



Amnesty International

newsletter

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Chile Releases 300 Detainees - Many More Remain in Prison

The Chilean government's announcement on 18 November of the release of around 300 political prisoners was welcomed by *AI*. But, at the same time, *AI* took issue with the Chilean authorities' statement that the releases represented the total held without trial under the country's state of siege.

AI's records show that the releases only affect detainees held in the officially recognized camps of Tres Alamos, Cuatro Alamos and Puchuncavi.

The announcement specifically excludes 18 prisoners detained in the recognized camps. A group of prisoners from Puchuncavi camp who were transferred to another place of detention a few weeks before the releases are also excluded. *AI* has information that other prisoners not covered by the present announcement are held without trial under the state of siege elsewhere in Chile.

The releases do not include political prisoners on trial or those who have been sentenced. These number more than 1,000, despite the release and exile of many prisoners over the past few months. *AI* continues to be concerned about the circumstances of their arrest, trial and detention.

A subject of particular urgency for *AI* is the fate of 1,500 persons arrested by the Chilean security forces since September 1973, who have "disappeared". The authorities refuse to acknowledge the detention of these persons despite numerous eye-witness accounts of the arrests, which indicate the authorities' responsibility for these "disappearances". The practice is becoming more prevalent—in January 1976 five per cent of persons arrested were reported as being "disappeared". In August this figure was reported to be 57 per cent by the *Vicaría de la Solidaridad*, an organization of the Roman Catholic Church in Chile □

AI PRISONER RECEIVES 10-YEAR SENTENCE IN TAIWAN

AI-adoptee HUANG Hua, who was arrested on 26 July on charges of involvement in "seditious activities" (October *Newsletter*) was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on 8 October after trial by a military tribunal in Taiwan. The tribunal ruled that Mr Huang had used the *Taiwan Political Review* to "propagate rebellious thoughts" and that he "attempted to instigate armed rebellion" after the magazine was banned in 1975.

Mr Huang had previously been imprisoned in 1967 for alleged seditious activities in connection with the Society for Promoting Unity of Taiwanese Youth. After his release

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IRISH COUPLE FACE EXECUTION

Two people in the Republic of Ireland (Eire) under sentence of death for murdering a policeman are now awaiting the result of their final appeal to the Irish Supreme Court (September *Newsletter*).

Noel and Marie MURRAY, a married couple, were convicted of capital murder in June 1976 by a special no-jury court in Dublin. It was alleged that Mrs Murray had shot and killed a policeman during a chase after a bank robbery. The court found that both defendants were equally guilty of murder, although there was no evidence to suggest that Mr Murray was armed at the time of the chase.

The execution was originally set for 9 July but was postponed after the Murrays appealed to the Court of Criminal Appeal.

Their appeal was unsuccessful and the date of execution was set anew for 17 August. However, the court granted them leave to appeal to the Supreme Court on a point of constitutional law.

The appeal submissions have been com-

pleted but the court has not yet pronounced judgement as this *Newsletter* goes to press. If the Supreme Court confirms the sentences the death penalty can be commuted only by an act of clemency granted by the office of the president, acting on the advice of the government.

The last execution in Eire was in 1954 □

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR AI'S IEC

AI's International Executive Committee (IEC) elected at its meeting in London on 12-15 November former vice-chairman Thomas HAMMARBERG as chairman, while Mumtaz SOYSAL was elected vice-chairman.

During the three day meeting the IEC considered priority programs for the International Secretariat (IS) for the forthcoming year. The committee also discussed budgetary allocations for the IS for the year 1977/78.

It was decided to devote a day of the January meeting to a discussion on the growth of the organization and its implications for *AI*'s work at all levels of the movement. Those national sections with particular problems of growth will be invited to nominate one participating observer □

AI Mission Meets Libyan Government

A high-level *AI* mission visited the Libyan Arab Republic in October and met President Muammar AL GADDAFI.

Professor Jan BRUGMAN of the Department of Arabic Studies at Leiden University, in the Netherlands, was accompanied by Katrina MORTIMER from *AI*'s Research Department.

The delegates also saw the minister of state for foreign affairs, the under-secretary of the ministry of the interior, the general directors of the police and military intelligence and the director of prisons.

They discussed the cases of up to 130 Libyan students, teachers, government employees and diplomats detained for political reasons, most of them without trial.

The delegation expressed particular concern for 40 prisoners held since April 1973 and accused of membership of illegal political parties. They were released by a court order in December 1974 but were re-arrested the same day. They have been

detained since then without trial.

The *AI* delegation asked for permission to visit prisons and to meet all political detainees. The request was agreed to by the president and the ministry of the interior, but although one delegate's stay in Libya was extended from one to two weeks, prison visits were never arranged.

One of the delegates attended the defence hearing at the trial of 22 Libyans on 4 November. The group, which was arrested in September 1975, is charged with forming an illegal political party—a capital offence since the penal code was amended in August 1975.

During an adjournment of the hearing, the *AI* observer was able to talk openly and at length with the defendants.

AI has since learned that ten of the defendants have been sentenced to life imprisonment and 12 acquitted.

The mission will now submit its report to the *AI*'s International Executive Committee (IEC) □

AI Prisoner Receives 10 Year Sentence in Taiwan

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in July 1975 he contributed articles to the *Taiwan Political Review* on the need for political reform in the country.

According to AI information, Mr Huang has not engaged in any violent activity since July 1975. On 3 November AI launched an appeal against his conviction by military tribunal for exercising his right to freedom of opinion □

AI OBSERVES CZECHOSLOVAK MUSICIANS APPEAL HEARING

AI sent Dr Wolfgang AIGNER, an Austrian lawyer, to Prague to observe the appeal hearing of four young Czechoslovak musicians on 11 November. Their appeals were unsuccessful, and the sentences ranging from 8 to 18 months imposed by the lower court on 23 September were upheld.

The four musicians, Ivan JIROUS, an art historian and artistic director of the rock group "Plastic People of the Universe", Pavel ZAJICEK, a lyricist with the Plastic People and rock group "DG 307", Svatopluk KARASEK, a former Protestant pastor and singer with the Plastic People, and Vratislav BRABENEC, saxophonist with the Plastic People, were sentenced on charges relating to their non-conformist cultural activities and life style (September, November *Newsletters*).

In a letter to the Czechoslovak general prosecutor introducing Dr Aigner as its official observer, AI repeated its view that the musicians had been sentenced for legitimately exercising their rights of artistic expression rather than for any recognizable criminal offence. AI expressed the hope that the sentences would be quashed on appeal.

• **Dissident Released:** Dr Jan TESAR, a prominent Czechoslovak historian, was released on 15 October after 5 years' imprisonment. He is in poor health. His release one year before the completion of his 6-year sentence may be due to the fact that he spent one year in detention without trial after an earlier arrest in 1969.

Dr Tesar helped to draft the *Piller Report* ordered by Alexander Dubcek which analyzed political events in Czechoslovakia since 1948. He was also one of the authors of the *Ten Point Manifesto* addressed to Czechoslovak government and party authorities, protesting against the retreat from liberalization.

The offence for which he was arrested in November 1971 and sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment in July 1972 was his part in organizing a leaflet campaign to remind citizens of their legal and constitutional right not to vote for the official list candidates in the November 1971 election.

• **Prisoner on Hunger Strike:** Dr Milan HUBL, a Czechoslovak historian and former rector of the Communist Party High School of Political Sciences, is reported to have started a hunger strike on 1 November in his prison in Ostrava. He is protesting against

prison conditions and deliberate official restriction of his children's education possibilities.

Dr Hübl's 21-year-old son, employed as an unskilled factory worker, has been refused a place at a technical university, although he had passed the admission test five times. He has also been refused permission to take up a scholarship at Bonn University in the Federal Republic of Germany. Dr Hübl's 17-year-old daughter has failed three attempts to obtain a place at a Prague secondary school □

RHODESIAN DETAINEE FREED TO ATTEND GENEVA SETTLEMENT TALKS

Reverend Henery KACHIDZA was released from detention by Prime Minister Ian SMITH's Rhodesia Front government on 20 October following his selection as a member of Bishop Abel MUZOREWA'S African National Council (ANC) delegation to the Geneva settlement talks. Reverend Kachidza, a former national chairman of the relief organization Christian Care, had been detained without charge since 16 July 1976.

Mr Smith refused to release two other delegates named by Bishop Muzorewa. Enos NKALA, who was in detention without trial from 1964 to 1974 and re-detained in April this year, remains in solitary confinement at Gatooma Prison. Edson SITHOLE, former ANC publicity secretary, was abducted in Salisbury on 15 October 1975. The Rhodesian authorities deny knowledge of his whereabouts, but rumours persist that he and his young secretary, Miriam MHLANGA who was kidnapped at the same time, are being held secretly by Rhodesian security forces □

AI PUBLISHES BRIEFING ON IRAN

Opponents of the government in Iran are liable to long prison sentences, torture and execution, AI said in an 11-page briefing paper it published in November.

The briefing paper outlines the increasing repression in Iran during the past decade. It describes the activities of the Iranian National Intelligence and Security Organization (SAVAK) which acts as the sole investigator of all alleged political crimes. The paper also points out that prisoners detained by SAVAK are denied their constitutional rights, such as the right to be informed of charges against them within 24 hours. The paper details:

- arbitrary arrest of suspected political opponents who are held incommunicado for long periods before being charged or tried;
- the invariable use of torture during pre-trial detention of political suspects and its renewed use after sentencing, sometimes resulting in death;
- lack of legal safeguards and unsatisfactory trial procedures;
- executions and unofficial killings.

The fear created by SAVAK's activities makes precise information about political prisoners difficult to obtain. The official

figure for political prisoners is approximately 3,000 but Iranian exile groups have estimated the total to be between 25,000-100,000.

Amnesty International Briefing on Iran, 11 pages, is published by Amnesty International Publications, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England, and is available from AI's national sections. Price 40 pence (US \$1.00), plus postage and handling. Annual inclusive subscription price for 10 individual country briefing papers: £6 (US \$15.00) post paid □

AI MISSION INVESTIGATES HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA

An AI delegation visited Argentina from 5-15 November to investigate recent allegations of human rights violations in that country.

The principal objective of the mission was to have discussions with government officials and the Argentine government had expressed their willingness to cooperate before the delegates arrived. The mission also visited a detention center in the capital, Buenos Aires.

During the 10 day visit, the mission received considerable publicity in the Argentine news media. This resulted in many relatives of detained and disappeared persons seeking out the mission delegates to present their personal testimonies.

The mission delegates were British Liberal peer Lord AVEBURY, United States congressman and Jesuit priest Father Robert DRINAN and AI researcher Patricia FEENEY □

STUDENTS RELEASED UNDER AMNESTY IN TUNISIA

Twenty students imprisoned in Tunisia for their political opinions were amnestied on 14 October, the 14th anniversary of the evacuation of the French base at Bizerte.

The students were all AI cases, and two, Negib ELLEUCH and Salloua FAROUKH, had recently been the subject of urgent appeals because of the grave state of their health. Most of the 20 students had relatively short prison sentences left to serve.

On two previous anniversaries this year—20 March and 1 June—AI groups appealed to President Habib BOURGUIBA for a general amnesty of political prisoners in Tunisia.

Approximately 100 persons are still imprisoned in Tunisia for their leftwing political convictions □

URUGUAY ISSUES HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

A new Institutional Act issued by the Uruguayan government in October acknowledges the state's responsibility for human and individual rights—but only "according to the requirements of internal security".

Institutional Act number 5 is believed to be a response to international criticism of the human rights situation in Uruguay. It recognizes the right of international tribunals to consider human rights questions, but only if no private persons or organizations are

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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. It is important for the prisoner that messages to the authorities are worded carefully and courteously and that they are never sectarian.

Nikolai Vasilevich BONDAR, Soviet Union

Nikolai Vasilevich BONDAR was arrested in Kiev, the capital of the Ukrainian SSR, on 7 November 1970 after unfurling a banner saying "Shame on the Soviet Communist Party Leadership" during an official demonstration to mark the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

He was charged with slandering the Soviet state both verbally, among his colleagues at Uzhgorod University, and by writing letters criticizing the Communist Party leaders to various officials. In 1969 he had to leave his post as philosophy lecturer for political reasons.

In May 1971, he was sentenced to 7 years in a strict regime corrective labour colony under article 62 of the Ukrainian criminal code (anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda).

In January 1975, Mr Bondar and other political prisoners in Mordavia demanded the "status" of political prisoners. As punishment for this and other protests he was transferred to Vladimir prison towards the end of 1975.

Mr Bondar has written several letters to Soviet Union officials protesting against his conviction. In February or March of this year, he wrote an open letter to the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union protesting that he had been unjustly convicted and announcing a hunger strike. In the same letter he declared that, until his sentence ended, he would refuse to recognize the authority of the prison administration, refuse all visits, parcels and correspondence and remain totally silent. He also renounced his Soviet citizenship, even though he wishes to return to his native Ukraine after his release.

Mr Bondar has undergone a series of punishments for his letters and protests. It is believed that these and several hunger strikes have caused his health to suffer.

Please send courteously worded letters asking for the release of Nikolai Bondar to: SSSR, RSFSR, Moskva, Kreml, Generalnomu Sekretaryu TsK KPSS, L.I. Brezhnev.

Elsa FUENTES Barron, Bolivia

Elsa FUENTES Barron is a 35-year-old primary school teacher. She was arrested in the Southern Bolivian mining town of Cataví on 31 August 1976 and taken to a prison near La Paz, Viacha, more than 250 kilometers from Cataví.

AI knows little about her personal circumstances, but is certain that her arrest was due to her membership of the Teachers' Union of Bolivia.

Political prisoners in Bolivia are held without charge or trial for as long as the authorities wish to hold them, so Señora Fuentes will be neither charged nor tried.

The arrest of Señora Fuentes coincided with moves by Bolivian troops to abolish totally the remaining Bolivian trade unions. It followed only two months after major strikes by Bolivian tin miners in Cataví and Siglo XX, the country's major tin mines. These strikes resulted in the expulsion to Chile of about 50 miners' leaders, as well as many deaths and hundreds of arrests (August Newsletter).

Trade unions have been illegal in Bolivia since November 1974 but miners', teachers' and students' unions have continued to exist unofficially. Today they form the nucleus of opposition to the government of President Hugo BANZER.

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Elsa Fuentes to: Colonel Juan Pereda Asbún, Ministro del Interior, Migración y Justicia, Ministerio del Interior, La Paz, Bolivia; and to: General Alberto Guzmán Soriano, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, La Paz, Bolivia.

A copy of each letter should be sent with a covering note of appeal to the Bolivian Embassy in your country.

Marshall Julum SAKYA, Nepal

AI-adoptee Marshall Julum SAKYA of Nepal was first arrested in December 1960 under the Public Security Act, immediately after King Mahendra staged a coup which removed the democratically-elected government of the National Congress Party.

A founder member and executive committee member of *AI*'s Nepal Section, Mr Sakya was again in prison from 1961 to 1967, and for one month in 1970.

He was re-arrested in May 1973 in connection with a meeting organized by Ram Raja Prasad Singh and is still in prison. He is currently detained in Nakkhu Jail, Kathmandu. (Mr Singh was himself adopted by *AI* when he was first arrested in 1971. A prominent member of the banned Congress Party and a Supreme Court lawyer, Mr Singh was released in December 1975 under an amnesty granted by the present King Birendra to mark his 31st birthday.)

Mr Sakya has reportedly been arrested at least nine times under the Public Security Act which provides for detention without charge or trial for up to 3 years.

Aged 34 and married, Mr Sakya studied political science at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. He took an arts degree in

prison and was this year planning to take a higher degree in economics.

AI expressed its concern at the continued detention of Marshall Julum Sakya and another member of the Nepal Section at its International Council Meeting in Strasbourg last September, (October Newsletter).

Please send courteously worded letters appealing for the release of Marshall Julum Sakya to: His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bakram Shah Deva, The King of Nepal, The Royal Palace, Kathmandu, Nepal.

News of Past Campaigns

Detained university lecturer Younus LULAT and students Samuel MIYANDA and Mubita MWIYA were released from detention in Zambia on 20 November. All three had been adopted by *AI* since their detention without charge on 25 February (Prisoners of the Month Campaign, August Newsletter).

Mr Lulat had begun a hungerstrike on 24 October in protest against his continued detention and on behalf of "all people held without trial in peacetime in Zambia". He announced his hungerstrike during a *habeas corpus* hearing in court on 29 October but called it off some days later.

Mr Lulat and the students were arrested together with five expatriate lecturers and 15 other students following unrest at the University of Zambia. The other detainees were subsequently released uncharged.

Mr Lulat's appointment at the university was terminated on his release. Seven of the previously detained students have been expelled from the university and *AI* is attempting to discover whether Mr Miyanda and Mr Mwiya will be allowed to return to their studies. □

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AI-adoptee Mirza Jawad BAIG was released on bail on 15 September 1976 by order of the Supreme Court of Pakistan after spending almost two years in prison. A division bench of the Supreme Court observed, "On the facts and in the circumstances of the case we are of the considered opinion that the appellant should be allowed bail in both the matters pending hearing of the appeals. We accordingly direct suspension of the sentences of the appellant and his release on bail in both matters".

A former member of the Divisional Council of Karachi, and an advocate of a metropolitan system of government for this city, Mr Baig was arrested in November 1974. He was charged with advocating secession and sentenced by a special court in March 1975 to 12 years' imprisonment. Mr Baig had already been included in the October Newsletter's Prisoner of the Month Campaign before the news of his release was known.

AI wrote to Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali BHUTTO on 9 November welcoming Mr Baig's release. □



1977
Prisoners of
Conscience Year

Uruguay Issues Human Rights Act

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allowed to lodge complaints. Such tribunals would be recognized by Uruguay only if the states making the complaints were willing to allow tribunals to investigate similar complaints against their own practices.

The act states that "subversion and terrorism are general phenomena in countries with a democratic form of government".

In a letter to President Aparicio MENDEZ of Uruguay, *AI* welcomed his government's recognition that human rights are a matter of concern to the international community and expressed interest in receiving more detailed information on the procedures envisaged for the proposed tribunals. *AI* said it would welcome an opportunity of discussing the proposal further with the appropriate Uruguayan authorities.

Institutional Acts number 1, 2, 3 and 4 (June-September 1976) abolished all political activity in the country "until further notice", deprived several thousand Uruguayan citizens of their political rights for up to 15 years and institutionalized the non-separation of legislative and executive power□

BRITISH AMNESTY CHAIRMAN ALLEGES DETAINEES TORTURED IN SOUTH AFRICA

AI British Section Chairman Paul OESTREICHER announced at a press conference in Johannesburg on 29 October that he had evidence of the systematic torture of detainees in South Africa and Namibia.

Reverend Oestreicher said that he had received reports of torture from many former detainees during his month-long private visit to South Africa. He said that torture had been used both to obtain information and to intimidate uncharged political detainees.

Methods employed by the security police included electric shocks, hooding and blind-folding, and physical assault.

Reverend Oestreicher's claims were made against a background of continuing detentions in South Africa and growing fears for the safety of detainees. Since the beginning of widespread disturbances in June, several detainees are known to have died while held incommunicado by the security police. *AI*-adoptee Mapetla MOHAPI is alleged to have hanged himself on 5 August, Luke MAZWEMBE died within two hours of his arrest on 3 September and Jacob MASHABANE reportedly committed suicide on 5 October. Sixteen-year-old Dumisani MBATHA died two days after his arrest on 23 September. Other reported deaths are as yet unconfirmed by the prison authorities.

Following the death of another detainee, Joseph MDLULI, (May/June *Newsletter*) within 24 hours of his arrest on 18 March, four security policemen were charged with culpable homicide. Medical reports suggested that Mr Mdluli had been struck about the body, face and neck. However, the interrogat-

ing officers were acquitted on grounds of insufficient evidence in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court on 28 October.

On 19 October, South African Justice Minister James KRUGER disclosed that 123 people were held in preventive detention under the Internal Security Act and that more than 200 detainees were held for interrogation under the Terrorism Act. In addition, more than 300 people had been charged with security offences.

Following Mr Kruger's statement, a new series of detentions took place. Those arrested include NAT SERACHE, a former journalist with the *Rand Daily Mail*, who had just been appointed acting president of the Black Peoples' Convention (BPC). His predecessor as BPC president, Ken RACHIDI, has been detained incommunicado since 14 July□

IRISH PRISONERS COMPLAIN OF BEATINGS IN UK JAIL

AI is investigating complaints that six Irish prisoners were severely beaten by warders on 17 September in the Isle of Wight Albany Prison in the United Kingdom and that, as a result, several of them sustained serious injuries.

The beatings allegedly occurred during an incident in which a group of 20-30 warders disbanded the six prisoners, who were protesting at the solitary confinement of another inmate.

One prisoner, Sean CAMPBELL, reportedly suffered several bone fractures and an internal injury. Another, Eddie BYRNE, was reportedly knocked unconscious for several hours, while an imprisoned Roman Catholic priest, Father Patrick FELL, sustained a broken nose.

When questioned in parliament on 9 November about the incident, a Home Office minister, Brynmor JOHN, said he was satisfied that the prisoners had received proper medical treatment for the injuries they received during the struggle with the warders. He did not accept that the prisoners were assaulted.

AI wrote to Under-Secretary of State for Home Affairs Dr Shirley SUMMERSKILL, on 5 November urging a full inquiry into the incident and requesting official cooperation with *AI*'s own investigation. *AI* also expressed concern at reports that Mr Campbell has been returned to Albany Prison despite a doctor's recommendation that he receive further medical treatment. Mr Campbell and the other prisoners are now being held in solitary confinement in a punishment wing□

SRI LANKA ABOLISHES POLICE CUSTODY RULE

The Sri Lanka authorities have reportedly abolished a rule that allowed suspects to be kept in police custody for 15 days without access to judicial control or legal assistance. The 15-day custody rule existed under articles 19 and 20 of Emergency Power

Regulations declared in 1971.

A report in the *Ceylon Daily Mirror* of 18 November states that the government will now apply the pre-1971 rule, under which all persons arrested must be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours.

AI had criticized the 15-day custody rule in its *Report of a Mission to Sri Lanka* in January 1975 and recommended its abolition, after receiving allegations that police brutality took place particularly during this period.

During the 15-day period, normal prison rules did not apply. As a result, arrested persons did not benefit from the safeguards designed to protect prisoners from possible misuse of police powers. They did not have the right to be allowed visits from relatives and minimal standards of food and hygiene were not enforceable.

AI wrote to the Sri Lanka High Commission in London on 23 November to ask for confirmation of the newspaper report and for further details about the abolition of the custody rule.

AI is currently reprinting its mission report on Sri Lanka. The new edition will include a review of the steps taken by the Sri Lanka government relating to recommendations made in the report. The foreword will also indicate the remaining areas of *AI* their studies□

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in October of the release of 125 prisoners and took up 113 new cases.

ZANU LEADERS ACQUITTED OF MURDER IN ZAMBIA

Three members of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), a Rhodesian liberation movement, were acquitted in the Lusaka High Court in Zambia on 20 October. During their trial, their defence lawyers alleged that the defendants and other ZANU detainees had been tortured by Zambian security police.

The three men, Josiah TONGOGARA, Sadat KUFA MAZUBA and Joseph CHIMURENGA had been charged with the murder of ZANU National Chairman Herbert CHITEPO in March 1975. All had faced death sentences.

The original detention orders against the three men were revoked on 21 October.

Detention orders against more than 30 other ZANU members who had been detained uncharged since March 1975 were also lifted at the same time. Several of the former detainees attended the Rhodesian settlement talks in Geneva during November□

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Military personnel 'dismissed' in the Philippines

President Ferdinand E. MARCOS of The Philippines has dismissed 327 men from the armed forces, including 19 officers, on disciplinary grounds. An official announcement on 8 November gave maltreatment of detainees and the improper use of firearms while making arrests as the most common reasons for the dismissals.

Earlier, in a televised statement on 15 October, President Marcos said that 2,700 military personnel had been disciplined for "maltreating" prisoners since martial law was imposed in 1972.

AI cannot at present verify these figures. But the President's statements confirm the findings of an AI mission to The Philippines late last year. It reported that torture was practised there and that the methods used included severe beatings, pounding heads against walls or furniture, burning genitals and pubic hair, *falanga* (beating of the soles of the feet) and stretching prisoners' bodies horizontally between two widely-spaced supports (October Newsletter).

AI's mission report said The Philippines

"has been transformed from a country with a remarkable constitutional tradition to a system where star chamber methods have been used on a wide scale to literally torture evidence into existence".

Secretary of National Defence Juan Ponce ENRILE has recently issued new arrest procedures which, if implemented, would reduce incidents of maltreatment by the military.

The new regulations require the arresting officer to be in complete uniform, to identify himself and to avoid the unnecessary use of firearms. The military are to report any arrest within 24 hours, present a medical report on the arrested person's condition and prevent any detainee from being taken to "safe houses"—secret buildings where torture is known to be used.

However, Mr Enrile said the new regulations would not necessarily apply to persons arrested for subversion and other crimes against national security. These are the usual charges against political prisoners in The Philippines, including those whose cases have been taken up by AI □

CONFESSIONS RETRACTED IN ZANZIBAR TREASON TRIAL APPEAL

At an appeal trial before the Supreme Council of Zanzibar, nine defendants have retracted their confessions which they claimed had been extracted under torture. They and 28 others were originally convicted in May 1974 of complicity in the assassination of Zanzibar's former president, Sheikh Abeid KARUME, in April 1972. Fourteen of the 37 are under sentence of death, and the others face long prison terms.

The confessions of the nine were the principal evidence against the other defendants, who had pleaded not guilty. The retractions seriously damage the prosecution case.

Attorney-General Wolfgang DOURADO rejected the torture accusations. However, he contradicted himself by saying that a year before, when some prisoners in an earlier appeal claimed to have confessed under torture, he had ordered a government inquiry which resulted in stopping the practice. At the time of the first trial, Mr Dourado admitted that "a certain amount of arm twisting" had been used to obtain the confessions, but the court had allowed them as evidence (August 1974 CAT Bulletin).

The outcome of the appeal hearing, which started on 18 October 1976, will also affect the situation of 10 prisoners who were

sentenced to death *in absentia*. They are imprisoned in mainland Tanzania, whose authorities have refused to return them as they doubt that the prisoners would be guaranteed a fair trial.

Under the island's judicial system, defendants are not allowed legal representation, and the attorney-general acts as both prosecutor and defence counsel. Mr Dourado, in fact, asked the Supreme Council on 25 October to be relieved of his defence function in view of the defendants' allegations that he had been involved in their torture. His request was refused.

The Supreme Council is expected to give its verdict in December. If it confirms the original sentences, the appellants can appeal for clemency to President Aboud JUMBE of Zanzibar. AI has initiated an urgent action appeal to the Zanzibar authorities, asking for a full investigation of the torture allegations and a re-examination of the prosecution case.

• **AI Urges Tanzania to Investigate Torture Complaints:** Two letters reportedly smuggled out of Ukonga prison in Dar-es-Salaam charge the Tanzanian government with torture. The letters presented to a seminar held in the Tanzanian capital in October by the International Commission of Jurists, also complained of poor prison conditions and prolonged detention without charge or trial.

One letter is from an individual prisoner and the other from "the detainees in Ukonga prison". They say that most of the 43 prison inmates are Tanzanians, but that they also include Germans, Kenyans, Namibians, South Africans and Angolans.

"These people have nothing in common other than their knowledge that it is possible to rot in a Tanzanian prison without being told why; without appearing before a magistrate, without having any legal way of expressing their grievances; without regard to one's family's hardship and in complete disregard of anything stipulated by the United Nations' human rights charter. We also have a common knowledge. . . of the terrible torture that some of us have had to undergo. . ."

Attorney-General J.S. WARIOBA publicly dismissed the letters as propaganda and refused to take any action on them.

AI, writing to President Julius NYERERE of Tanzania on 12 November, appealed for an investigation of the complaints and the release of the several hundred prisoners reportedly held in Tanzania without charge or trial □

KIDNAPPINGS AND KILLINGS OF "UN-DESIRABLES" CONTINUE IN ARGENTINA

The wave of violent repression of real or suspected political opponents in Argentina shows no sign of abating. The death toll in 1976 is already 1,300.

Among the groups singled out for victimisation by torture, abduction and killings by the military and by para-police squads are leading members of political parties—and in some cases their wives and children as well.

The son of former deputy José CANE was kidnapped in Buenos Aires on 20 October, and a few days later, the invalid son of former senator Pedro AVALOS was dragged from his home in the northern province of Misiones. In Chubut, in the south of the country, the former secretary-general of the Communist Party, Elbio BEL, was abducted with his baby son, although the child was later returned. An official of the Popular Socialist Party, Sergio MAIDA, was kidnapped together with his wife in early November.

These most recent incidents followed the death in military custody of Mario AMAYA, former deputy of the center Radical Party. Señor Amaya and his colleague, former senator Hipólito SOLARI IRIGOYEN, were abducted on 17 August by unidentified armed men described by the government as

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appeals

Wilhelm LANGE, German Democratic Republic (GDR)

Wilhelm LANGE has been held in a psychiatric hospital in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) since October 1971. Although Mr Lange is 68 years old this month and in poor health, he is still in conditions of solitary confinement where he has spent most of the last five years.

The apparent reason for his confinement in a mental hospital was his history of protest and record of peaceful non-cooperation with officialdom.

Mr Lange was first arrested in 1961, when he protested against the building of the Berlin wall, and was sentenced to 2 years in prison for "incitement hostile to the state and harming the socialist order of state and society".

After his release, he came under a restricted residence order which prohibited him from visiting Sonneberg, where his family lives, because it is close to the frontier with the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). When he tried to go to Sonneberg, he was arrested. He received a further 2 year prison sentence, this time for "endangering the order and security of the state frontier".

After completing his sentence, he was moved to a social care home. While in

custody there, an application was made on his behalf to emigrate. He was later transferred to the psychiatric hospital in Leipzig-Dösen. Although his relatives in both the GDR and the FRG are prepared to care for him, the GDR authorities have refused to release him and have kept him in conditions that can only aggravate his poor health.

Please send courteously worded letters, asking for the release of Wilhelm Lange, to: Herrn Erich Honecker, Vorsitzender des Staatsrates der GDR, Berlin Niederschönhausen, Carl von Ossietzky Strasse, GDR.

SOVIET PRISONERS RELEASED

Pyotr STARCHIK of the Soviet Union (November *CAT Appeals*) was released from the Stolbovoya psychiatric hospital near Moscow on 12 November.

It has been reported that he was examined by the chief psychiatrist of the Moscow City public health administration.

Dr KOTOV, the chief psychiatrist, reportedly asked Mr Starchik to "sing his songs". After hearing some of them, he said that Mr Starchik was perfectly sane. Dr Kotov said he would do his best to secure Mr Starchik's release.

In a statement to *Agence France-Presse* on 15 November, Mr Starchik commended the psychiatrist responsible for his case, Professor USHAKOV, for ending his drug treatment two days after it began □

Kidnappings and Killings of "Undesirables" Continue in Argentina

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"members of the extreme right who had escaped the control of the armed forces". After a national outcry, the two former parliamentarians were rescued by the military two weeks later. They were not released, however, but taken to a military detention center "for interrogation", and reportedly beaten systematically for 15 days. Señor Amaya died from his injuries on 19 October. Señor Solari Irigoyen is still in prison □

MORE PRIESTS PENALIZED IN BRAZIL

More Roman Catholic priests have been killed or tortured for their convictions in Brazil.

On 11 October, Father Joao Bosco PENIDO BURNIER was shot by a soldier as he entered the police station in Riberão Bonito in Matto Grosso region. He and his bishop had gone there to plead for two women who were being tortured. Father Penido Burnier died a few hours later from his wounds. The soldier who shot him has been arrested.

Twenty days later, on 31 October, another priest, Father Florentino MOBONI, was arrested by the police in Boavistas, in the Amazon region, when he and a group of peasants went to make representations at a

police station about "the violence against the people". The CNBB (*Conferência Nacional de Bispos do Brasil*—National Conference of Brazilian Bishops) said in a statement that numerous witnesses had testified that Father Maboni had been subjected to "severe maltreatment" and that not even the bishops had been allowed to see him.

A month earlier, the Bishop of Iguazú, Adriano Mandarim HIPOLITO, was seized, beaten, stripped, painted red and then set free by men who said they had orders "to kill communists" and who identified themselves as members of the *Aliança Antocomunista Brasileira* (AAB). And in July, another priest, Father Rodolfo LUNKENBIEN, was shot dead.

The responsibility for the violence against the clergy is believed to lie with the hard-line elements within the military government system who oppose President Ernesto GEISEL's policy of liberalization.

The CNBB on 16 November vehemently denounced what it called the country's climate of violence and fear. In a 17-page document it cited cases of torture, violence and oppression, and said that those who accuse bishops, priests and laymen of being subversives, agitators and communists for defending the poor, prisoners and torture victims contributed to crime and violence.

"It is the poor, the defenceless who fill the jails where tortures are frequent on

victims charged with being without documents or who have been detained during police raids", the CNBB said □

NEW REPORT ON ATROCITIES IN RHODESIA

New allegations of torture and killings are levelled at Rhodesian security forces in a further report by the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Rhodesia. The report, published on 11 November, documents five individual cases, three of which involved torture, as a result of which one victim died. It also contains a detailed description of a security force operation in a small village in July 1976 in which 11 of the inhabitants were killed, including the village head and eight children. Four of the bodies were found severely mutilated.

Taking up Rhodesian government allegations of atrocities committed by guerrillas, and quoting an article in the *Rhodesia Herald* of 4 October on one such incident, the report urges the government to order an official independent inquiry into both sides' allegations.

It says: "Government propaganda publicizes as fact atrocities allegedly committed by terrorists but ignores atrocities allegedly committed by the security forces. The Rhodesian media are censored. News is distorted and one-sided. The legal system operating in Rhodesia at the present time affords in practice almost no redress or compensation to innocent African victims of ill-treatment by the security forces" □

AI GERMAN SECTION CHALLENGES MINISTER'S VIEW ON TORTURE

AI's German Section is challenging the controversial views on torture of Dr Ernst ALBRECHT, the prime minister of the West German state of Lower Saxony. The section's board has invited him to a public discussion on 10 December.

In his recently published book *The State-Idea and Reality*, Dr Albrecht maintained that the state is morally justified in using torture in certain extreme circumstances. This had provoked considerable critical reaction from many public figures in West Germany, particularly after Dr Albrecht repeated his views in a television broadcast □

BOOK ON AI PUBLISHED

Two German authors have recently written a book about AI, called *Amnesty International, Portrait of an Organization*.

Published in German, the book discusses the work of groups, national sections and the International Secretariat. It also traces the movement's historical development and its insistence on impartiality.

The book also contains a list of human rights violations in different areas in the world and compares them with the actual development within the countries.

Amnesty International, Portrait einer Organisation by Thomas Claudius and Franz Stepan is available from R. Oldenburg Verlag, Rosenheimer Strasse, 145 München 80, Germany, price DM 28.000 (£6.75, US \$13.50) □