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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT 1993
ANNUAL REPORT UPDATES
SELECTED EVENTS COVERING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO MAY 1993
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ASIA UPDATE

Selected events in Asia from January to May 1993

Cambodia:

Despite the presence of some 22,000 civilian and military personnel from the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), violence escalated sharply in the run-up to UNTAC-supervised elections in May. Among the massacres reported were the killing of 38 civilians, mostly ethnic Vietnamese, by Khmer Rouge troops on 10 March. An entire family of nine was shot dead in their home. Since the beginning of 1993 troops supporting the State of Cambodia Government, which controls most of Cambodia's population and territory, have also carried out killings of opposition party members and attacked political party offices.

Three months after the elections, the vast majority of UNTAC personnel are scheduled to be withdrawn - fears for the future security of Cambodia's beleaguered population are intense.

Indonesia and East Timor:

The leader of the resistance movement in Indonesian-occupied East Timor was sentenced to life imprisonment in May after a blatantly unfair trial. Xanana Gusmao was convicted by the District Court of Dili on charges of rebellion and illegal possession of firearms. Following international criticism of its appalling human rights record in East Timor, the Indonesian Government made unusual efforts to make the trial appear open and fair. However, like all political trials in East Timor and Indonesia, the trial failed to meet international standards of fairness or even to comply with Indonesia's own Code of Criminal Procedure. The most blatant contravention of fair trial standards came when the presiding judge interrupted Xanana Gusmao's final defence and ordered him to stop, stating that his remarks were "irrelevant".

Japan:

The reported executions of three men in March, at detention centres in Osaka and Sendai, marked a return to the use of the death penalty after a three-year moratorium. Tachikawa Shujiro, Kondo Seikichi and Kawanaka Tetsuo, who was said to be suffering from a mental disorder, had all been convicted of murder.

AFRICA UPDATE

Selected events in Africa from January to May 1993

Chad:

Hundreds of unarmed civilians have reportedly been extrajudicially executed by members of the security forces in the south of the country. Some 300 killings by government forces were confirmed by an official commission of inquiry set up after a public outcry at the killings in April.

Gambia and Guinea-Bissau:

The death penalty was abolished in the Gambia, and the Guinea-Bissau Assembly voted to abolish the death penalty in the Constitution in 1993. However, the Constitution has not yet been published in the Guinea-Bissau government gazette, and until that happens it is not in force. There are now seven abolitionist countries in Africa and in six of them the death penalty has been abolished this decade.

Malawi:

Vera Chirwa, possibly Africa's longest-serving prisoner of conscience, was released in January. She and her husband Orton Chirwa, who died in 1992, were both reportedly abducted from Zambia in 1981, and condemned to death after a grossly unfair trial, with the sentences later commuted to life imprisonment.

Senegal:

1993 has seen a resurgence of old problems, with conflict between the government and the armed opposition group, Mouvement des forces démocratiques de Casamance (MFDC). The army is reported to have extrajudicially executed people suspected of supporting the MFDC and to have imprisoned at least 150. They were detained without charge in very poor conditions and there were allegations of torture. The MFDC has been responsible for deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians.

Sudan:

In March the United Nations (UN) Commission on Human Rights appointed a Special Rapporteur for Sudan - an indication of the seriousness of the response of the international community to gross human rights violations taking place in Sudan. However, human rights continued to be violated by both the government and the armed opposition Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Togo:

There was a dramatic increase in the number of political killings. In January police opened fire on a peaceful demonstration - at least 16 people were killed and many others wounded. In March there was an alleged coup attempt, following which senior members of the army were extrajudicially executed, apparently on the basis of their ethnic origin. Many people, military and civilians, have been arrested and held without charge or trial and thousands have fled the country, fearing for their lives.

EUROPE UPDATE**Selected events in Europe from January to May 1993****Bosnia-Herzegovina:**

Gross human rights abuses, including deliberate and arbitrary killings, arbitrary arrest and torture and ill-treatment, continued to be committed in many regions by all sides involved in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Thousands upon thousands of people - Muslims, Croats and Serbs - have left their homes since April 1992 in circumstances which often amounted to forcible

expulsion. Hundreds of non-Serbs continue to arrive every week in neighbouring Croatia or areas controlled by Bosnian Government or Bosnian Croat forces - having fled from persecution in areas under the control of Bosnian Serb forces. Amnesty International is also concerned that deliberate and arbitrary killings and the arbitrary detention of civilians have occurred in central and southwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina in the context of conflict between Bosnian Government and Bosnian Croatian forces.

Tadzhikistan:

Continuing into 1993, Amnesty International received new information about human rights abuses arising from the civil war. After the fall of the capital, Dushanbe, to government forces in December scores of people, mostly unarmed civilians, were reportedly extrajudicially executed by law enforcement officials. Killings and "disappearances" followed checks of identity papers on the streets or at the airport, some victims being executed on the spot, others being arrested and their bodies found later in the streets or the city morgue. The victims are reported to be mainly people originating from areas in the east of the country, apparently believed by government supporters to be centres of opposition.

Turkey:

On 20 March, the leader of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), Abdullah Öcalan, announced a unilateral cease-fire and declared that they would pursue their aims by peaceful methods. Following this, Amnesty International noted a marked decline in "executions" of prisoners by the PKK, and a similar reduction in allegations of extrajudicial execution by government forces. However, the organization continues to receive allegations of torture from Istanbul, Ankara and Adana, as well as the southeast where security operations have continued since the cease-fire.

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

Selected events in the Middle East from January to May 1993

Egypt:

Amnesty International was concerned about the dramatic increase in human rights abuses during a government crackdown following violent attacks by Islamic militants. There has been a sharp rise in politically motivated killings, mass arrests, torture, unfair political trials and death sentences. In March 1993 alone, 29 alleged Islamic militants were killed by police in suspicious circumstances.

Israel and the Occupied Territories:

Amnesty International was extremely concerned at the deteriorating human rights situation in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. There was an upsurge in killings of Palestinian civilians by Israeli forces after the deportations to South Lebanon of more than 400 alleged supporters of the Islamic resistance movement (*Hamas*) and Islamic *Jihad* in December 1992.

Many of those killed by Israeli forces were under 16 years old. Amnesty International believes that many of these killings were unjustifiable, and that some may have amounted to extrajudicial execution.

Amnesty International was also concerned about the destruction of dwellings in which wanted Palestinians were alleged to be hiding as this may amount to collective punishment.

Amnesty International appealed to Palestinian armed groups not to carry out arbitrary and deliberate killings.

Kuwait:

The first recorded judicial execution since 1989 was carried out in May. The victim was an Iraqi national sentenced to death by Kuwait's State Security Court for "collaboration" with Iraqi forces during the occupation of Kuwait. His trial failed to conform to international standards for fair trial.

At least five other people have been sentenced to death on similar charges of "collaboration" with Iraqi forces.

Morocco and Western Sahara:

Amnesty International delegation visited Morocco to hold talks with the *Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme*. This was the first time that Amnesty International was allowed access to Morocco in three years. A report published in April welcomed past releases by the Moroccan Government of detainees who had "disappeared" for up to 18 years. Amnesty International called on the authorities to end the practice of "disappearance" once and for all by releasing the remaining detainees held in secret centres.

Saudi Arabia:

The spokesperson of the newly founded Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) was arrested in mid-May: Amnesty International considered him to be a prisoner of conscience.

Four days before his arrest the Council of Senior 'Ulama (religious scholars), the highest religious authority in Saudi Arabia had issued a statement expressing surprise at the establishment of the human rights committee, stating that the kingdom of Saudi Arabia had no need for human rights organizations since it was ruled in accordance with Islamic Law.

Amnesty International was also gravely concerned about the large and growing number of public executions being carried out in Saudi Arabia.

AMERICAS UPDATE

Selected events in the Americas from January to May 1993

El Salvador:

The UN-appointed Truth Commission published its report in March. It found government forces responsible for human rights violations on a massive scale committed during the period of armed conflict between 1979 and 1982. The Commission also held the opposition FMLN responsible for a number of summary executions.

Less than a week later, the government passed a sweeping amnesty law, exempting from prosecution those responsible for human rights abuses before 1992. The day after the amnesty law came into force, a colonel and lieutenant sentenced in 1992 for the 1989 murder of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter, were released under the new law. The colonel was the only senior-ranking official ever to have been convicted for human rights violations. Both officers had served 14 months' imprisonment.

Guatemala:

In the wake of protests in Guatemala City, President Jorge Serrano announced on 25 May that the Guatemalan Constitution was partially suspended, Congress dissolved, Supreme Court and Constitutional Court judges dismissed, and the rule of law replaced with rule by decree. These actions have been described as an "*auto-golpe*" (self-coup). Government offices with responsibility for human rights protection, such as the Human Rights Procurator's Office and the Attorney General, were also suspended. Attempts were apparently made to arrest certain government officials associated with official human rights initiatives, and independent human rights defenders from other Central American countries currently visiting Guatemala may also have been detained. Amnesty International said in a letter to President Serrano that his decision seriously undermined the protection of human rights and urged him to restore the rule of law.

Haiti:

Amnesty International was concerned about a marked upsurge in human rights violations in Haiti, particularly in the capital Port-au-Prince. Many of the victims were supporters of ousted President Aristide. The violence appeared to reflect the military's unease at negotiations led by a UN Organization of American States mediator to end the country's continuing political crisis. The first contingents of a United Nations / Organisation of American States International Civilian Mission observer team, eventually expected to number as many as 300, have been arriving in Haiti during the past few months.

Peru:

The third highest-ranking officer in the Peruvian army alleged that a special military intelligence unit was responsible for the 1992 massacre of a lecturer and 10 students, despite army denials. General Rodolfo Robles Espinoza, who sought political asylum in Argentina, said the massacre was carried out with the full knowledge and approval of the Commander General of the Army.

Amnesty International said that it believed that the decision to have the allegations investigated by a military tribunal amounted to a cover-up. Such tribunals have in the past consistently failed to convict armed forces personnel accused of human rights violations. The organization urged President Fujimori to halt the military tribunal and to order a full, impartial and independent inquiry into the allegations made by General Robles.

USA:

The 200th victim of state execution since executions resumed in 1977 was sent to his death on 4 May. Darryl Stewart, a black defendant convicted of the murder of a white woman, died by lethal injection in Texas.

Amnesty International was gravely concerned about the spiralling number of executions in the USA, particularly in Texas where a disturbing number of prisoners facing imminent execution do not have lawyers to represent them on appeal. A disproportionate number of those on death row in the USA are black and poor - they include juvenile offenders, the mentally retarded and the mentally ill.