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international newsletter

CAMEROON Secret executions follow coup bid

More than 120 people are reported to have been secretly executed in Cameroon after being arrested on suspicion of involvement in an abortive coup attempt.

Dozens more have been imprisoned after brief military trials, and AI knows of at least one case of torture.

The Cameroonian Government announced six weeks after the coup attempt of 6-7 April that more than 400 people had been tried by military tribunals in closed session and that 46 were sentenced to death. It has given no names, nor has it said how many people were executed. AI has received many reports of secret executions and well-informed sources put the total at over 120.

AI has appealed to President Paul Biya to prevent any more executions. It has urged the government to reveal the full extent of the executions and to name the victims. It has also called on the government to publish the names of everyone convicted in connection with the coup attempt, as well as details of charges and legal proceedings.

The organization has received information that one of the prisoners, Ahmadou Bello, former managing director of Cameroon Airlines, was severely beaten before his trial, was kept in chains, and had boiling water poured on his hands when he asked for drinking water.

Another prisoner, Marcel Njifenji Niat, former managing director of the national electricity company, is reported to have attempted suicide with a piece of broken glass in late April.

AI is concerned about some people, such as Habouba Moussa, former Cameroonian Airlines European representative, who were arrested in late April but whose fate is unknown. Others, such as Bobo Hamatoucour,

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'Disappearances' in Peru



The nine young people shown in these school photographs recently obtained by AI are all reported to have "disappeared" after being detained in Ayacucho, a remote highland region of Peru. The organization is currently processing information on over 600 cases of "disappearance" in this area (see also page 4). The nine victims shown here are (clockwise from top left): Raúl Palomino Ventura (17), Henry Luis Medina Quispe (16), Oswaldo Cárdenas Quispe (15), Yuri Alejandro Simbrón Simbrón (14), Friter Huallpa Cárdenas (15), Alejandro Peña Montoya (15), Abdón Mansilla Simbrón (17), Dina Crescencia Sinchitullo Rojas (17), and (centre) José Rudy Jaime Peralta (16).

Also in this issue

- Amnesty releases in Poland
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● This month's File on Torture is on Chile and Zaire

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.

Kamoji WACHIIRA, Kenya
A university lecturer, he has been held without charge or trial since June 1982.

Kamoji Wachiira, 39, a senior lecturer in geography at Kenyatta University College (part of the University of Nairobi), was arrested at the college on 28 June 1982. At the time he was doing research on soil erosion and afforestation in Kenya. He had not been active in politics or spoken publicly on political issues.

He was held uncharged and apparently without legal basis for a fortnight, until 13 July, when the government published notification of his detention under the Preservation of Public Security Act. The act permits indefinite detention without charge.

Kamoji Wachiira was one of six university lecturers arrested in mid-1982, at a time of political tension in Kenya. Later in the year, in August, there was an abortive attempted coup by members of Kenya's air force.

However, the government has at no stage explained the grounds for Kamoji Wachiira's detention.

A legal action by him and three other detainees challenging the validity of their detentions was rejected in the High Court in April this year. The four had also complained that they were not given detailed written explanations of the grounds of their detention, as is required by law.

The Chief Justice ruled that they should put their complaints to the Detention Review Tribunal, which reviews detentions every six months. They are in fact reported to have complained previously to the tribunal, but to no avail.

Kamoji Wachiira is in Kamiti maximum security prison, Nairobi, and has reportedly been allowed only one visit by his wife and one by another relative. Although he suffers from a slipped disc, he apparently has to sleep on his cell's cement floor (he has blankets)—despite a doctor's recommendation that he be allowed a mattress.

Please send courteous letters appealing for his release to: His Excellency the

Hon. Daniel arap Moi / President of the Republic of Kenya / Office of the President / P.O. Box 30510 / Nairobi / Kenya.

Zoryan POPADYUK, USSR
A Ukrainian philology student, he has been imprisoned since 1973, when he was 20, and is scheduled to remain a prisoner of conscience until 1998.

Zoryan Popadyuk was studying at Lvov university when he was arrested in March 1973. He was one of 11 young men accused of belonging to an unofficial group which advocated a referendum on the Ukraine's membership of the Soviet Union.

Zoryan Popadyuk was convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment followed by five years' internal exile.

He was sent to a corrective labour colony in Mordovia, where he staged hunger-strikes and wrote appeals which, among other things, called for the release of women prisoners of conscience in the USSR.

As punishment he was jailed in Vladimir prison for three years. Here he contracted tuberculosis, which he still has and is said to have become severely depressed.

In 1980 he began his internal exile, in a remote village in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan.

Two years later he was rearrested and charged with conducting "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" in private letters to friends. He was convicted and given a further 15 years' imprisonment and internal exile—he is not due to be released before 1998.

AI considers that he is imprisoned for the non-violent exercise of his right to freedom of expression. It is, moreover, concerned about his health—he is reported to have had several mild heart attacks while serving his first sentence and in 1980 had two infected segments of his right lung removed.

He is now reported to be making parts for electric irons in a strict regime corrective labour colony in Perm region.

Please send courteous letters appealing for his release to: The Procurator of Perm region / ul. Lunacharskego 60 / g. Perm / 61400 RSFR / USSR.

Crispin BELTRAN, The Philippines
A trade union leader, he has been detained since August 1982.

Crispin Beltran, Secretary General of the *Kilasang May Uno* (KMU), First of May Movement, was arrested on 18 August 1982. He was one of over 40 trade unionists belonging to the KMU and other affiliates of the PMP independent trade union confederation who were arrested in August and September that year, after widespread trade union activity during the preceding months.

The military authorities reportedly claimed that the PMP and the KMU were front organizations for the banned Communist Party of the Philippines and that trade union leaders had made inflammatory speeches at union conferences and rallies.

Crispin Beltran and the KMU's President, Felixberto Olalia were detained and charged with incitement to sedition and rebellion, and conspiracy to commit rebellion before the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City. (Felixberto Olalia later died while under house arrest.)

The trial of Crispin Beltran and some 30 other defendants, charged with conspiracy to commit rebellion, continued through 1982 and 1983 with frequent postponements. In June 1983 the judge was reported to have stated that the trial might last another three years.

In early 1984 the Minister of Labour, Blas Ople, was reported to have personally recommended to President Marcos that Crispin Beltran be released.

He and four other trade unionists arrested in September 1982 are being held in the Philippines Constabulary Detention Centre, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

AI believes that Crispin Beltran is being held because of his lawful trade union activities and non-violent opposition to the Philippines Government.

Please send courteous letters appealing for his release to: President Ferdinand E. Marcos / Malacanang Palace / Metro Manila / The Philippines.

Prisoner releases and cases

AI learned in July 1984 of the release of 194 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 271 cases.

Poland Amnesty releases begin

Some 14,500 prisoners had been released in Poland under the terms of the new amnesty law there by 30 July, according to the official Polish news agency, *PAP*.

The agency said that 450 of those released were suspected or convicted political prisoners.

The amnesty law was passed by the Polish Sejm (parliament) on 21 July; it provided for the conditional release of some 30,500 prisoners, 652 of them political prisoners (see August *Newsletter*).

Those already released under the amnesty are known to include the following people adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience: **Andrzej Slowik**, Chairman of the former board of the banned trade union *Solidarnosc*, Solidarity, in the city of Lodz; **Jerzy Kropiwnicki**, his deputy; **Romuald Szeremietew**, leader of the illegal Confederation for an Independent Poland; and **Wladyslaw Frasyniuk**, Chairman of the former board of Solidarity in the city of Wroclaw.

All four men had been tried and convicted and were serving prison sentences. The following prisoners of conscience who were in pre-trial detention have also been released: **Grzegorz Palka**, **Andrzej**

Gwiazda and **Marian Jurczyk**—all three were Solidarity leaders.

Among the prisoners of conscience reportedly excluded from the amnesty are **Bogdan Lis** and his assistant **Piotr Mierzejewski**; Bogdan Lis is a member of the *TKK*, the underground national Provisional Coordinating Committee of Solidarity. They were detained on 8 June 1984.

Deputy Procurator Hipolit Starszak reportedly said at a press conference on 21 July that their cases "were initially qualified by the procurator as treason against the homeland (Article 122 of the Polish Criminal Code), which excludes them from the amnesty. However, this legal qualification may be changed so that the possibility exists that they will be eligible for amnesty" (reported in the Polish newspaper *Zycie Warszawy*, 23 July 1984).

The head of the Investigations Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs said in an interview conducted on Polish television on 23 July 1984 that changes in their indictments might be made if they cooperated with the investigation of their cases □

Central African Republic Trial of four political prisoners

Four political prisoners were tried in Bangui in July 1984 by the *Tribunal spécial*, Special Tribunal, a court established for political cases. All four had previously appeared before the court in November 1983, when their cases were referred back to the Procurator's Office for further inquiries. At their second trial, however, all four were convicted and given sentences varying from five to 10 years, although little new evidence against them appears to have been presented at this trial.

One of those convicted, **Théodore Bagua-Yambo**, had already been adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience. When he was tried for the first time in November 1983 with three other defendants, the trial was attended by an *AI* observer. *AI* subsequently submitted a 16-page report to the authorities summarizing its concerns and explaining why it believed that Théodore Bagua-Yambo and two of the other defendants were prisoners of conscience. At his trial in July 1984 he was found guilty of involvement in illegal political activities, on the grounds that following the accession to power in September 1981 of a military government which banned all political activities, he had allegedly allowed his house to be

used for a meeting by the leadership of an opposition political party, the *Mouvement de libération du peuple centrafricain* (MLPC). He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Two of the others convicted who were each sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, **Jérôme Allam** and **Gaston Ouedane**, were both members of the military government at the time of an alleged coup attempt in March 1982. They were found guilty of complicity in an attempt to overthrow the government because, on the night of the alleged coup attempt, they failed to report to the head of state, General André Kolingba, when he summoned them by radio.

The fourth person convicted, **Marc Gbenengaina**, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment after he too was found guilty of complicity in the alleged March 1982 coup attempt. Although he was not accused of committing any acts of violence, he was apparently present in Bangui's radio station when a senior army officer, General Bozize, made a radio broadcast claiming that a coup attempt was about to take place. This broadcast was later interpreted by the authorities as having itself been an attempt to overthrow the government □

Yugoslavia Group trials in Kosovo

A total of 78 ethnic Albanians are reported to have been tried in six group trials in the predominantly Albanian-inhabited province of Kosovo between 19 June and 2 July 1984.

All except one were found guilty of being members of "illegal" organizations with "nationalist" and "irredentist" aims and sentenced to up to 15 years' imprisonment. One defendant was reportedly discharged on grounds of lack of evidence.

All had been accused of advocating republic status for Kosovo, an autonomous province within the Republic of Serbia.

AI considers that 33 of the convicted defendants are prisoners of conscience, imprisoned for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association. It is continuing to investigate the cases of the others □

Republic of Ireland

'Nicky' Kelly released

Eamonn ("Nicky") Kelly was released on "humanitarian grounds" from Portlaoise Prison on 17 July 1984. He had served just over four years of a 12-year prison sentence imposed after his conviction in 1978 on charges of taking part in a train robbery in March 1976. At his trial he claimed that he was beaten into making a confession that was the sole basis on which he was convicted.

AI took an interest in his case because it was concerned about the fairness of his trial, specifically as regards standards by which his confession was admitted in evidence □

Cameroon executions

Continued from front page

former head of a state-owned company, **Gargar Haman Adjii**, a government auditor, and **Issa Bakari**, a former top official, are reported to be in prison.

Some prisoners are reported to have been arrested as a result of anonymous denunciations and may have had no connection with the abortive coup attempt.

AI has long been concerned about the failure of Cameroonian military tribunals to meet international standards for fair trial. For instance, although defence lawyers are allowed, they are chosen by the court and are sometimes briefed only hours before a trial which may involve charges carrying the death penalty. Furthermore, *AI* has received reports that some defendants may have been convicted on the basis of evidence obtained under torture. No appeal is allowed □

Peru: Children and young people become victims of 'disappearances'

Hundreds of people are reported to have been victims of "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions in Peru since a state of emergency was imposed and a regional military government set up in highland Ayacucho Department on 26 December 1982. Many of the victims have been children and young people.

Reports of such violations of human rights by army, marine and Civil Guard forces in the Ayacucho emergency zone have come in the context of a counter-insurgency program against the *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path) guerrilla group, which has itself carried out scores of execution-style killings. (AI has condemned such killings by *Sendero Luminoso* members and has expressed its condemnation publicly and in messages to the Peruvian authorities.)

AI has received many reports of indiscriminate arrests, "disappearances" and killings in the cities of Huanta and Ayacucho alone.

Two detention centres have been identified as the last place many "disappeared" prisoners were seen alive:

- Los Cabitos Barracks, the army's regional headquarters in the city of Ayacucho; and the
- Huanta Stadium, a former sports stadium now serving as the marine's headquarters in Ayacucho's Huanta province.

Huanta Stadium

In February and March this year AI appealed to the Peruvian authorities for information on the status of 16 minors reportedly detained in the emergency zone. No replies were received and the 16 remain "disappeared". Four of those last seen in the navy's detention centre at Huanta Stadium were students at the Huanta Gonzalez Vigil school.



• **Yuri Simbrón Simbrón**, 14, and his brother, **Abdón Wilber Mansilla Simbrón**, 17, were reportedly seized at home at 11.00 pm on 19 October by uniformed Civil Guardsmen. The brothers were blindfolded and dragged barefoot into the street, Yuri wearing only an orange T-shirt and underpants. They were taken in an official car first to Civil Guard headquarters and then to the stadium.

Relatives who later made inquiries there are said to have been told by navy officials that the brothers had not been

detained—but that the parents should "pray to God that their sons were alive, as perhaps they were terrorists".

Released prisoners have since said that on 3 November the brothers were still alive and in the stadium. The authorities have refused to acknowledge that they are being detained.

The elder brother, Abdón Wilber, had reportedly been active in the Roman Catholic youth organization *Juventud Católica*.

• **Dina Sinchitullo Rojas**, 17, is reported to have been seized when a 10-man uniformed marine patrol raided her home just before midnight on 28 November 1983.



Relatives say she was dressed only in her underwear when she and two of her sisters were taken away to be detained in the stadium. The sisters were later freed, but she has not been seen since; her detention has never been acknowledged by the authorities.

• **Antonio Yuncacallo**, a 14-year-old polio victim, was reportedly detained by marines on 27 October 1983 and has since "disappeared". He is said to have been detained the previous June and to have been severely ill-treated during interrogation and then released without charge.

Los Cabitos Barracks

A number of the minors on whose behalf AI appealed earlier this year are reported to have "disappeared" after detention in Los Cabitos Barracks.

• **Norma Cordero Martinelly**, a 12-year-old primary school pupil was reportedly taken from her home by plainclothes detectives at midnight on 10 January 1984—after being held at detective headquarters she was said to have been taken to the barracks.

• **Luis Flores Galindo**, 16, a schoolboy who also worked as a street shoeblack, was reported to have been arrested in Ayacucho by detectives on the night of 28 November 1983 and taken first to their headquarters and then to the barracks.

He had been detained three times before that year. On one occasion he was arrested while waiting for a bus, on his way to see a doctor—he suffers from tuberculosis.

• **Jaime Gutiérrez Gamarra**, aged 16, was reportedly arrested with three other teenagers at his home on the night of 5 October 1983—the army unit making the arrests is said to have been supported by an anti-riot tank.

The three teenagers were apparently blindfolded and taken to the barracks.

Jaime's companions were eventually released but he remained in detention. Messages from him reached his parents

via released prisoners, the most recent coming on 24 January this year. Since then, there has been no word of him and his fate remains unknown—the authorities have never acknowledged his detention.

The cases of all the minors named above have been brought to the attention of the Peruvian authorities by AI, by human rights organizations in Peru, by the Ayacucho Bar Association or by relatives.

Neither the courts nor representatives of Peru's Attorney General, who is responsible under the country's constitution for monitoring human rights, have taken effective action to locate these "disappeared" young people and ensure their safety.

Army and navy authorities are reported to have obstructed efforts by Ayacucho civil officials to investigate the "disappearances".

"Disappearances" continue to be reported daily in Peru despite the efforts of human rights and lawyers organizations in the country to bring these abuses to the attention of the authorities and to alert the public to what is happening to men, women and even children.

Extensive work in this field is being done by the *Federación Latinoamericana de Asociaciones de Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos* (FEDEFAM), Latin American Federation of Relatives of Disappeared Prisoners; and three non-governmental Peruvian organizations, the *Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos* (CONADEH), National Commission on Human Rights; the *Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos* (APRODEH), Human Rights Association; and the *Colegio de Abogados de Ayacucho*, Ayacucho Bar Association.

They have helped families take legal action on behalf of "disappeared" relatives, interviewed witnesses of arrests and detentions, and presented documented evidence of "disappearances" to the Peruvian authorities.

DEATH PENALTY

AI has learned of 163 people being sentenced to death in 14 countries and of 184 executions in 12 countries during July 1984.

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FILE ON TORTURE

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Chile

The torture of political detainees by members of the security forces in Chile has been reported regularly since the present military government of General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte seized power in September 1973. Those detained and tortured on account of their alleged political activities have included teachers, students, peasants, doctors, lawyers, human rights activists, trade unionists and shanty-town dwellers.

The most common reported methods of torture are: beating; *la parrilla* (the metal grill), electric shock torture while the victim is bound to a metal bed frame; the *pau de arara* (parrot's perch), in which the victim is trussed upside down into a crouching position while electric shocks are administered; the *submarino* or *bañera*, in which the victim's head is held under water almost to the point of suffocation; burns; rape and other sexual abuse of women; non-therapeutic use of drugs; sleep deprivation; and *el teléfono* (the telephone), consisting of blows to the head with the palms of the hands on both ears simultaneously.

Amnesty International has sent numerous and frequent appeals to the government urging the authorities to ensure the humane treatment of detainees. In April 1983 Amnesty International sent a report on the problem of torture in Chile to the government, based on the testimonies of torture victims interviewed by an Amnesty International delegation which had visited the country. It provided evidence of the undeniable participation of agents of the *Central Nacional de Informaciones* (CNI), Chilean secret police, and other security forces in the torture of detainees. This evidence only added to the hundreds of formal complaints of torture which have been submitted to the courts by individuals and groups of lawyers in Chile in recent years. However, the report was

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A silent demonstration against the new anti-terrorist law (see Box, page 2) by 200 members of the *Movimiento contra la Tortura* Sebastián Acevedo, which took place in the Plaza de Armas in Santiago, Chile, on 29 May.



Uniformed police beating and injuring a demonstrator when they broke up the demonstration.



A woman participant who was also a victim of the police violence.

Zaire

Every year since the beginning of 1980 Amnesty International has received reports that hundreds of Zairians have been tortured or killed while held incommunicado for investigation and questioning. Many of the victims were arrested for political reasons and were considered by Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience. In other cases they were suspected of being criminals or the reasons for their arrest were not apparent.

The information which Amnesty International has received has led it to conclude that almost every suspected government opponent who is taken into custody is subjected to ill-treatment and many are tortured. Torture of political detainees is particularly frequent when the government is faced with an armed threat, as it was, for example, following the explosion of two bombs in central Kinshasa in March 1984. Torture also appears to be an integral part of the investigation proceedings in criminal cases.

Ill-treatment sometimes begins at the actual moment of arrest, when victims may be assaulted or severely beaten in public, sometimes in the presence of their families. Torture is usually reported to occur while detainees are being interrogated, to coerce them into making "confessions" or to provide information, but severe beatings and other physical ill-treatment are also inflicted as routine forms of punishment while detainees are held incommunicado.

Among the many prisoners tortured to obtain information was one prisoner of conscience who was arrested at the end of 1981. During his nine days' interrogation, he was frequently

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José Grossi Gallizia: testimony

The following torture testimony was submitted in April 1984 to the Military Prosecutor by José Grossi Gallizia, a philosophy student. He alleged that he and a friend, Julio Araya Godoy, were arrested on 12 April by two armed plainclothes agents believed to be members of the intelligence service of the *Carabineros* (uniformed police). (The acting Minister of the Interior denied that they were being held by either the *Carabineros*, plainclothes police or the CNI.) The ordeal of the two men began at 7.30 pm as they were taking their leave of a friend, Jaime Wilson, at the intersection of Pedro de Valdivia and Duble Almeyda streets in Santiago. After being made to lie face down on the pavement, four cars containing more plainclothes agents arrived on the scene. In the presence of numerous witnesses, Julio Araya and José Grossi were handcuffed and then driven away in a red Chevrolet Opala, registration number GTD-255. They were taken initially to the house of Jaime Wilson and another man, Vicente Atencio, which was searched on production of a search warrant with the word SICAR (*Servicio de Inteligencia de Carabineros*) at its head. They were then taken to *Carabineros* Station No. 4, in Chiloé street, where their personal details were taken down and they were photographed. Both men were then blindfolded.

* * *

"After the photographic session Julio and I remained standing for a long while inside the police station. It was late at night before we were transferred to another establishment, the exact location of which I cannot be sure; it was a large building with a wooden floor, a chiming bell, several rooms, bathrooms with urinals, and possibly consisting of a single storey; there was a vine, presumably in an inner courtyard, and there were a few people about. There was also a telephone.

"On arrival we were taken to a room with vinyl armchairs and a TV set that was switched on. Shortly afterwards we were transferred to another room which I managed to get a glimpse of; it was light green with doors and doorframes and had a small photo of Pinochet hanging on

Anti-terrorist law introduced

On 17 May 1984, Law 18.314, which "defines terrorist conduct and establishes its penalties", was introduced. Amnesty International is deeply concerned about several of the Law's provisions, which not only limit the protection available to detainees, but actually increase the risks to them. In particular:

- Article 12 of Law 18.314 officially gives the CNI the authority to detain and interrogate people suspected of terrorist crimes or of holding views supporting terrorism as defined by the Law; this appears to violate Article 90 of the Chilean constitution, which defines the forces of Order and Public Security as being made up of only *Carabineros* (uniformed police) and *Investiga-*

ciones (plain clothes police).

- Article 13 of the Law gives the CNI the power to arrest, detain and interrogate people *without judicial warrant*; Article 13 also enables the security forces to hold people for up to 10 days in their custody. It is during such initial periods of incommunicado detention before detainees are brought before a competent judge that torture often occurs.

- Decree 594, introduced at the same time as the "anti-terrorist" law, creates a serious risk both to the physical integrity and the lives of detainees, as it gives the CNI the power to hold detainees in their own premises and apparently restricts the access of members of the judiciary to such premises.

a wall. There were metal desks and a metal card-index. There, after an intimidatory talk, someone urged us to 'talk', as afterwards it would be the turn of the 'specialists'. Sure enough the 'specialists' did arrive. There were at least three of them, one who asked questions in a refined voice and two others who were less refined and who administered the torture in accordance with the first man's instructions.

"When these people appeared, Julio Araya was removed from the room. I found myself handcuffed and seated on a chair with my hands behind my back, with a blindfold covering my eyes and a hood over my head. During the interrogation I was given electric shocks; for this purpose a wire had been connected to my handcuffs, while a hard object was used to give me electric shocks to the abdomen, the palms of my hands, and the base of my right thumb. The voltage was increased to the point where at times my body shook violently and I had to be firmly held by one of the people who was torturing me... (I) at one point gave one of them a kick as I felt a violent electric discharge in the stomach which left me unable to move and suffering from convulsions. I reckon it must have been around midnight when all this took place, as I could hear on the TV the sounds of Channel 7 closing down. I remained in that building the whole night, but I was not subjected to further electric shocks and was only questioned without being ill-treated, though they threatened to repeat the procedure. Julio Araya and I spent the whole night sitting back to back, handcuffed and tied to our chairs,

blindfolded and with hoods over our heads. At about eight o'clock in the morning we were moved to another room and given coffee; we were also given blankets to wrap around ourselves. At about 10 o'clock we were taken from the building and driven all over the city for about two and a half hours in a Japanese-made van. We seemed to be escorted by another vehicle. At about 12.30 we were left on the La Pirámide Road going towards the Conchalí district, on the slopes of the hill."

Both men then untied themselves with some difficulty, removed their blindfolds and set off on foot, finally reaching the workshop of José Grossi's father at two o'clock on 13 April 1984.

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returned to Amnesty International without comment.

Since the publication of the report in May 1983, Amnesty International has continued to receive numerous testimonies from people affirming that they have been methodically tortured by CNI agents in premises used by the CNI, police and other branches of the security forces. Although the majority of such testimonies have already been submitted to the competent tribunals or criminal courts, to Amnesty International's knowledge no investigations have been carried out which have led to the trial and sentencing of any members of the security forces.

Mother and daughter tortured together

Lucía Guillermina Morales and her 23-year-old daughter were held in a secret CNI establishment for five days in June 1983. She was then banished to Puqueldón, Chiloé, a small island in the south. She is 48 years old, and a member of the *Coordinadora Nacional Sindical* (National Trade Union Coordinating Body). The following is taken from an interview given in the weekly Chilean magazine *Hoy*. Although Amnesty International is not in a position to verify the details, the information is consistent with other reports of torture received by the organization.

* * *

Q: How were you arrested?

A: It was about 11 o'clock at night ... Four men burst into the house. My daughter told them I was in bed but one of them came in and told me to get dressed. They were men in civilian clothes, armed to the teeth ... they wore armbands and showed CNI identity cards. They did not produce any arrest or search warrant ...

Q: If you were to see them again, would you recognize them?

A: Yes. I will never forget those faces, alas.

Q: What happened then?

A: They bundled me into a Peugeot 504 taxi and pushed me down on the floor ... On arriving at the detention centre they made me take off my clothes and put on an overall and lightweight shoes. Then I was given a medical examination and injected with a substance which they said was a tranquilizer.

Q: When did they start to ill-treat you?

A: From the moment I arrived ... they began to punch me about the head and slap me in the face. They avoided using their fists on my face so as not to leave any marks. They also hit me on the ears. I began to lose my sense of balance. Everything was spinning around! They shouted that I must admit to my political affiliations. "Confess you're a communist, you shit," they said. I don't know, I'm not well up on these things, but if I had an ideology of some kind I don't think I would want to hide the fact from anyone. Quite the opposite. But I would like to know why it is that just for thinking in a certain way one can be subjected to such atrocities.

Q: What did you do while this went on?

A: I kept quiet. I only did my best to answer their questions. They kept telling me that they had 20 days to

"get the muck out of me" and that no one would notice anything when it was all over. "People have left here lame, or silly" they kept saying. Then they began to hurl all kinds of insults at me. They were very obscene. One of them asked me what I thought they would do to me. I said I thought they would kill me. He answered that they didn't dirty their hands with women like me. Suddenly a nicer one came and told me that all they asked was that I "behave myself" and I would see that they weren't "the torturers people out there say we are". It was then that they told me that they were going to fetch my 23-year-old daughter, Lucía, ... while being hit by somebody, I heard her voice, and I knew that they had brought her.

Q: What was your reaction?

A: I became desperate, I screamed, I began to cry ... the thought that my daughter would have to suffer what I had been through was intolerable ... how can you describe what it means? On the next day they took me to a metal rack and made me lie on it, naked, tied at the wrists and ankles. With lead weights or electrodes they gave me electric shocks to the nipples, the stomach and the region of the vagina.

At one point, I realized that my daughter was in front of me. I even managed to touch her: I felt her hands. "Mummy, say something, anything to make this stop," she was saying. I tried to embrace her but they prevented me. They separated us violently. They took her to an adjacent room and there, there I listened in horror as they began to torture her with electricity—my own daughter! When I heard her moans, her terrible screams, I couldn't take any more. I thought I would go mad, that my head and my entire body was going to explode in pieces.

Q: Weren't you afraid?

A: Quite honestly, no. It didn't matter to me if they killed me. What caused me most suffering was my daughter—the frightful agony she was going through, poor thing! And you see the electric shock treatment is quite indescribable. When they put those pieces of lead on you you feel a tremendous jolt through your whole body, as if your heart is about to come out of your mouth. I remember when I was back in my cell I could still feel the convulsions from the electric discharges; my arms and legs were quivering. My daughter was given electric shocks on her hands.

Trade unionists arrested

Lucía Guillermina Morales was arrested at the same time as eight trade union leaders and another man whose cases were subsequently included in a presentation by the Archbishop of Santiago, Monseñor Fresno, to the Supreme Court. The Archbishop expressed the concern of the Roman Catholic Church about the continued use of torture in Chile. A Military Prosecutor was appointed at the request of the Supreme Court, which asked to be kept informed of the progress of the investigations into the torture allegations.

The nine people had all been arrested separately at the end of June 1983 and taken to a secret CNI detention centre. In their testimonies they described beatings, threats and the application of electricity to sensitive parts of the body. Most of them alleged that they had first been examined by a person they took to be a doctor, who decided on the victim's capacity to withstand torture.

All nine were banished to remote villages for three months without charge on the orders of the Ministry of the Interior after being tortured. They included:

Valentín Osorno Badilla, leader of the youth section of the *Confederación de Trabajadores de la Construcción*, the Confederation of Construction Workers; the president of the confederation, Héctor Solís Saavedra, and its acting president, Sergio Troncoso; Manuel Caro Castro, president of the *Confederación de Sindicatos de Trabajadores Gastronómicos y Hoteleros*, Confederation of Hotel and Catering Workers; Segundo Cancino Fernández, a member of the *Confederación Campesina "El Surco"*, Confederation of Small Farmers; two of its leaders—José Oróstica Palma and Sergio Villalobos; and Jorge Burton Aravena.

In May 1984 the Military Prosecutor ruled that there was no evidence to support the allegations of torture and closed the investigations despite the fact that the nine victims had identified the CNI agents responsible at an identity parade. The agents admitted having arrested some of them but denied the allegations of torture. The nine can appeal against the decision.

Continued from page 1

woken in the middle of the night after a few hours sleep for questioning. He was beaten severely with soldiers' belts, had sticks inserted between his fingers, which were then crushed together, had electric shocks applied to his genitals and body and was also placed inside a refrigerator for long periods. He was later subjected to a mock execution and was then held incommunicado for a further year.

Some political detainees held for long periods are regularly beaten as well as being tortured under interrogation. This was reported in a National Documentation Agency (AND) detention centre in Bukavu in 1982, when the inmates were reportedly made to drink their own urine each morning and were then beaten by guards on their backs and shoulders.

Even detainees held for short periods can be ill-treated as a form of punishment or intimidation. Former National Assembly



members, including Tshisekedi wa Mulumba (see photograph), were detained for just a few hours in August 1983 after delivering a mem-

orandum criticizing the government to visiting members of the US House of Representatives. During this time they were assaulted and severely beaten.

The relatives of many of the victims are frightened to contact anyone about a detainee who is in custody for fear of reprisals.

People who have protested against torture have sometimes been intimidated and punished. The authors of a petition against torture and other abuses in a rural area in Kivu region were detained for several months in early 1983. In February 1983, steelworkers from Maluku, north of Kinshasa, protested after three of their colleagues were tortured by the local *gendarmérie* and one died as a result. Large numbers of them were subsequently arrested.

Amnesty International has repeatedly called on the authorities to take steps to prevent torture. No organizations exist in Zaire to help torture victims.

Legal safeguards

A major characteristic of arrests and imprisonment in Zaire is that procedures which exist in law are largely ignored by the services responsible for carrying out arrests.

Torture is prohibited by Article 13 of the constitution and is an offence punishable under various articles of the penal code. In theory the code of criminal procedure also contains safeguards to protect detainees from the possibility of ill-treatment.

Such procedures have enabled senior officials to claim repeatedly that adequate safeguards exist to ensure that torture does not occur. At the beginning of April 1984 the Prime Minister, Kengo wa Dondo, stated publicly that torture was not practised in Zaire.

There are a considerable number of units in the defence and security forces which have the power to detain people without

the authorization of the Public Prosecutor's Office or anyone else.

The National Documentation Agency (AND) has been responsible for the arrest, detention and torture of most suspected government opponents during the past year. It is answerable directly to the head of state. Its three main detention centres, in all of which torture has been reported, are in Kinshasa and two provincial capitals, Bukavu and Lubumbashi.

There are virtually no safeguards available to detainees once they are held in custody by the defence or security forces.

They have no right to seek legal counsel and are effectively beyond the jurisdiction of the courts—no form of habeas corpus exists. As they have no opportunity to inform their families of their arrest they are often kept completely cut off from the rest of the world for weeks, months or even years before they are freed or moved to a regular prison.

WHAT YOU CAN DO . . .

CHILE

Write a letter expressing grave concern that the provisions of the new Anti-Terrorist Law officially give the CNI—whose participation in torture has been thoroughly documented—the power to detain and interrogate people suspected of terrorist offences or views, in some cases without judicial warrant.

● Express fears that the law will further increase the risk of torture to detainees, and concern that it contradicts Amnesty International's 12-Point Program for the Prevention of Torture, particularly as regards its call for limits on incommunicado detention and for adequate safeguards during

interrogation;

● Express concern about the reports of the widespread and systematic use of torture in Chile and the failure of the authorities: to carry out complete and exhaustive investigations and to identify and punish those responsible;

● Express concern about the frequent allegations that self-incriminatory statements have been obtained under torture and that such statements may have played a primary role in the charging and conviction of many political prisoners.

Address your letters to: Su Excelencia / General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte / Presidente de la Republica / Palacio de La Moneda / Santiago / Chile.

ZAIRE

Please write courteous letters (in French if possible) expressing concern about the extensive use of torture in Zaire and calling on the government in particular:

- to issue instructions to all members of the defence and security forces that torture will not be tolerated under any circumstances;
- to establish an impartial commission to investigate the use

of torture;

- to limit the powers of the defence and security forces to hold detainees incommunicado.

Letters should be sent to:

Son Excellence le Citoyen Maréchal Mobutu Sese Seko / Président de la République / Présidence de la République / Kinshasa / Republic of Zaire and to:

(Prime Minister) / Citoyen Kengo wa Dondo / Premier Commissaire d'Etat / Hotel du Conseil Exécutif / Kinshasa / Republic of Zaire.