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UGANDA

Thousands detained without trial

THOUSANDS of civilians have been detained by the army in northern Uganda since late March in counter-insurgency operations. Betty Bigombe, the Minister of State responsible for the north, announced in mid-May that 3,000 "rebels" had been captured in one sub-county alone. Most of them were apparently released uncharged, but hundreds are still imprisoned. At least 600 people have reportedly been convicted of aiding and abetting the insurgents and are being held in prisons near Kampala. Others remain in military custody without charge or trial.

Eighteen prominent northerners arrested in March and April were charged with treason on 7 May. Among them were three members of parliament: Omara Atubo, who was then also Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; Irene Apiu Julu; and Zachary Olum. Some of the accused appeared in court showing signs of beatings and ill-treatment; their lawyers claimed they had been beaten by soldiers only hours before being flown from the north to the Kampala courtroom. The government says it is investigating these allegations.

The treason charges automatically prevent the defendants from applying for bail for 16 months. There is no guarantee that they will be brought to trial within that time. The charges are framed only in general terms and the authorities have so far failed to support them with detailed accusations. AI is concerned that vague treason charges are being used by the authorities to hold the 18, and others similarly charged, when there is little or no evidence on which to bring prosecutions before the courts.

AI has already adopted three of the 18 as prisoners of conscience; all three are community leaders from Gulu, the northern capital, who were arrested after protesting about the ill-treatment of civilians detained by soldiers. □

MOROCCO

Long-term 'disappeared' released

OVER 200 "disappeared" Western Saharans — "Sahrawis" — held by the Moroccan authorities in secret detention centres for up to 15 years, are reported to have been released since mid-June. Several hundred civilians from the south of Morocco and the Western Sahara reportedly "disappeared" in detention between November 1975, when Morocco first occupied the former colony of the Spanish Sahara, and 1987. They were arrested by Moroccan security forces and imprisoned in secret jails. Until these releases, the Moroccan authorities had consistently denied, to both AI and the United Nations (UN), that they were holding the "disappeared" Sahrawis.

Reports indicate that all Sahrawi detainees have been released from secret detention centres in Laayoune, and from Qal'at M'gouna, where over 200 people are believed to have been held in extremely harsh conditions. Over 40 inmates are said to have died there since 1975. AI is concerned that other "disappeared" may still be detained in other secret centres.

Those released include some of the 88 Sahrawis for whom AI groups have been appealing since the late 1970s; other cases were described in AI's November 1990 report, *Morocco: 'Disappearances' of people of Western Saharan origin (AI Index MDE 29/17/90)*. Three of the Mayara



Embarca ment Talab ould Husein, a former radio announcer in Laayoune in the Western Sahara, "disappeared" in September 1979 when she was taken from her home by plainclothes police officers. She is among those reportedly released since mid-June

brothers, former members of the Royal Moroccan Army, are said to have been released: they were among the first Sahrawis to be arrested and to "disappear" in November 1975. Several people who "disappeared" in 1987 while a UN technical mission was visiting the Western Sahara have also apparently been released, including Sidati Selami ould Lahbib, a blind radio announcer, and his daughter, Atfarah, and Ghalia ment Abdellahi ould Mohamed, an agricultural engineer.

The releases come in the context of the UN settlement for the Western Sahara, under which a proposed cease-fire on 6 September 1991 is to be followed in early 1992 by a referendum to decide the Western Sahara's future.

AI welcomed the releases of some of the "disappeared" but has urged the Moroccan Government to appoint an impartial commission of inquiry to investigate the fate of all the "disappeared", to bring to justice those responsible for "disappearances" and other human rights violations, and to provide medical treatment and compensation to those now released. □

SOUTH AFRICA

Internal Security Act amendment fails to provide adequate safeguards

ON 21 June the South African Parliament amended several provisions of the Internal Security Act (1982), including the clauses providing for long-term detention without charge or trial. The Parliament repealed Sections 28 and 50A, which permitted detention without trial for "preventive" reasons. The amended law will be issued as the Internal Security and Intimidation Amendment Act.

Police powers under Section 29 of the 1982 Act, which had permitted them to detain people without charge indefinitely, incommunicado and in solitary confinement for interrogation, were reduced but remain extensive.

Under the new law this section, associated in the past with the torture and deaths of detainees, will still enable the police to detain people incommunicado for 10 days, and then apply to a judge to renew the detention for further 10-day periods. Detainees will only have access to a lawyer if the police apply for such an extension, but judges will not be required to call the detainee's legal representative or the detainee to give evidence.

The new law also allows the police discretion not to inform detainees' relatives and lawyers of their detention, and to deny independent medical access to

detainees if, in their view, either step would hamper police investigations. The amended Section 29 still falls far short of international standards, and permits conditions where torture or "disappearances" can occur.

In the past, Section 29 detainees were often held for many months without their cases ever being referred to a judge. In July 1991, for example, an inquest court heard evidence regarding the death in June 1990 of a Section 29 detainee, Donald Madisha, who allegedly committed suicide after nearly five months in solitary confinement. □

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.

USSR

Sergey Osnach: aged 21, he was arrested on 13 April 1991 in the Ukrainian town of Shostka and charged with "evasion of regular call-up to active military service" under Article 72 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code.

Sergey Osnach stood trial on 18 June 1991 for refusing to perform military service in the Soviet army on the grounds that it "does not defend the motherland and the nation, but the 'socialist choice'".



Sergey Osnach

He was sentenced to 18 months' compulsory labour. Known as "building the national economy", this involves working at a site designated by the authorities. Compulsory labour is less severe than imprisonment in a corrective labour colony, but the prisoners are still under surveillance and restricted in their movements. AI believes that restrictions placed on prisoners of conscience while doing compulsory labour are analogous to imprisonment and therefore urges their immediate and unconditional release.

Conscientious objection to military service is recognized by the United Nations as a legitimate exercise of the right of freedom of thought, conscience and religion. AI considers as prisoners of conscience those who for reasons of conscience or profound conviction arising from religious, ethical, moral, humanitarian, philosophical, political or similar motives refuse to perform armed service or undertake any other direct or indirect participation in wars or armed conflicts. AI believes that the true number of detained conscientious objectors in the USSR

may be higher than the 13 for whose release the organization was working in July 1991. Of these, most are Jehovah's Witnesses and five were convicted in the Ukraine.

On 14 February 1991 the Soviet news agency TASS announced that the USSR parliament would soon consider a draft law which provides for a civilian alternative service independent of the USSR armed forces. This would be open to those unable to perform military service because of their "religious or other convictions". The length of alternative service would be three years, one year longer than compulsory military service.

■ Please send appeals for the immediate and unconditional release of Sergey Osnach, and for the introduction of a civilian alternative to military service to: Leonid Kravchuk, Chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet/Verkhovny Soviet UkrSSR/9, Kiev/Predsedatelyu. KRAVCHUKU L.M./USSR.□

MOROCCO

Kouin Amarouch: a 61-year-old former warrant officer, married with six children, he served 10 years in prison for his alleged participation in an attempt on King Hassan II's life. Although he completed his sentence in 1981, he was not released and continues to be held incommunicado, in conditions so harsh as to threaten his life.

Kouin Amarouch was tried in March 1972, together with 1,080 other members of the Moroccan armed forces, after allegedly participating in an attack on the Royal Palace of Skhirat on 10 July 1971 during celebrations for the King's birthday. Seventy-five of those convicted were sentenced to prison terms, the rest, all cadets, were acquitted. Kouin Amarouch received a 10-year prison sentence.

Following a second coup attempt in 1972, 11 of those held to be responsible were sentenced to death and executed, and 32 others were sentenced to between three years' and life imprisonment.

Those imprisoned after these trials were first held at a prison where they were allowed family visits. However, on 7 August 1973, 61 of the prisoners, apparently those sentenced to three or more years' imprisonment, were transferred to the secret prison of

Tazmamert, part of a remote army base in the Atlas mountains in south-eastern Morocco, where Kouin Amarouch and others who have survived the harsh conditions there continue to be held.

Kouin Amarouch is held in total isolation from the outside world, in a small separate cell with little ventilation or light, which becomes extremely cold in winter and extremely hot in summer. The food is poor, and no medical treatment is provided.

Of the 61 prisoners who were transferred to Tazmamert in 1973, at least 29 are said to have died due to the harsh conditions. Of those who have survived, the sentences of all but eight have expired. Kouin Amarouch was due to be released in 1981.

■ Please send courteous letters appealing for his release, if possible in French, to: His Majesty King Hassan II/Palais Royal/Rabat/Morocco.□

BHUTAN

Ratan Gazmere: a lecturer in biology at the Institute of Education in Samchi, he was arrested on 8 October 1989 for writing and distributing a booklet entitled *Bhutan: We Want Justice*, which criticized a government decree he claimed discriminated against Bhutan's ethnic population. He is reportedly being held in untried detention in Wangdi prison in the capital, Thimphu.

Many Nepali-speaking Bhutanese, who constitute between 20 and 35 per cent of the population in Bhutan, also protested against the April 1989 decree, which required all Bhutanese citizens to wear national dress in public and speak the official language (Dzongkha) or else risk a fine or one week's imprisonment.

Ratan Gazmere's brother, Jogen Gazmere, was arrested in Jhapa, Nepal, in late 1989 along with Sushil Pokhrel and Tek Nath Rizal, a former counsellor to the King of Bhutan who was in exile in Nepal. They were subsequently returned to Bhutan, where they were charged with "anti-national" activities. All three had been active in a Nepal-based or-

ganization called the People's Forum for Human Rights, which advocates greater rights for the Nepali-speaking minority in Bhutan. Two students active in the People's Forum, Bakti Prasad Sharma and Biswanath Chhetri, were arrested in Bhutan in late

1989 and charged with "anti-national" activities.

AI has written to the Government of Bhutan expressing concern and calling for the immediate release of the six men. A reply was received from the government on 9 November 1990 which stated that the King had opposed the bringing to trial of the six men because they are charged with a crime that would carry the death sentence. No further information has been received.

■ Please send courteous letters expressing concern and requesting that Ratan Gazmere be immediately and unconditionally released to: His Majesty Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck/Thimphu/Bhutan.□



Ratan Gazmere



FOCUS

amnesty
international

No more excuses

AI was founded in outrage at a world in which governments routinely violated the human rights of their people. Thirty years on and the outrage is stronger. Governments which could once plead ignorance have been deprived of that excuse by the strength of the international human rights movement, yet governments around the world continue to sabotage the hopes and dreams that millions of ordinary people have risked their lives and freedom for. The challenge for the 1990s is to build human rights awareness in the broadest sense of the term: to ensure that no government can cloak illegal activities in secrecy; that the rights of even the poorest citizens are upheld; and to build a truly international movement capable of taking action against human rights violations wherever they occur. There are no more excuses.

So AI's 30th anniversary — 28 May 1991 — was no cause for celebration. Human rights campaigners around the world were out on the streets, staging demonstrations, raising the public profile of human rights issues through the local or national news media, or simply writing letters of protest to those responsible for torture, "disappearances", the death penalty and executions. It was a day for business as usual. AI's volunteer members — the backbone of its international human rights campaign — share the belief that ordinary people can and should take action in support of the human rights of others. From over 150 countries, members are prepared to write letters, send telegrams and organize campaigns to stop human rights abuses wherever they occur. By the beginning of AI's 30th year, the number of AI members and regular donors surpassed one million — a compelling reminder to all governments of the depth of feeling that exists around the world about human rights.

Many sections used the occasion of the 30th anniversary to



In Brussels AI members set up 529 life-size silhouettes in the *Grote Markt*; each one described a specific human rights violation

organize campaigns aimed at reminding the public that two out of three people are still ruled by governments that torture and kill their citizens; millions of people are still risking their lives simply by peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of thought and expression. The campaigns focused on boosting public support and awareness, and urging more

people to join AI and become active in the campaign, write their own letters and take part in wider membership activities.

AI groups around the world campaigned with the slogan "no more excuses". In India, groups in the Madras area made up hand drawn posters urging people to join the fight to stop human rights abuses. Members set up a book-

stall in the town centre and displayed publicity material.

In Pakistan, a concert for human rights featured a group called "Milestones", and brought AI's message to hundreds of people in Karachi. The Karachi group also held a workshop and educational session for new groups-information in Sindh and Baluchistan, and organized a poster competition around the theme of "state and private torture".

Across Europe and North America, AI sections marked the anniversary with seminars, concerts, vigils and walks. Francophone and Flemish members in Belgium used the 30th anniversary to make a special appeal to young people to learn about human rights violations and become active in AI. In Brussels the section arranged 529 life-size silhouettes in the *Grote Markt* in the centre of the city. The silhouettes represented those people suffering human rights abuses who cannot stand up themselves and be seen by the world. The 30th anniversary ceremonies in Ireland



Delegates at the annual meeting of the AI section in Abeokuta, Nigeria, one of the longest established sections in Africa

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included traditional music and poetry readings.

In the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, former prisoner of conscience Jiri Wolf was involved in a public reading of the poetry of Nguyen Chi Thien, a Vietnamese poet and prisoner of conscience who has spent half his life in jail because of the political nature of his poetry. Many of those who attended the event later wrote letters to the Vietnamese Government, urging the release of Nguyen Chi Thien.

The first AI group in Paraguay was officially launched to coincide with AI's 30th anniversary. AI was opened up to the general public at a forum attended by 250 people; there was wide media coverage and support from local non-governmental organizations, political parties, trade unions, the Catholic Church and former prisoners of conscience. Sixty people joined AI on the spot. Week-long activities to mark the 30th anniversary included an art exhibition and a death penalty seminar. A prominent Paraguayan journalist offered to broadcast Urgent Action appeals for the victims of human rights violations, and two priests undertook to contribute to the costs of letters sent by AI members. The potential for AI development seems limitless, even in a country which was virtually closed to the outside world during the 35 years of the Stroessner dictatorship.

AI members confronted the Moroccan ambassador at his home after he refused to receive them at the embassy. This meeting was the first direct contact between a Moroccan Government representative and AI members in an Arab country. In Algeria the AI group in Tizi Ouzou attracted 750 people to a public meeting about human rights violations in Morocco. Many of those attending signed petitions and took away materials which would enable them to write their own letters.

In the Netherlands police officers who are members of AI played a special part in the Morocco action. They sent letters directly to their counterparts in the Moroccan security forces, appealing directly to them about human rights violations.

Peter Benenson, the founder of AI, spent the 30th anniversary in Spain, where he undertook a series of media interviews on behalf of the AI section and a public meeting in Seville. Later in the year, he will tour parts of Europe, Asia and South America. His objective will be to help the AI membership structures in the countries he visits to encourage even more people to care about the human rights of others and to turn that care into action by becoming active in AI. The simple vision he had for AI in 1961 is still intact. If we continue to develop a successful multicultural movement, he said, "our single candle will



The Madras group in India relaxes after a hectic campaign

The campaign focused on boosting public support and urging more people to join AI

In Australia, AI members organized an "Australians Who Care" action, designed to publicize AI's work to a broad range of Australians, and to enrol new members. The section devised a special letter-writing program, using the 30th anniversary as a theme.

In Egypt, AI groups organized a public evening event in Cairo which attracted wide media coverage. About 200 people attended the event, which included songs, poetry readings, video shows relating to AI's work, and a photograph exhibition.

AI members also take part in international campaigns to draw attention to human rights abuses in specific countries. During the 30th anniversary month, AI members in 34 countries campaigned against human rights violations in Morocco.

In Denmark, France and the Netherlands, members raised their concerns directly with representatives of the Moroccan Government. In Jordan, a delegation of

light the world".

But what is it all for? The actions taken by our members can have a positive impact on the lives of women and men around the world. AI's work focuses on individual prisoners: getting them released from prison, calling for fair trial, trying to stop them from being tortured or killed. And while many governments continue to order or condone human rights violations, action brings results. Sometimes getting the simple message to the prisoners that they are not alone, that the world has not forgotten them, gives them the strength to go on. "I will never forget the day AI took up my case", a former prisoner of conscience from Argentina wrote, "because before then we didn't have a real hope to leave the prison alive... somewhere in the world thousands of people knew about me." A woman detained in South Africa wrote: "Your letter strengthened me... Now I feel that I am not alone at these hard and troubled times."

Anniversary greetings

AI is by no means the only representative of the international human rights movement. Local, national and international groups devote all or part of their efforts to different aspects of the struggle for social, political and economic rights. AI received dozens of anniversary greetings from such organizations around the world, below are excerpts from just a few.

United Nations: "I wish to congratulate all the members and collaborators of AI on thirty years of work dedicated to the cause of human rights. AI, by its revolutionary approach of mobilizing millions of people all over the world in the fight for respect for human rights, has provided inestimable support to its own work and that of the United Nations." Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

World Confederation of Labour: "We extend our hands to you in warm congratulations and admiration for the great and noble tasks that you have been doing to defend and advance the rights, freedom, respect for and the dignity of man."

AI Haq, the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists (Israeli-Occupied Territories): "The work of AI continues to have our deepest respect and admiration. Please accept our best wishes for many more decades of success in defense of human rights around the world."

International Federation of Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture: "AI...represents a huge hope, hope for the prisoners who are forgotten, tortured, condemned to death; hope for the families and the groups who offer resistance to oppression...Be sure that we remain, in entire independence, side by side with your efforts."

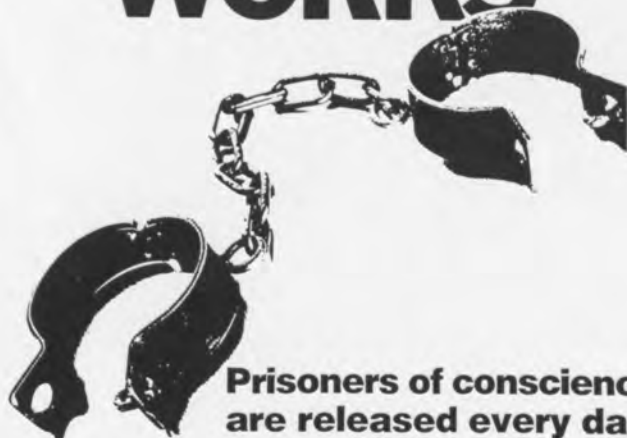
The **Australian Senate** agreed to a resolution, congratulating AI on its 30 years of work on behalf of prisoners around the world, but "noting with regret that the work of AI remains indispensable because of continuing, worldwide human rights abuses, including torture and summary execution of political prisoners."

Twelve former political prisoners from Swaziland: "We would like to congratulate AI for achieving its 30th anniversary of relentless work with a clear record of commitment to Human Dignity worldwide. This is no doubt a very demanding task especially in this our beloved world which is dominated by greed, selfishness and abuse of Human Rights. Today we talk about democratic changes sweeping the world especially our continent Africa and we are proud to give credit to your good organisation AI for consistently having exposed infringements on the dignity of human kind...The pressure you exerted on the government during our trial and the detentions was of great help and no wonder we were released on the eve of the arrival of the delegation you sent here to talk to the government. We thank you very much and urge you to carry on with this good work all over the world."

World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession: "In the name of more than 13,000,000 teachers, we present our congratulations as well as our thanks for your invaluable service in the cause of human rights... We wish you every success in your future actions but hope that all such action will become less and less necessary."

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AMNESTY WORKS



Prisoners of conscience are released every day.

On Thursday 7 February 1991 the Egyptian State Security Intelligence Police arrested Dr Mohammed Mandour, a member of the board of trustees of the Egyptian Organization of Human Rights (EOHR). No reason was given for his arrest; like many others he was told only that he was under administrative detention. He was held incommunicado, raising fears that he would be subjected to physical or psychological torture. Within 24 hours, the AI network was mobilized. Hundreds of members all over the world were asked to send telegrams, letters and faxes to the Egyptian authorities urging the immediate and unconditional release of Dr Mandour. Ten days

after his arrest an EOHR representative visited Dr Mandour in prison and reported that he had been subjected to "persistent and savage torture". He had been stripped of his clothes, blindfolded, handcuffed and subjected to electric shocks. Again the membership was notified and again hundreds of appeals flooded the offices of the Egyptian Minister of the Interior. On 26 February, AI received the following message from Dr Mandour:

"I would like to express my deep gratitude for your efforts which resulted in my release February 23 1991... I would also like to relate to you the effect your efforts had upon my morale when I learned of them... I felt I was no

longer alone, and the weight of insults, humiliation and physical abuse I had suffered, became much lighter... Your efforts have strengthened my faith in our common movement for human rights and have increased my confidence that our efforts are worthwhile."

In May, Dr Mandour travelled to Europe to address the annual meeting of the German Section.

Unfortunately, the time spent waiting for results can seldom be measured in weeks, some campaigns take decades. Groups in Germany, New Zealand and the United States of America kept up the pressure on the South Korean authorities for 19 years, repeatedly urging them to release prisoner of conscience Soh Sung. He finally went free in February 1990 and later said: "It is my hope that those who worked so hard on my behalf will now continue to work to bring about the release of all the other political prisoners in South Korea." Soh Sung, who now lives in the USA, visited several AI sections in Europe during AI's 30th anniversary month, speaking to AI members and publicizing human rights issues through interviews with the local and national media.

Many other former prisoners have been inspired to work on behalf of those who have not yet been released. An ethnic Albanian, whose identity must be kept secret to ensure his safety, served five years in prison for advocating autonomy for the Albanians of Kosovo in Yugoslavia. "My comrades and I were constantly subject to torture", he later wrote. "I shall not describe the details; you know them already through your involvement with political prisoners in every corner of the world. I want to express my respect for AI, for all its activists in all countries... The fight against torture is the fight against the greatest degradation a human being can undergo although I believe that the victims of torture are always morally superior to the torturers. It is because of this that I consider it indispensable to set up an AI group here, too. It seems to me very important to found an association for young people here which will work on human rights violations in other countries: the fate of all political prisoners is very similar."

Not every campaign or action brings about the release of prisoners or better treatment for detainees. But at the very least, continuing campaigns, appeals and publicity remind governments that whatever human rights violations they attempt will be exposed to the harsh glare of inter-



South Korean prisoner of conscience Soh Sung goes free after 19 years in prison



Nahamán Carmona López



Some long-term prisoners of conscience only regain their freedom when the governments that put them in prison fall from power. In Ethiopia, Mulugetta Mosissa (right), a prisoner of conscience since 1980, walked free when opposition forces defeated the Ethiopian army and took Addis Ababa on 28 May 1991. Here he is seen reunited with his wife, Namat, herself a prisoner of conscience from 1980 to 1989, and his 11-year-old son, Amonsissa, who grew up in prison with his mother and whom Mulugetta Mosissa had never seen



Dr Mandour addresses AI's German Section, May 1991

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national scrutiny. And that kind of pressure forces changes that might save lives.

Nahamán Carmona López was 13 years' old when he was kicked to death by police officers in Guatemala City. An active campaign of inquiries and publicity by Covenant House — an organization that works with street children in Guatemala — and widespread international outrage led to the arrest and conviction of four policemen in connection with the crime. This was the first known sentencing of official security force agents for human rights violations since the government of President Jorge Serrano Elias came to office in January 1991.

In Morocco, Fatima Oufkir and her six children "disappeared" for 15 years after her husband, General Mohammed Oufkir, died in suspicious circumstances after being implicated in a 1972 plot to assassinate King Hassan II. No one was even sure that the family was still alive until 1987, when four of the children escaped from detention. The four made a radio broadcast and managed to speak with a French lawyer. They described how they had been moved three times during the 15 years, and how they had been kept in virtual isolation in separate windowless cells since 1977. Although the four children were quickly rearrested and returned to detention, they had alerted the outside world to their conditions, which subsequently improved. The family was moved to a farm, and began to receive medical treatment and visits from the children's grandparents. International pressure increased over the next three years, and the family was released in February 1991. Like most former political prisoners, they have not been able to obtain passports, but they appear to enjoy freedom of movement and association within Morocco.

Some long-term prisoners of conscience only regain their freedom when the governments that put them in prison fall from power. In Ethiopia, Mulugetta Mosissa and his pregnant wife, Namat Issa, were arrested in February 1980. Both prisoners of conscience, they were never charged or tried, and were never allowed to see one another, even after the birth of their son, Amonsissa. Namat Issa and Amonsissa, who spent the first nine years of his life in prison, were released in 1989. Mulugetta Mosissa continued to be detained without charge. He had been severely tortured in the first months of his detention, and was subsequently kept in harsh conditions at Maekelawi, Ethio-



Former prisoner of conscience Václav Havel, now President of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, celebrates AI's 30th anniversary with the AI group in Denmark that campaigned for his freedom © Jerry Bergman

pia's main torture centre. On 28 May 1991 — AI's 30th anniversary — the prison warders fled as forces of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front advanced on Addis Ababa. Mulugetta Mosissa and hundreds of other political prisoners walked free. Mulugetta Mosissa has now been reunited with his wife, and with the 11-year-old son he had never seen.

In Kenya in 1990 the Reverend Lawford Imunde was sentenced to a six-year prison term for writing, publishing and possessing a "seditious document". The document in question was his own personal diary, which had neither been published nor even shown to anyone else. The diary was said to contain criticisms of the government, but there was no suggestion that it contained any seditious or violent plans. He was released in March 1991, when his sentence was reduced on appeal to one year. In May he wrote to AI: "I cannot thank you enough for your struggles on my behalf...Many may mishandle truth, but for all that they do not do away with it. And it is the only thing that remains when everything perishes!"

These are just a few examples of the hundreds of cases brought to AI's attention every year. In May 1991, the month of our 30th anniversary, AI learned of the release of 101 prisoners under adoption or investigation. Our task today is to increase the international pressure on behalf of the thousands of prisoners of conscience all over the world, to make tomorrow the day their freedom is restored. □

WHAT YOU CAN DO

AI does more than just talk about human rights violations; it expects its members and supporters to take action, and to encourage others to take action too. Individuals make a difference, and even the most vicious government cannot hold out forever against the massive mobilization of ordinary people.

JOIN

Thousands of people all over the world are crying out for help. You may already sympathize with AI's aims, but we need more than sympathy. We need action. AI has offices in more than 60 capital cities around the world. Get in touch with AI in your country and tell them you want to join us, or write directly to the International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom.

GET ACTIVE

You may already be a member. But whatever your level of involvement, make this the year you increase your commitment, step up your level of activity. If you have not found the time to get involved, use AI's 30th anniversary year as a reason to get busy. Write a monthly letter to help a prisoner; go regularly to your local group's meetings; petition others to support the campaign for human rights.

RECRUIT

Get your friends and colleagues to join the worldwide campaign. There can't be too many people reminding governments that the world is watching when they choose to incarcerate, torture and execute their citizens.

RAISE FUNDS

All of AI's funds are raised by the members, and AI's independence and impartiality is protected by accepting no contributions from governments and by following strict guidelines on financial donations. So run a bookstall, plan a concert, hold an exhibition, organize a sponsored competition or sporting event, or simply rattle a collection tin under people's noses.

JORDAN

Martial law directives repealed

MARTIAL Law Directives giving the government sweeping powers of arrest and detention of security suspects, and providing for their trial by a Martial Law Court, were repealed in July. They had been in force since June 1967 and had facilitated human rights violations. In December 1989 the Jordanian Government had announced that martial law was being "frozen" with a view to lifting it. AI welcomed the decision to repeal the Martial Law Directives and in a message to the Jordanian Government expressed hopes for further speedy progress in human rights reforms.

Martial law, however, has not yet been formally lifted. In addition, wide powers of arrest and detention are still available under the Defence Law, in force since 1939. A draft Defence Law is currently being debated in Parliament.

The Martial Law Court will conclude the trials already initiated before it is abolished. Trials before this court have fallen short of relevant international standards for fair trial, including in capital cases. At least five people tried by this court have been executed since January 1991. □

PRISONER NEWS

AI learned in June 1991 of the release of 140 prisoners under adoption or investigation. AI took up 41 cases.

SAUDI ARABIA

Executions resume

ON 24 May a Sudanese national, found guilty of murder, was executed in Saudi Arabia. This was followed by the execution of eight more people on 31 May and of a further seven on 7 June. All those executed, among them Saudi Arabian and foreign nationals, had been found guilty on criminal charges, including rape, murder, robbery and drug-related offences. AI had not recorded any executions in Saudi Arabia since July 1990 and had welcomed this as a positive development. The organization was particularly dismayed to learn of these recent executions.

AI recorded 111 executions in Saudi Arabia in 1989, and 13 between January and July 1990. Executions in Saudi Arabia are public and are usually carried out by beheading with a sword or, in the case of sexual crimes, by stoning to death.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Convention on 'disappearances'

PRESSURE was stepped up within the Organization of American States (OAS) in June for concrete progress on the long delayed Convention on "disappearances".

During the 21st session of the OAS General Assembly in Santiago, Chile, from 3 to 8 June, a number of member states called on the working group studying the draft Convention to have the text ready for examination by the General Assembly in 1992.

AI has attended the OAS General Assembly under a special guest status for the past 10 years

and sent a three-member delegation to the Santiago Assembly. The organization had written to all OAS states prior to the General Assembly expressing its concern over the delay in the work on the draft Convention. This Convention seeks to define the crime of enforced disappearance as well as to establish the necessary mechanisms for its prevention and punishment.

Although the main topic of this Assembly was the defence of representative democracy in the Americas, there were also important discussions on some issues

within the scope of AI's work. The 1990/91 Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which was discussed at the General Assembly, analyses the human rights situation in Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru and Suriname and includes resolutions on 86 individual cases — the largest number relating to Peru, and others concerning Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico and Uruguay. However, the General Assembly did not pass resolutions on any specific countries. □

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Military source admits violations

A Papua New Guinea Defence Force officer, Colonel Leo Nuia, confirmed in late June that serious human rights violations had been committed by troops under his command during operations on the island of Bougainville, part of North Solomons Province, in 1990. Among the violations confirmed was the extrajudicial execution of Pastor Raumo Benito and five of his parishioners on 14 February 1990. In an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Colonel Nuia also admitted that the bodies of the victims had been dumped at sea from helicopters supplied to the defence forces by the Australian Government. The executions were among dozens of serious violations documented by AI in its report *Papua New Guinea: Human Rights Violations on Bougainville 1989-1990*, published in November 1990.

Following his public revelations, the government recalled Colonel Nuia from active service in North Solomons Province. AI wrote to the government on 28 June welcoming this step but urging it to establish an independent commission of inquiry to investigate all human rights violations reported on Bougainville since early 1989. □

INDIA

AI delegation denied access

AN AI delegation, scheduled to leave for India on 3 July, was not granted entry visas by the Indian Government. The Government informed AI on 3 July that the request for visas was still under consideration and that a decision would be reached by 15 July. As of 22 July, there was still no response from the Indian Government.

In a letter of 23 April to the Foreign Secretary, Muchkund Dubey, AI had proposed that a delegation visit three southern states: Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. On 11 June AI further specified that a three-member delegation proposed to visit southern India from 3 to 23 July. A Japanese member of the AI delegation was initially granted a visa on 20 June but his visa was withdrawn a few days later. □

AI visits Rwanda

TWO AI representatives visited Rwanda in early June to discuss the human rights situation in the country and meet government officials and others. The representatives were also allowed to meet 10 political prisoners.

Although most of the 8,000 or more prisoners arrested after a rebel attack on northern Rwanda in October 1990 were released earlier this year, several dozen civilians, about 100 Rwandese soldiers and 15 captured insurgents continue to be held.

Shortly before AI's representatives visited Rwanda, four journalists accused of writing newspaper articles expressing dissenting views were arrested.

The AI representatives expressed concern at the authorities' apparent failure to investigate allegations that members of the security forces had tortured prisoners, sometimes to death, or killed others outright. No efforts have been made to bring those responsible to justice. In many cases the authorities blamed killings on local people rather than the security forces; they admitted that no soldiers or police had been prosecuted for committing abuses since the October 1990 mass arrests.

Eighteen political prisoners convicted in early 1991, many on the basis of statements allegedly made under torture, remain in detention without their torture allegations having been properly investigated. Some of them may be prisoners of conscience.

Secret trials by court martial of government soldiers, some of whom are accused of treason, have reportedly taken place in recent months; few details of the proceedings are available, but they do not appear to meet international standards for fair trial. □

PERU

Pattern of violations continues unabated

AN AI delegation, including the Secretary General, visited Peru in July. Meetings were held with President Alberto Fujimori, Prime Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, and with representatives from the Ministries of Defence, Justice and the Interior. The delegation also held talks with the Armed Forces Joint Command and the Director General of the Peruvian National Police. In a meeting with representatives of the Public Ministry, the Attorney General announced that in the 10-year period up to the end of 1990, 5,024 "disappearances" had been registered, of which 1,011 had been clarified.

The AI delegation outlined the organization's concerns, stressing the existence of a continuing and unabated pattern of gross human rights violations — including thousands of "disappearances", torture and extrajudicial executions — as well as threats and attacks against independent and official human rights defenders.

AI pressed for the speedy and effective implementation of recommendations to help reverse the high level of "disappearances" in the zones administered by the military. These included: registers of arrests to be in-



AI's delegates met these relatives of the "disappeared" in Lima

troduced in all military bases; detainees to be released in the presence of a representative from the Public Ministry or a judge; the Public Ministry to be strengthened with increased resources; and the International Committee of the Red Cross to be granted access to detainees in the emergency zones.

The authorities reaffirmed their policy of fully respecting human rights and assured the delegation that all alleged human rights violations would be investigated. However, AI has continued to receive information on cases of grave human rights violations perpetrated by the security forces in the emergency zones during the first 12 months of the new government.

Juan Arnaldo Salomé Aduato, for example, was reportedly tortured by the military after his detention on 24 April. He claimed to have escaped on 10 June from the barracks in Huancayo, Junín, after which he gave a detailed account of his torture to the Special Attorney for Human Rights in Huancayo. But on 22 June the emergency zone Mantaro Front Political-Military Command published an official communiqué, claiming it had investigated the allegations and concluded that Juan Salomé had never been in the custody of the military and was being manipulated by "subversive elements... and other official persons" as part of a campaign to discredit the security forces. □

ROMANIA

Ill-treatment and torture

ALLEGATIONS that police have ill-treated detainees in Romania to induce them to sign confessions continue to be widespread. In Oradea, in the northwest of the country, Ioan Gug alleged that immediately after arresting him on 19 December 1990, following a peaceful public meeting, police officers began to hit him in the abdomen. On arrival at the police station they threw him to the floor and repeatedly hit him until he lost consciousness. When he regained consciousness he was beaten again and witnessed other detainees being similarly treated.

From Tirgu Mures in the centre of Transylvania, where there is a large Hungarian minority, AI has received reports that detained ethnic Hungarians have been ill-treated. On 9 May, for example, Laszlo Havadtoi was stopped by a plainclothes police officer and compelled to get into a car, where he was beaten. In another case, Endre and Andor Muszka were detained on 23 November 1990 at Tirgu Mures police station and allegedly handcuffed to a radiator, punched, hit with gun butts, and kicked by the arresting officers until approximately 10 pm, when the officers went home. The relief guard continued to beat them, apparently because they were Hungarian and had not voted for President Iliescu. They were reportedly forced to sing in Hungarian and then punished for doing this. In the morning another police officer threatened that if they did not admit to intending to attack the arresting officer they would remain in detention. After their release AI is informed that the two men received medical certificates attesting to injuries requiring up to 12 days of medical treatment. □

SENEGAL

Casamance political prisoners released

IN late May the Government of Senegal announced that a political settlement had been reached with the Casamance separatist movement and that all political prisoners from Casamance would be released and legal proceedings against them halted. Some 346 untried prisoners were released.

Hundreds of suspected members of the Democratic Forces of Casamance had been arrested in 1990, although none had been tried by the time of the May releases.

From May 1990 onwards there had been an upsurge in violence in Casamance, initially by armed

government opponents but subsequently reflected in the response of the security forces. AI learned of the first extrajudicial executions reported in Casamance as well as details of many new cases of torture, which had been reported in Casamance throughout the 1980s. The government has not yet made public the findings of inquiries into reports of extrajudicial killings. □

SRI LANKA

Delegation meets human rights groups

IN early June an AI delegation visited Sri Lanka to assess the human rights situation in the country. This was the first time since 1982 that AI has been permitted to visit Sri Lanka for research purposes. During the visit, AI's delegates met government officials and individuals active in the field of human rights. They also interviewed dozens of victims of human rights violations committed by Sri Lankan security forces or by the armed opposition Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which effectively controls parts of the northeast of Sri Lanka.

The delegation also met members of recently established human rights bodies, including the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Involuntary Removal of Persons, which has been mandated by the government to investigate cases of "disappearances" occurring after 11 January 1991. During the AI delegation's visit, the government announced the creation of a Human Rights Task Force, which will be responsible for registering detainees arrested under emergency regulations or the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and reviewing their treatment in detention. □

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