since the major "proof" of guilt was afforded by "confessions" which Soh Joon-shik stated at his trial to have been extracted under torture, Amnesty International has adopted both cases as prisoners of conscience. The brothers' origins and the timing of the proceedings correspond to a recognizable pattern in Korean political trials. Such trials are frequently intended as a distinct warning to student groups and to overseas Koreans, two of the most potent sources of criticism of the present regime of President Park Chung-hee.

Repeated allegations of torture of the two brothers have recently gained added weight following a meeting between Soh Joon-shik and a member of the Japanese Diet, the Reverend Sekikazu Nishimura, during which Mr Soh cited instances of torture and other forms of ill-treatment which he claimed had been inflicted on large numbers of political prisoners. He is currently held in solitary confinement and denied visits, gifts and reading matter, in violation of the Penal Administration Law. His health, like that of his brother Soh Sung, who was severely burned in an apparent suicide attempt to evade torture, is not good.

Please send diplomatic and courteous letters appealing for the release or open re-trial of Soh Joon-shik and his brother to: President Park Chung-hee, The Blue House, Chongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea; *and to:* Mr Hwang San-dok, Minister of Justice, Seoul, Republic of Korea; *and to:* Mr Yi Pyong-hui, Presidential Special Assistant for Political Affairs, Office of the President, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

in the round-up, which was part of a security operation in the hills around San Jose de Ocoa following, according to the government's claim, the landing of "a guerrilla force of three persons" there. One was alleged to be Claudio Caamaño, who had previously been involved in the unsuccessful attack on Playa Caracoles in February 1973.

"No guerrillas have been found in the Ocoa area, nor has any evidence been produced by the government of the Dominican Republic to support any claim of their existence," *AI* said in a statement on 26 June. *AI* said it believed the guerrilla scare was being used by the government as a pretext for stifling

opposition and dissent in the country. Estimates of the numbers detained since 4 June vary between 300 and 1,000.

Conditional Taiwan Amnesty Frees 3,600

On 14 July, Taiwan released about 3,600 prisoners whose sentences were commuted in memory of the late President CHIANG KAI-SHEK (*July Newsletter*). Most of those freed were common law criminals. Reports said that an additional number of 4,000 will also have their sentences reduced by one-third to one-half.

The number and names of political prisoners affected by the amnesty have not been announced. The only known *AI* prisoner

of conscience reported released is ALBERT YUAN, a former Agence France Presse correspondent who was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in 1963 and had already served 12 of them.

On 1 July, *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to Prime Minister CHIANG CHING-KUO welcoming the act of clemency but urging him to apply the measure unconditionally and release all prisoners of conscience.

20 Sentenced in Lesotho Treason Trial

Twenty members of the Basutoland Congress Party (BCP), Lesotho's main opposition party, received jail sentences on 11 July at the end of the country's second major treason trial within a year. Sentences ranging from 3 to 7 years were imposed upon 19 of those convicted, while TUMI SELATA, the oldest defendant at 65, received a token sentence of one day's imprisonment. Eleven other defendants were acquitted during the course of the trial, and charges against a further 18 were withdrawn shortly before the trial was due to commence on 9 July (*July Newsletter*).

A total of 40 BCP members have now been jailed for their part in the attempt in January 1974 to overthrow the ruling National Party government of Chief LEABUA JONATHAN.

Bolivia Detains Trade Unionists and Nuns

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS cabled President HUGO BANZER SUAREZ of Bolivia on 17 July to express *AI*'s concern at the detention of more than 30 trade unionists and supporters, including three nuns, accused of taking part in a "subversive plot". They were arrested while attending a clandestine meeting in the southern city of Oruro and include the principal leadership of the banned *Central Obrera Boliviana* (COB), the major Bolivian labour federation.

The arrests follow the imposition of rigid limits to the freedom of association through the promulgation of a number of decree laws in November 1974. Principal among these was Decree Law Number 11949 which declared all labour and professional associations and all political parties in indefinite "recess".

Mr Ennals noted that the detention of the COB leaders was in direct contradiction to international norms regarding trade union rights and the freedom of association. He requested the derogation of decrees banning political and trade union activity.

Gabon Jails Four Detainees for 8 Years

Four of nine persons whose cases were under investigation by *AI* in Gabon were jailed for 8 years after a three-day trial that ended on 2 July. The nine were among a group of detainees held on political charges since the summer of 1972. Among those sentenced was the prominent Gabonese lawyer JEAN LOUIS OKAWA AGONDJO. The remaining prisoners reportedly were released after the trial.

During February 1975, *AI* mounted a special campaign to urge the government to amnesty this group of prisoners (*March Newsletter*). President OMAR BONGO did announce a presidential amnesty for 200 prisoners on 13 May, but it is still not clear whether those released then were all criminal prisoners or if they included persons sentenced for political crimes.

PRISONER RELEASES AND CASES

The International Secretariat learned in June of the release of 360 *AI*-adopted prisoners and took up 148 new cases.

South Africa Prepares New Indictments

SULAIMAN ISMAIL and SIVALINGHAM MOODLEY, two of the 13 members of the South African Students Organization and the Black Peoples' Convention on trial in Pretoria, South

Africa, under the Terrorism Act following their attempt last year to hold a rally in support of the Mozambique liberation movement Frelimo, were freed on 23 June in a move by the prosecution to forestall a defence motion to quash the charges against all the defendants. The prosecution announced it was preparing new indictments against the remaining 11 defendants and that there would be separate trials

UN CONGRESS IN TROUBLE

Under pressure to refuse entry to observers from the Palestine Liberation Organization (granted observer status by the United Nations General Assembly last year), the Canadian government has asked for substantial postponement of the Fifth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, scheduled to be held 1-12 September in Toronto. The UN secretariat is now considering the possibility of holding the congress in another country.

In a message to UN Secretary General KURT WALDHEIM in July, *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS pointed out that postponement of the congress would mean serious delay for the implementation of vital proposals regarding the prevention of torture (*June CAT Bulletin*). He urged that the congress be held on the same dates at another venue.

AI News in Brief

Partial Amnesty for Prisoners in Egypt President ANWAR SADAT of Egypt ordered a partial amnesty for political prisoners on 6 July. The amnesty applies to those who were convicted of political crimes or deprived of constitutional rights before 15 May 1971 and is estimated to affect 3,000 people.

In a cable to President Sadat welcoming the announcement, *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS urged that the amnesty be applied to all remaining political prisoners in Egypt.

Uganda Releases Condemned Briton British lecturer DENIS HILLS, who was arrested in Uganda on 1 April and subsequently sentenced to death by a military tribunal on 11 June (*July Newsletter*), was freed from prison in Kampala on 10 July and allowed to fly to Britain with British Foreign Secretary JAMES CALLAGHAN.

Appeals to President IDI AMIN of Uganda to spare Mr Hills' life came from numerous European and African states, and *AI* had urged prominent African statesmen to intervene in the matter on humanitarian grounds. President Amin agreed to free Mr Hills after mediation by President MOBUTU SESE SEKO of Zaire.

Guinea Allows 18 Frenchmen to Leave On 15 July, 18 French citizens who had been detained in Guinea since November 1970 were released and allowed to return to France. The men had been imprisoned after an armed attack on the Guinean capital of Conakry, apparently launched by dissidents with probable support of the then Portuguese government. The releases were one result of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Guinea and France which were broken off in November 1965.

In January 1974, *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS appealed to President AHMED SEKOU TOURE of Guinea for the release of the men on humanitarian grounds.

IEC Discusses Future Development of AI *AI*'s International Executive Committee devoted a full day to discussing the development of *AI* work in Africa, Asia and Latin America when it met in London 4-7 July. *AI*'s field secretaries and researchers for the areas took part in the discussions, and proposals will be made to the International Council meeting in St Gallen, Switzerland, in September, for new approaches to the problems of harnessing support in places where *AI* membership is small at present.

During the four-day meeting (one day longer than usual to allow for the development discussions), the IEC also approved the 1974-75 annual report to be published in September and the report on prison conditions in the Soviet Union which will be published in November.

In addition, the IEC gave careful consideration to mission reports from North and South Yemen (*see page 2*), Portugal and Yugoslavia.



amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture

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'EVER WIDER CIRCLES OF PEACEFUL DISSENT PERSECUTED'

AI ATTACKS VIOLATIONS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS IN URUGUAY

Two years after the military *coup* of 27 June 1973 which led to the dissolution of Congress and the banning of all left-of-center political parties in Uruguay, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has again charged the Uruguayan government with violating basic human rights. The strong attack coincided with the publication on 28 July of a survey of the regime's violent suppression of peaceful political dissent during the past four months, including its widespread use of torture.

The published statement reads in part:

"What up till 1973 was mainly repression of armed opposition has, over the past two years, deteriorated into persecution of ever wider circles of peaceful dissenters, such as leftists and trade unionists. Any criticism of or opposition to the armed forces is labelled as subversion and carries with it arbitrary arrest with total lack of legal safeguards, ill-treatment and torture....Over the past two years, Amnesty International has made numerous personal and written representations to the Uruguayan authorities, in particular regarding the lack of legal safeguards and the regular occurrence of torture, but can only note that those bodies which, within the present administration, are responsible for the rule of law and the protection of the individual citizen against abuses of authority, singularly fail to fulfil their responsibility."

The AI survey documents numerous such abuses, ranging from dismissal of teachers from their jobs on grounds of previous detention, however brief and for whatever reason, to torture that includes beatings all over the body, near drowning ("the submarine"), electric shocks, fake executions and other forms of psychological torture. Recent decrees not only violate Uruguay's constitution but also open a Pandora's box for police and military patrols, which have become accustomed to unrestricted powers of detention and treatment of detainees, who are completely at their mercy.

Among the cases documented is that of PEDRO CRIBARI, who was arrested in May 1975 in Montevideo and tortured for several days in the Sixth Department of the National Directorate of Information and Intelligence. After one of these sessions he was thrown into a room where he witnessed the torture of another detainee who eventually collapsed and died as a result of the "submarine". In the confusion that followed, the torturers considered the possibility of killing the witnesses, but Señor Cribari was able to run up the stairs to the roof terrace, from where he threw himself onto a tree in the street, Calle Maldonada.

Holding onto the branches, he cried out what he and other detainees had suffered, including the murder he had just witnessed. While the public gathered in this central street of Montevideo, he was shot down when he refused to move, and taken to the Military Hospital with a bullet in his stomach. He was transferred to the police headquarters prior to a proper medical clearance, and after a few days incommunicado he was allowed a visit by his wife.

Another documented case is that of WALTER RAMOS, aged 21, who was arrested at dawn on 3 May 1975 at his house in Montevideo, immediately hooded and put into a van. His captors beat him and threatened to kill him, and at one point threw him out of the van, put a revolver to his head and fired three shots in the air. Another official told them not to kill Ramos

"because he was not certain", and he was taken to a military barracks, where he was kept standing, handcuffed, for three days.

When on the third day he was given food for the first time, he was shown a photograph of his wife and told that, at that moment, she was being raped. He tried to attack the official but was too weak. He was then beaten up by five persons and later given electric shocks and the "submarine". A doctor ordered his transfer to the military hospital, where he remained for 11 days, during which time an official interrogated him once more and ended by saying that "everything had been clarified". He was again hooded, put in a van, and after a long ride, set free. At no time did any judicial authority intervene in his case.

The AI survey concludes with an appeal to national and international professional bodies to support and protect their persecuted colleagues in Uruguay—trade unionists, journalists, lawyers, doctors and teachers.

US PSYCHOLOGIST SAYS MILITARY PERSONNEL TRAINED FOR KILLING

A United States psychologist attending a North Atlantic Treaty Organization conference in Oslo in the beginning of July described how selected military personnel are psychologically trained to cope with the stress of killing and claimed that these trainees have included convicted murderers from military prisons. According to the disclosures by Dr THOMAS NARUT of the US Navy Regional Medical Center in Naples, reported in the London *Sunday Times* of 6 July, the assignments of servicemen thus trained included under-cover postings in US embassies.

The training reportedly includes de-sensitizing the trainees to the act of killing by physically forcing them to watch gruesome films, as well as by de-humanizing "the enemy" in the eyes of the trainees through films and lectures in which personalities and customs in "enemy" countries are portrayed in a ridiculing and degrading manner.

The US government categorically denied these allegations, in spite of the many concrete details given by Dr Narut. In a letter to President GERALD FORD, AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS mentioned the numerous allegations that continue to be made of the US engaging in the export of repressive techniques to its allies in the Western and Third World. Mr Ennals raised the question whether the armed services of other countries are sharing in the psychological expertise being developed by the US armed forces for improving counter-insurgency techniques or, as implied in Dr Narut's story, for influencing the course of political events in certain countries. He also pointed to the parallel between the described psychological methods and the type of training that would enable men to torture other human beings, such as the process of de-humanization of the enemy.

APPEALS

Poland Report Alleges Prison Brutality

In a most unusual and authentic report, a former prisoner from the Strzelce Opolskie prison in Poland has publicly described the conditions within the prison where he was kept for 2½ years as a political prisoner until late 1974. The author of the document signed his name to the report and addressed it to the legal commission of the Polish Parliament as well as to international human rights organizations like *AI*.

The report documents serious allegations of overcrowded and insanitary conditions and inadequate food and medical attention. The most disquieting allegations, however, concern the various forms of brutality that are claimed to have been used as means of discipline against prisoners at Strzelce Opolskie.

The allegations include beatings with clubs and jailers' keys, sexual maltreatment, and subjection to a "thermos cell", which is allegedly designed to control sound and temperature. It is further alleged that two years ago two prisoners died because of suffocation in this "thermos cell".

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to Minister of Internal Affairs STANISLAW KOWALCZYK on 16 July to request an official inquiry into these allegations. *Please send courteously worded letters in support of an inquiry, drawing attention to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, to: Dyrektoru Wiezienia (the director of the prison), Ul. Karola Miarki, Strzelce Opolskie, Poland.*

Dr Abbas SHEIBANI, Iran

Dr ABBAS SHEIBANI, a medical doctor, is a long-time—and to the best of *AI*'s knowledge, a non-violent—opponent of the Iranian government who has spent more than 11 years in prison. After his last arrest, in October 1972, he was sentenced to death, but the sentence was not carried out. The last arrest and conviction were for alleged complicity in the murder of a police officer, but *AI* has never been convinced of his participation in this deed.

Dr Sheibani has been outspoken about the use of torture in Iran and was arrested in 1971 because he spoke publicly against torture when the tortured body of a religious leader (AYATALLAH SAIDI KHORASANI, the Imam of Ghiathi Mosque) was returned to his village for final rites. On that occasion he spent six months in prison.

It was alleged in October 1973 that Dr Shaibani was himself tortured. Now it is reported that he is being submitted once again to torture. He was recently transferred from Evine Prison in Teheran to the Comité Prison, also in Teheran. It is reported to *AI* that he is the victim of a policy within the Iranian prisons to force political prisoners to make public statements in support of the government. These statements serve not only as propaganda for the government but also as a means of discrediting the prisoner among his colleagues or supporters.

Please send courteously worded appeals for the humane treatment of Dr Sheibani and for his release to: His Imperial Majesty Shahanshah of Iran, Teheran, Iran; and to: The Director-General, Comité Prison, Teheran, Iran.

ICRC Reports Confirm Torture Allegations

Confidential reports, covering five years of visits and interviews by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to prisoners in South Vietnam, were released by the United States State Department in June, ending a 2½-year lawsuit to force their disclosure. As a matter of policy, the ICRC does not publish its reports but submits them to the government concerned.

The reports, while dispelling some allegations about prisons

TORTURERS CHARGED IN PERU

On 12 June, 12 Peruvian policemen were indicted on charges of having tortured a group of detainees in Lurigancho Prison, Lima. One of the group, TABIAS CARCAMO, a common-law prisoner, testified to having been severely ill-treated and showed the court injuries he had to his neck. He said that other detainees in the same wing of the prison were in a more serious condition and had been transferred to another wing in order to avoid further denunciations.

It was established that the incident took place on 7 June, allegedly in retaliation for the escape of another prisoner. The court ordered an investigation into the alleged abuse of authority.

in Vietnam, confirm some of the worst allegations about torture and prison conditions. Although most of the prisons visited by the ICRC delegates during the period 1968 to 1972 were given satisfactory assessments by the international inspectors, two prisoner of war camps and the prisons at Chi Hoa and Tan Hiep were singled out in the reports because of the frequent use of torture. Ill treatment in these four facilities included shackling, beatings, caging prisoners in very small cells (the so-called "tiger cages") and exposure to the sun during the extreme heat of the Vietnamese summer. Serious diseases and inadequate medical care were commonplace.

These four facilities housed more than one third of the entire prison population, estimated by the ICRC at 70,000 civilians and prisoners of war. Much remains unknown about South Vietnamese prisons, for the ICRC reports have very little to say about police interrogation centers, where much of the routine torture allegedly took place. Nor did the ICRC delegates ever fully inspect the largest of the civilian prisons, the infamous Con Son Island prison. They gradually abandoned visits to civilian prisons, terminating them entirely in 1972 because the Saigon authorities forbade them to speak with prisoners without the presence of guards.

MISSION TO SPANISH BASQUE REGION ANNOUNCED

AI sent American lawyer THOMAS JONES to Spain on 21 July to inquire into alleged torture and extra-legal detentions said to have been used by security forces against detainees in the Basque region (June *CAT Bulletin*). *AI* asked Mr Jones to arrange a visit to Basauri Prison near Bilbao for interviews with prisoners held there who allege that they have been tortured by the police, the security police and the para-military *Guardia Civil*, prior to their transfer to Basauri Prison.

Bilbao is in Vizcaya province, one of the two Basque provinces that have been under an officially-imposed "state of exception" for almost three months.

Although Spain's constitution guarantees the right of *habeas corpus* within 72 hours of arrest, under the state of exception detainees can be held for an unlimited period without access to any judicial process.

Mr Jones was also asked to raise the issue of the state of exception and the abuses allegedly committed under it with the Spanish authorities, as well as the question of the death penalty. This in view of the fact that about 40 death sentences have been either demanded or pronounced within the last eight months, although so far none of those convicted have been executed.

BRITISH PSYCHIATRISTS PROTEST SOVIET ABUSE

Following a special meeting convened by *AI*'s British Section on 7 July, on the eve of the annual general meeting of Britain's Royal College of Psychiatry, a group of leading British psychiatrists sent a telegram to President NIKOLAI PODGORNYY of the Soviet Union, protesting at the abuse of psychiatry for political purposes in the USSR.

CORRECTIONS: Two errors occurred in the July 1975 *CAT Bulletin*. On page 1, "Former Greek Torturers to be Freed" should read, "Former Greek Torturers to be Tried". On page 2, the first line of the fourth paragraph of the appeal for Romanian prisoners ("Although this information is now absolutely confirmed...") should read, "Although this information is *not* absolutely confirmed...".