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Despite official statements that it is prohibited...

Torture continues in Iraq

AI has expressed its continuing concerns about the practice of torture in Iraq in a report published in April 1985.

The report lists 30 different methods of torture said to be used in Iraq, including: tying the victim by the wrists and ankles to a cross bar which is then turned over flames; fixing the head of the victim in a cabin with intense ultra-violet rays, which burn the eyes; 'the wheel' — a machine to which the victim is tied and then stretched; mutilation of the body.

Testimony

The report also contains extracts from five selected testimonies alleging torture between 1982 and 1984. Two of the testimonies were from former torture victims. Neji Bennour, a Tunisian aged 36, and Robert Spurling, an American aged 50, were both reportedly tortured while in detention at the security forces' headquarters in Baghdad. In both cases the findings of medical examinations were consistent with the torture alleged.

In another testimony an Iraqi doctor stated that he had been forced to participate in operations involving the rapid removal of blood from detainees, leading to heart failure and death. He claimed

"At the entrance to the torture chamber there is a doormat with 'Welcome' written on it in English."

that approximately 1,000 such operations took place during 1982 and 1983.

A further testimony is that of a mother whose son reportedly died under torture. When she went to collect his body "...I was led to the room where my son was...I looked around and saw nine bodies stretched out on the floor with him...all burnt...one of them had his chest cut lengthwise into three sections...from the neck to the bottom of the chest was slit with what must have been a knife and the flesh looked roasted...

"...my son was thrown on the floor... his body from neck to feet had the skin stripped off and pussing...a mother cannot imagine her son in a state like this."

Over the years, AI has received detailed reports of the routine torture of political suspects in the custody of Iraq's security forces.*

Concerns

The Iraqi Government has repeatedly assured AI that it "is concerned with torture and fights it". However AI remains deeply concerned by:

■ the marked inconsistency between the government's statements and testimonies it continues to receive from torture victims;

■ the government's failure to investigate specific allegations of torture despite its offer to do so;

■ the consistency between alleged torture and findings of medical examinations in cases where doctors have been able to examine former torture victims.

To AI's knowledge none of its recommendations to the Iraqi Government concerning measures for the prevention of torture have been implemented. Despite official assurances to the contrary, AI believes that the legal prohibition on torture in Iraq's constitution is disregarded in practice.

■ *Torture in Iraq 1982-1984*, is available from AI sections and the International Secretariat.

*See *Iraq: Evidence of Torture published in 1981 and Report and Recommendations of an Amnesty International Mission to the Government of the Republic of Iraq, published in 1983.*

Uganda Stop Press

In July AI had accepted an invitation by the government of Uganda then in power to send a mission to discuss evidence of the widespread and systematic torture of civilians by the army. In June AI had published detailed reports of the detention and torture of civilians by the Ugandan army and the National Security Agency. This month's File on Torture is based on that report.

After receiving news of the coup in Uganda on 27 July, AI sent a telex to the military authorities, noting the stated commitment to human rights by those responsible for the military takeover. "Once a new government has been formed", AI said, "the organization would welcome an early opportunity to discuss measures to prevent the continuation of imprisonment of people on account of their political or religious beliefs or ethnic origin; detention without trial of political prisoners; torture and extrajudicial killings by the security forces."

AI urged the army and the new government to implement safeguards against torture. It also called for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience and an early review of the cases of all other political detainees with a view either to their being released or promptly brought to trial in accordance with international legal norms.



This picture of community leader Fort Calata with his family was taken shortly before his abduction and murder in South Africa. AI is calling for an independent inquiry into his death and that of three other community leaders. See page 4.

Also in this issue: File on Torture in Uganda; Prisoners of the Month, page 2; AI's concerns on recent events in the Punjab, page 3; Releases in Zaïre, page 3; Community leaders murdered in South Africa, page 4.

Campaign for Prisoners of the Month



Maina wa Kinyatti, Kenya

A university lecturer, he is serving a six-year prison sentence for alleged possession of seditious literature.

Maina wa Kinyatti, 41, a senior lecturer in history at Kenyatta University College, near Nairobi, was arrested on 3 June 1982. He was convicted in October 1982 of possessing a seditious document, "Moi's divisive tactics exposed", and sentenced to six years' imprisonment. Although the document does not advocate violence, the offence of sedition in Kenya can include the expression of non-violent opinions.

Maina wa Kinyatti's arrest occurred at a time of increasing political tension in Kenya, when the government also detained without trial several university lecturers and political opponents and amended the constitution to make Kenya a one-party state. Maina wa Kinyatti was prominent in university politics and known for his Marxist views and for his criticism of the government.

At his trial he denied that he had possessed the document on which the charge was based. However the judge, Chief Magistrate Abdul Rauf, accepted police evidence that it had been found in a search of his house, although the police officers had not listed it among the materials they had seized. In sentencing him the judge linked increasing criticism of the government in mid-1982 with an attempted coup by members of the Kenya Air Force on 1 August 1982, although it was never alleged that Maina wa Kinyatti had any connection with the latter.

Maina wa Kinyatti is reported to be suffering from growths in both eyes, causing impairment of vision, and this condition is aggravated by the dust and generally unhygienic conditions in Kamiti prison, Nairobi, where he is held. *AI* is seeking information from the Kenyan authorities about his eye complaint and the treatment he is receiving and is urging that he receive proper medical treatment.



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.

■ Please send courteous appeals for his immediate and unconditional release to: His Excellency the Hon. Daniel arap Moi/ President of the Republic of Kenya/ Office of the President/ PO Box 30510/ Nairobi/ Kenya.

Pai Ya-tsan, Republic of China (Taiwan)

A law graduate and opposition politician, he is currently serving a sentence of life imprisonment on charges of "attempting to stir seditious feelings".

Shortly before his arrest on 23 October 1975 Pai Ya-tsan had declared his candidacy in elections to the Legislative Yuan (council) scheduled for December 1975. His campaign statement consisted of 29 questions addressed to the then Prime Minister, Chiang Ching-kuo, with a request that he should answer them publicly.

Some of the questions concerned foreign policy and asked that the government open diplomatic relations with the USSR and consider trading with the People's Republic of China. Both proposals were contrary to government policy. Other questions included criticism of corruption and nepotism in government circles. He also urged the establishment of a national health system and other public welfare programs and called for the abolition of martial law and the release of political prisoners.

He was sentenced on 21 November 1975 by a military court which found him guilty of "attempting to stir seditious feelings" through the circulation of views "contrary to basic national policy." *AI* is concerned by reports that he was tortured during interrogation and tried *in camera*.

Pai Ya-tsan has been actively involved in politics since 1969 when he assisted an opposition candidate in a parliamentary election. In 1971 he was reportedly detained for four months on political charges.

He is now being held in a military prison on Green Island, off the east coast of Taiwan. He has staged several hunger-strikes in protest at his conditions



and to demand the release of political prisoners.

■ Please send courteous appeals for his immediate and unconditional release to: His Excellency Chiang Ching-kuo/ Office of the President/ Chieh Shou Hall/ Chungking S. Road/ Taipei/ Taiwan/ Republic of China

Alfred and Helga Kulhanek, German Democratic Republic

Both workers in a fruit-farming enterprise, they are currently serving sentences in Naumburg and Hoheneck prisons respectively, apparently for persisting in their efforts to obtain permission to emigrate.

Alfred Kulhanek is 43 years old; Helga Kulhanek is 37. For some months before their arrest they had applied unsuccessfully to the authorities for exit visas. It is a crime to leave the GDR without permission.

On 7 October 1984, the 35th anniversary of the founding of the GDR, their daughter, who lives in West Berlin, demonstrated at one of the border crossing points in support of their efforts to emigrate. Although they allegedly had no knowledge of their daughter's plans the Kulhaneks were arrested a few hours later.

They were tried on 17 December 1984 by a court in Karl-Marx-Stadt on charges of "taking up illegal contacts" under Article 219 of the penal code. Alfred was sentenced to one and a half years' imprisonment and Helga to two years and two months.

Trials of this nature are held *in camera* in the GDR and *AI* does not know the precise reason for bringing this charge. However since Article 219 has frequently been brought against would-be emigrants who contact organizations or individuals outside the country in the hope of promoting their chances of emigration, it is supposed that the Kulhaneks were suspected of having been party to their daughter's demonstration.

■ Please send courteous appeals for their immediate and unconditional release to: The Chairman of the Council of State of the GDR/ Erich Honecker/ 102 Berlin/ Marx Engels Platz/ GDR.

Executions continue in Iran

In a letter to President Khamenei in June, AI expressed its deep concern at the many executions which continue to take place in Iran, mentioning in particular a statement by the Prosecutor of the Revolutionary Anti-Drug Court that 197 people had been executed for drug-related offences in March and April 1985. AI asked for details of the charges against those executed and sought assurances that they had received a fair trial, including the right to appeal against conviction and sentence. AI reiterated its unconditional opposition to the death penalty and urged that all death sentences be commuted in future.

AI also wrote in June to Interior Minister Nateq-Nouri, seeking information on the many arrests reportedly made in connection with public demonstrations in Tehran and other towns in the first half of 1985. Some people were allegedly arrested solely for having expressed their beliefs, without using or advocating violence, and AI urged the immediate release of any such detainees. It sought assurances that all those detained would be charged and tried in accordance with international standards for fair trial and that all necessary measures would be taken to safeguard them against torture or ill-treatment.

AI's concerns on recent events in the Punjab

In recent months AI has sent several communications to the Indian Government about matters of concern in the Punjab.

On 12 March 1985 AI wrote to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi welcoming the release of Harchand Singh Longowal and several other leaders of the Akali Dal, most of whom AI had adopted as prisoners of conscience. Mr Longowal had been detained without trial under the National Security Act since 6 June 1984. AI expressed the hope that others against whom there was no evidence of involvement in violent or criminal acts would also be released, including Prakash Singh Badal, a former Punjab Chief Minister. He was released shortly afterwards.

On 16 May 1985, after at least 80 unarmed civilians, including children, were killed in and around Delhi in explosions attributed to Sikh extremists, AI telexed the Home Minister, saying it was aware of the heavy responsibilities placed on those in charge of ensuring that those guilty of the killings be brought to justice but appealed to the government to make sure that the measures taken comply with international human rights standards to which India is a party. It expressed concern about reports in the Indian press of



A young woman in Ayacucho with a picture of a "disappeared" relative. The families and friends of the dead and "disappeared" are also victims of human rights abuses.

100 new cases of "disappearance" in Peru

In January 1985 AI drew worldwide attention to mass "disappearances" in Peru, with the publication of its Peru Briefing. The briefing contained a list of over 1,000 people reported to have "disappeared" after detention by government

forces since January 1983. These "disappearances" all occurred in the Southern Andean Emergency Zone under the administration of a Political-Military Command based in the city of Ayacucho. The Command has political and military authority over the area and was first set up to combat the guerrilla group Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*) on 26 December 1982.

Since the publication of the Peru Briefing AI has received reports of over 100 new cases of unacknowledged detention and possible "disappearances". These have been raised, as have earlier cases, with the Peruvian authorities, but AI has as yet received no information on their status from the authorities.

□ An updated edition of the list of the "disappeared" is available from AI sections and the International Secretariat.

14 May that one of three alleged Sikh extremists arrested, Mohinder Singh, had died in hospital on 13 May, allegedly as a result of torture. Two other alleged suspects had "difficulty in walking" when they were produced before the magistrate on 13 May. AI urged the government to ensure that those arrested were not subjected to torture or ill-treatment and to establish an independent investigation into reports that Mohinder Singh had died as a result of torture in police custody.

On 2 July AI telexed the Prime Minister, noting reports that 152 Sikhs under the age of 20 were to be released and asking for details of their cases. AI pointed out that it had closely followed reports of arrests in the Punjab because of its concern to ensure the release of prisoners of conscience and to ensure a fair trial within a reasonable time for all political prisoners. Further releases have since been announced.

Earlier AI had requested that the suspension of legal safeguards under special legislation in force in the Punjab had adversely affected the protection of human rights. AI is still awaiting a reply to its various communications.

Prisoner news

AI learned in June 1985 of the release of 137 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 86 cases.

Releases in Zaïre

At the end of June the Zaïrian authorities announced that the lifting of all restrictions on the freedom of movement of Tshisekedi wa Mulumba (prisoner of the month, April 1985) and five other former members of the National Assembly who had been restricted to isolated towns and villages. A former government minister Kibassa Maliba, and others regarded as prominent opponents of the government, who had also been sent into internal banishment, are believed to have been released at the same time. However, three university lecturers in Lumbumbashi were arrested on 10 June and at least 10 Kivu villagers, accused of belonging to a Libyan-backed network, were also detained.

Death Penalty

AI has learned of 78 people being sentenced to death in 23 countries and of 40 executions in 11 countries during May 1985.



Supporters of the United Democratic Front (UDF) celebrate their anniversary. The UDF, an alliance of anti-apartheid organizations (to which CRADORA and PEBCO are affiliated), was formed in 1983. Matthew Goniwe and Fort Calata were returning from a UDF rally when they were abducted and murdered.

Slovak Catholics imprisoned

Three young Slovak Roman Catholics, Tomas Konc, Bronislav Borovsky (both students) and Alois Gabaj (a worker) were found guilty of violating the foreign trade regulations by the Bratislava District Court at their trial from 19-21 March 1985. Alois Gabaj and Bronislav Borovsky were each sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and Tomas Konc to 16 months' imprisonment.

They had been arrested on 11 December 1983 in Poprad near the CSSR/Polish border and remanded in custody in Kosice Prison. They were released in August 1984, but judicial proceedings against them continued. Tomas Konc and Bronislav Borovsky were expelled from their respective institutions of higher education.

At their trial, the defendants argued that they went to the Polish border to receive religious literature in Slovak because such literature was unobtainable in the CSSR and in their opinion its importation was not legally prohibited.

On 13 June 1985, the appeal court in Bratislava reduced Alois Gabaj's and Bronislav Borovsky's sentences to 14 month's imprisonment and Tomas Konc's sentence to 12 months' imprisonment.

Community leaders murdered in South Africa

AI has called on the South African Government to establish an independent inquiry into attacks on leaders and supporters of opposition organizations. The inquiry should investigate whether any of these attacks have been committed by agents of the government, either acting in their official capacity or on their own account.

On 8 July 1985 AI telexed South African President P.W. Botha to express concern at the emergence of "what appears to be a pattern of attacks on known critics and political opponents of the Government". On 28 June 1985 four community leaders in the Eastern Cape with a history of harassment by the security police were abducted and murdered. AI also noted "the authorities' failure to ascertain the fate of Sipho Hashe, a former political prisoner, and two other Port Elizabeth community leaders, who 'disappeared' in May".

The four murdered Eastern Cape community leaders were former prisoners of conscience Matthew Goniwe and Fort Calata, teachers from Cradock; Sparro Mkhonto, a community leader in Cradock and Sicelo Mhlawuli, a teacher from Oudtshoorn. Matthew Goniwe was a founder of the Cradock Residents' Association (CRADORA) at a time of unrest over rents and education in the black township.

He, Fort Calata and three other com-

munity and youth leaders were detained in April 1984 and held in "preventive" detention without trial for six months.

Sipho Hashe and two other executive members of the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organization (PEBCO), Qaqawuli Godolozzi and Champion Galela, "disappeared" on 8 May 1985. Sipho Hashe's family believe that they have been killed. The police have denied that they detained Sipho Hashe.

AI's telex message also said that "these events have occurred in the context of many allegations that other recent attacks on known opponents of apartheid have been carried out by, or with the knowledge of, the police, and of reports suggesting the existence of death lists".

"AI's concern that there may be justification for such allegations and fears," the message continued, "is heightened by the knowledge that South African security forces recently committed extrajudicial executions of political opponents resident in Botswana and previously in other neighbouring countries."

On 14 June, members of the South African Defence Force (SADF) attacked several houses and an office in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, alleged by the South African authorities to be "terrorist military bases". Sixteen people were killed, including a six-year-old child.

Sudan

Amputation victims in Sudan have formed an association to publicise their plight and to raise funds for rehabilitation and artificial limbs. About 110 judicial amputations were inflicted in Sudan between September 1983 and April 1985 under Islamic laws introduced by former President Nimeiri's government. Most were right-hand amputations but included about 25 cross limb amputations (of the right hand and left foot) for violent or repeated theft. Nurudin Ahmed Issa (left), and Abdallah Sharif al-Nur (right), are cross limb amputees. Defendants were mostly convicted in summary trials without legal representation. At least one, a school accountant, is suing for wrongful conviction.

The Islamic law penalties of amputation and flogging are no longer enforced in Sudan. However the Transitional Military Council has not so far revoked the penalties or rescinded between 40 and 50 sentences of amputation which have been imposed but not carried out.

AI regards the penalty as a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment which contravenes international law and has called for it to be abolished. The number of amputations in Sudan vastly exceeded those imposed or inflicted in other countries with Islamic law.





FILE ON TORTURE

No.9 August 1985

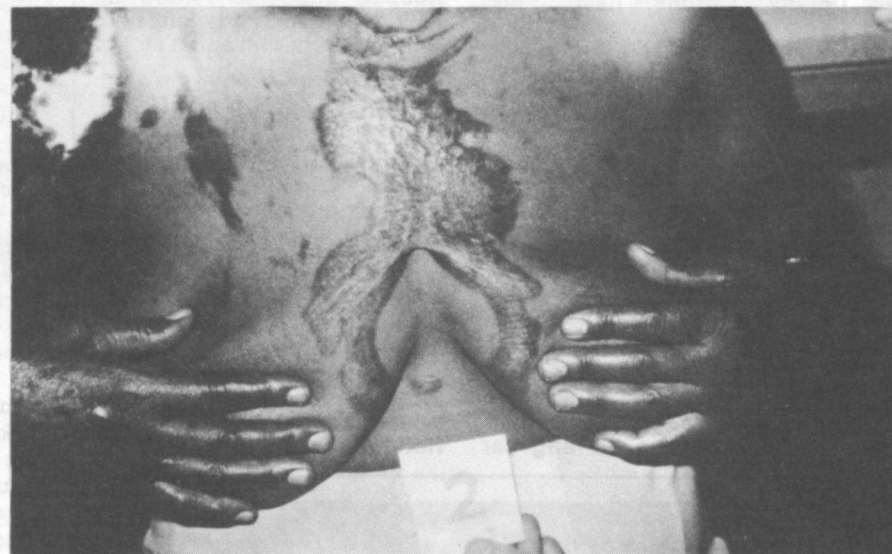
amnesty international

Uganda

“They tied my legs and hands and tied me onto a metal chair. Then they started asking me where the guerrillas were and which government I was supporting...

After questioning me the soldiers came and tied an old tyre over my head, lit it and then left me there. There were so many people there, men and women prisoners. The practice was that they started beating them and tied them up and then lit the tyre....

The hot rubber droplets were made to fall on my head, my face, my right hand and on the right side of my chest. The hot rubber droplets fell and spread all over my upper body causing untold suffering to me. All along they were asking me to tell them where my sons

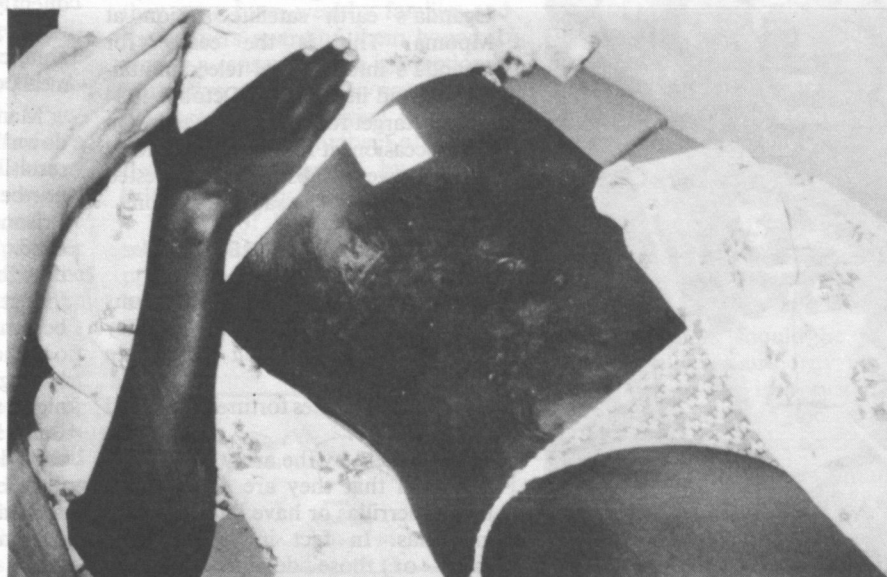


were and insisting that my sons had joined the guerrillas in the bush and that I must know where they were operating from. I told them that my sons were not guerrillas and that I did not know whether they were engaged in guerrilla activities or not. Apart from my sons, the soldiers were asking me to tell them where Idi

Amin's soldiers were operating from...

The melting hot rubber burned the skin off my face, chest and arms and the pain was just indescribable. I spent the whole day from about 8.30 am in this position...”

Testimony of 56-year-old woman (above).



This woman told AI that the severe burns on her stomach were inflicted by soldiers with a “flat-iron”, the type heated by charcoal. She was 21 when she was arrested and taken to

Makindye Barracks, where she was kept for seven months. There, she said, rape was common and she was raped several times. She also saw other women tortured.

Stop Press

The government of President Milton Obote was overthrown by a military coup on 27 July.

AI telexed the military authorities on 29 July to express its willingness to have an early opportunity to discuss with the new government measures to prevent the continuing imprisonment of people on account of their political or religious beliefs or ethnic origin; detention without trial of political prisoners; torture and extrajudicial executions by the security forces.

AI urged the army and the new government to implement safeguards against torture.

In view of the changing situation in Uganda, newsletter readers are not being asked to send appeals in connection with this month's File on Torture.

Since 1981 AI has received reports of widespread and systematic torture in Uganda. Most at risk are those detained for political reasons by the Ugandan army — despite a law passed in 1984 ending military authority to arrest civilians. In military barracks the use of torture is routine. Many victims have “disappeared” in custody and are feared dead. AI’s conclusion that torture is routine is based on reports from those who claim to be its victims, from families and associates of those detained and from former Ugandan security officials.

In February 1985 a surgeon and a forensic pathologist commissioned by AI examined 16 Ugandans who claimed to have been tortured, including:

■ a 56-year-old woman who said she was strapped to a chair beneath a burning car

tyre. The molten rubber dripped over her face and arms

■ a 20-year-old school student who said she was beaten, raped repeatedly and burned with a blow torch

■ a 32-year-old religious book salesman who said he was beaten, burned and stabbed and was forced to walk with a heavy weight tied to his genitals with a thin string

■ a 15-year-old boy who said he was severely burned with an electric hotplate

■ a 33-year-old man who said he was beaten, had his arm broken and was castrated with cattle gelding tongs

■ a 21-year-old woman who said she was beaten, stabbed, raped and burned with a heated flat iron.

In each of the above cases the doctors found medical evidence consistent with the victims’ allegations.

Torture Uganda

Political detainees in Uganda are either held in civil prisons or police stations or unlawfully held incommunicado in military barracks, intelligence headquarters or secret prisons run by the National Security Agency (NASA).

Reports received by AI indicate that those held in civil prisons are unlikely to be tortured. Although the torture of suspects in police custody is widely reported it is apparently not routine.

By contrast, anyone detained unlawfully by the army or NASA is likely to be tortured. Many are said to be held in Makindye, Kireka and Lubiri army barracks in the Kampala area and other military barracks in the country. Detainees are also reportedly held in Nile Mansions military intelligence centre in Kampala, a former luxury hotel. Others are said to be held in unofficial detention centres run by NASA, reportedly at Kamakuzi in Mbarara in south-western Uganda and at Ihungu in Masindi in the Bunyoro region of north-western Uganda.

Others are reportedly imprisoned in “safe houses” in Kampala run by security officials and members of the ruling party, the Uganda People’s Congress. There have also been reports of detainees being held by the army at Uganda’s earth satellite station at Mpoma. This is the centre for Uganda’s international telecommunications and in May and October 1984 was the target for guerrilla attacks. On both occasions it is reported that local villagers were subsequently arrested and detained at the satellite station.

Detentions

Widespread unlawful detentions are reported in areas of the country where armed opposition groups are active.

In all these places torture is reported to be routine.

Those held by the army are reportedly told that they are anti-government guerrillas or have knowledge of guerrillas. In fact it appears that many of those detained are not connected to the armed opposition to President Obote’s government. They include members or supporters of the legal opposition parties, the Uganda Patriotic Movement and the Democratic Party, villagers in areas where the army is conducting counter-insurgency operations and individuals

imprisoned in order to extract money or because of agreements with security forces.

From the testimonies of former detainees, AI is compiling a detailed account of the conditions and treatment within military barracks.

On arrival at military barracks detainees are usually held in a room just inside the main gate, known as the “quarter guard”.

Detainees are often beaten with iron rods or driven into the walls of wood into which are driven, rifle butts (machetes). Some detainees are said to have died as a result of this treatment.

Starvation

Prisoners are held in sections of Makindye Barracks, which figure in detainees’ accounts of “go-down”. This is a building with a collapsed roof. It has an iron door but a few ventilators. Numbers held there are not known but sometimes exceed 100. Access to all accounts of prisoner deaths is rapid.

Prisoners held in Makindye Barracks are rarely given water. The food, which is made of meal porridge, often contains no salt.

Many prisoners are “go-downed”, either from the result of beatings or from lack of food. Prisoners are made to lie on their backs with their hands and feet bound. They are described as being “meat and bone” as they are beaten as they move.

Other former detainees have regularly been taken at night to load bodies onto Land Rovers. These are then driven out of the barracks and dumped in mass graves. An Australian television crew filmed an open mass grave with hundreds of bodies viewed by the Ugandan Government. The Ugandan Government said he did not know who was responsible.

AI has received reports of mass graves in the Luwero triangle in the north-west of Uganda. Ugandan security



The bodies of alleged victims of political killings by the Ugandan army, photographed by British reporter William Pike, who visited the “Luwero triangle” with guerrillas of the National Resistance Army in July 1984.

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Members of the Uganda Defence Forces. Most at risk of torture are those detained for political reasons by the Ugandan army — despite a law passed in 1984 ending military authority to arrest civilians. AI has frequently expressed its concerns to the Ugandan Government both in general terms and in the course of inquiries about individual cases. The government has consistently denied that civilians are detained in military custody.

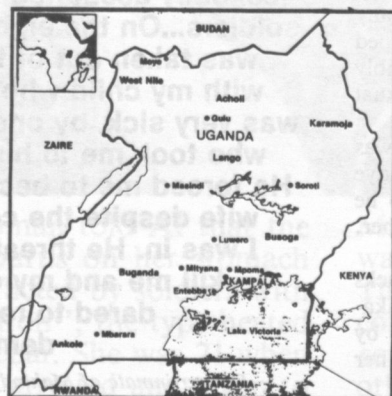
former detainees, allege that they drove lorryloads of bodies from military barracks in Kampala to dump on the edge of forests near the city.

Beatings

Many prisoners are beaten frequently throughout their time in military barracks. In a few instances it is reported that prisoners were not beaten after being transferred from the "quarter guard", possibly because they were from wealthy families and the soldiers guarding them hoped to receive a ransom. There is a section in Makindye referred to by some former detainees as the "paying wing". By far the larger number of former detainees interviewed by AI had bribed their way out of prison.

Victims of beatings appear to be selected at random. One former prisoner describes being regularly beaten at the same time each morning. This was described as "breakfast".

Continued on page 4



Safeguards against torture

AI has issued a 12-Point Program of practical measures for the prevention of torture. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda explicitly protects citizens against "torture or...in-human or degrading punishment or other like treatment". However in view of the widespread and recurrent reports of torture AI believes that the Ugandan Government should implement the 12-Point Program in order to give effect to that prohibition, in particular the following points.

■ Clear public instructions should be issued to the army and security agencies and all officials involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of prisoners that torture will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

■ All detainees should be brought before a judicial authority promptly after being taken into custody and relatives, lawyers and doctors should have prompt and regular access to them.

■ Relatives and lawyers should be informed promptly of the whereabouts of detainees. No one should be held in secret or unacknowledged detention centres such as military barracks or intelligence centres.

■ There should be regular, independent visits of inspection to places of detention to ensure that torture does not take place.

■ The government should establish an impartial body to investigate all

complaints and reports of torture. Its findings and methods of investigation should be made public. In particular, there is an urgent need for independent investigations into allegations of torture of civilians in military barracks and intelligence centres. Complainants and witnesses should be protected from intimidation.

■ Steps should be taken to ensure that confessions or other evidence obtained through torture may never be invoked in legal proceedings.

■ All acts of torture should be punishable offences under the criminal law.

■ Where it is proved that an act of torture has been committed by or at the instigation of a public official, criminal proceedings should be instituted against the alleged offender.

■ It should be made clear during the training of all officials involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of prisoners, as well as members of the armed forces and security agencies, that torture is a criminal act. The United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners should be widely distributed.

■ Victims of torture and their dependants should be afforded redress for their material and moral sufferings without prejudice to any other civil or criminal proceedings.

"They would tie a stone weighing two kilograms onto our testicles so that with the terrible pain we would be able to say what they wanted us to say. Every morning we received beatings which was termed as our breakfast and electric cable was the stick for this type of beating. We were taken into special torture theatres as they called them, then given electric shocks."

Former inmate of Luzira Military Prison.

A woman detained in a cell situated in an industrial area of Kampala told AI she had seen prisoners who had hands, toes and fingers cut off by the guards, including one old woman of about 70 sitting with the bleeding stump of a wrist which was red and raw, the hand recently having been cut off. It was without any dressing and the woman was crying and still being beaten. She also saw a girl of about 17 who had had toes and fingers cut off.

continued from page 3

Sometimes prisoners are beaten during interrogation. It does not appear, however, that the main purpose of this is to gather information since most accounts indicate that only cursory questioning takes place.

On a number of occasions, prisoners have been taken from their cells and beaten to death. A former prisoner described how one inmate was beaten on the head with an axe and another had his arm cut off. Both died. He himself had been beaten with an iron bar and left for dead outside the barracks. Another former prisoner described one man being killed by having his head hit against a wall while another was killed by being hit hard on the top of his head with a rifle butt.

Burning

Although beating is the most common form of torture, another method described in a number of accounts consists of tying the victim beneath a suspended car tyre which is then set alight. The molten rubber drips onto the victim, causing serious burns. This is reportedly done for many hours, often until the victim is dead.

AI has received a number of accounts of prisoners being burnt. One boy described how he was burnt with a red-hot cooking stove coil on his face, neck, chest and thigh. He also alleged that a cloth soaked in paraffin had been



wrapped around his arm and set alight. Medical examination revealed scars consistent with this account. A woman reported being burned on the stomach with a flat iron. Again medical examination found scarring consistent with this.

Sexual torture

Sexual torture applied to the genitals is also reported to be common. One former prisoner in Makindye described being made to sit on a chair with his finger tied by a thin string hanging over a beam in the ceiling. A brick was then tied to his testicles.

The string around his fingers was pulled until the pain made him stand, causing the brick to pull down on his testicles. A number of former prisoners have described similar methods of torture and two have alleged, in separate accounts, that their testicles were crushed with cattle-gelding tongs.

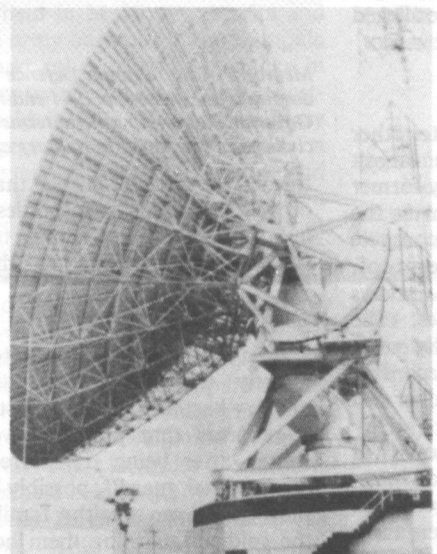
Women are also reported to be subjected to torture and ill-treatment of a sexual nature. Rape is reported to be frequent. One woman who was detained in Makindye Barracks told AI that she was beaten, had her toe-nails removed and had hot burning plastic dripped on her legs and back. She was raped and became pregnant.

In 1983 many people in the Luwero area near Kampala were displaced from their homes during army operations against guerrillas. Some 150,000 were transferred to a displaced persons' camp under army guard. AI received many reports of women and girls being raped by soldiers and allegedly being forcibly kept by the soldiers for repeated sexual abuse.

A pregnant woman told AI she was beaten on the stomach in Makindye Barracks and that she was made to lie down and her torturers stepped on her. She later had a miscarriage.

Former detainees in Kireka Barracks told AI that a woman named Rose Nakasibwe was tortured to death in 1983 by having her breasts cut off and her buttocks burned.

Notice in the courtyard of Makindye military barracks (above). Most of those detained in Makindye are tortured. There also have been reports of people being tortured at Mpoma earth satellite station (below).



"People often begged for your urine because they had gone for so long without water."

Former inmate of Makindye Barracks.

"My husband was killed by soldiers who attacked our home, and I was seriously assaulted — I was also sexually assaulted by three soldiers...On the eighth day I was taken out of the cells with my child who by then was very sick, by one soldier who took me to his house. He forced me to become his wife despite the condition I was in. He threatened to kill me and my child if I dared to refuse his demands..."

Former inmate of Makindye Barracks.