



Amnesty International

newsletter

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Prisoners of Conscience Released in Nepal Amnesty

Seven AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL adoption and investigation cases, including a member of AI's Nepal Section, were among 27 political prisoners included in an amnesty declared by King BIRENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAM DEV of Nepal on 29 December. The amnesty, to mark the king's 31st birthday, covered a total of 250 prisoners.

According to information reaching AI in January, a substantial number of the 200 political prisoners in Nepal are being released in stages. The releases follow the formation on 1 December of a new cabinet headed by Prime Minister TULSI GIRI.

Among those released was RAM RAJA PRASAD SINGH, a Supreme Court lawyer, who had been elected to Parliament in the summer of 1971, but who was subsequently arrested on 14 October 1971 and held without trial under the Security Act. Another AI-adopted prisoner who was released with him was SHER BAHADUR DEUPA, president of the *Nepal Vidyarti Sangh* (Nepali Students' Organization), who is a member of the AI Nepalese Section and who had been imprisoned without trial since June 1974.

Fifteen political prisoners were released earlier in December 1975, among them KRISHNA PRASAD BHATTARAI, speaker of Nepal's first parliament and former Secretary General of the Nepali Congress Party. He was first imprisoned in 1960 and adopted by AI in 1968. He was released in 1970 after 10 years' imprisonment.

After addressing a meeting of the *Nepal*

Vidyarti Sangh, he was re-arrested on 3 August 1972 and had been held since that time under the Security Act. He was on the AI *Prisoners of the Month Campaign* in July 1969 and March 1973.

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to King Birendra on 31 December 1975 congratulating the government warmly on the release of the political prisoners. Prime Minister Tulsi Giri, when meeting the AI Asian Field Secretary RICHARD REOCH shortly before the official amnesty announcement, reportedly stated that all the estimated 200 political prisoners detained under the Security Act were to be released in the following three months, except for those who were thought to have committed acts of violence.

The International Secretariat has requested full details from the Nepalese government regarding the release of political prisoners. ■

PRISONER RELEASES AND CASES DURING 1975

The International Secretariat learned of the release of 1,688 AI-adopted prisoners during the calendar year 1975. This was an increase of 285 over the 1,403 prisoners released in 1974.

Some 2,015 new cases were taken up during 1975, a decrease of 443 from the number of new cases taken up the previous year.

These figures include the 123 releases AI learned of in December and the 145 new cases taken up in the final month of the year.

Peru Detains Lawyers

AI's Secretary General cabled President FRANCISCO MORALES BERMUDEZ of Peru on 21 January expressing concern at the long detention incommunicado of four well-known Peruvian lawyers. AI had previously cabled the Peruvian authorities on 13 December 1975, but had received no reply.

The four lawyers, Dr GENARO LEDESMA IZQUIETA, Dr RICARDO DIAZ CHAVEZ, JOSE ONA MEONO and ARTURO SALAS RODRIGUEZ, are legal advisors to trade unions currently engaged in serious disputes with the government. They were taken from their offices on 4 December 1975 by members of the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP).

AI has been informed that a plea of *habeas corpus* entered on behalf of the four was declared inadmissible by the courts after the Minister of the Interior, General CESAR CAMPOS QUESADA, denied they had been detained or that their whereabouts were known by the police.

Their detention was only confirmed when a letter, signed by each of them and describing their situation in detail, was smuggled from the jungle penal colony El Sepa and sent to the Peruvian press. They reported that they were moved between three PIP detention centers in Lima in four days and then, on 9 December 1975, transferred in great secrecy by air to the remote El Sepa in the Amazon region of Peru. El Sepa is a maximum security institution only accessible by military aircraft. Reliable sources affirm that no formal accusation has been made against the four men. ■

US CLEMENCY FOR SOSTRE

Governor HUGH CAREY of New York State granted executive clemency to the American prisoner of conscience MARTIN SOSTRE on 24 December 1975. Martin Sostre was convicted in 1968 on a charge of selling heroin and sentenced to 30 to 41 years' imprisonment.

He has always protested his innocence. AI took up his case after learning that the key witness against him had retracted his testimony. Before his arrest Martin Sostre ran the Afro-Asian Bookshop in Buffalo, New York, and was known as a black activist. During his years in prison he continued to fight for prisoners' rights. In particular he objected to rectal searches, an established part of prison routine, which resulted in a further conviction for assaulting guards at Clinton prison.

The clemency granted by Governor Carey means that Martin Sostre is paroled on the 1968 heroin charge, but he remains in prison

for the time being because of the sentence passed in connection with the alleged assault on the guards. The clemency decision made him eligible for parole on the second conviction when the New York Parole Board met in January. ■

SOVIET UNION FREES PLYUSHCH

LEONID PLYUSHCH, one of Amnesty International's adopted prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union, was released from the Dnepropetrovsk special psychiatric hospital on 8 January at the climax of an intensive international campaign for his freedom. He was allowed to leave the USSR immediately with his wife, TATYANA ZHITNIKOVA, and their two sons.

On their arrival outside of the USSR, Mrs Plyushch, on behalf of her husband, thanked AI, among other organizations which had worked for Mr Plyushch's release. She said

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SOVIET UNION FREES PLYUSHCH

that she felt the welcome they were given showed the general concern for "all those detained in prison for their opinions" in the Soviet Union.

Leonid Plyushch, a mathematician, was arrested in 1972 on charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and officially judged to be suffering from "creeping schizophrenia". He had been detained in the psychiatric hospital since 1973.

Mr and Mrs Plyushch have confirmed that he was treated with powerful neuroleptic drugs during his detention. Since he left the USSR, Leonid Plyushch has been in the care of several psychiatrists and each has expressed the view that he is not mentally ill.

The Plyushch family travelled from the USSR to Vienna where they arrived on 10 January. The Austrian Amnesty International national section and the International Executive Committee member, Dr IRMGARD HUTTER, made the arrangements for their two-day stay in Vienna. Among those who met Tatyana Zhitnikova was P. JAKOB FORG of the Austrian Amnesty International group 8 (Linz), one of the *AI* groups which had adopted Leonid Plyushch.

When the Plyushch family arrived in Paris on 11 January, they were met by representatives of the French *AI* national section and of other organizations which had worked on his behalf, including the International Committee of Mathematicians in Defence of Leonid Plyushch. ■

AI DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS SENEGAL, CONGO, CHAD

AI Deputy Secretary General HANS EHRENSTRALE visited three African states between 4 and 16 January and attended an international conference for Namibia. The conference was sponsored by the United Nations Commission for Namibia, whose head is the former Chairman of *AI*'s International Executive Committee, Nobel laureate SEAN MACBRIDE.

The conference, involving specialist UN agencies, representatives of a number of African states, non-governmental organizations, academics and jurists, was held in the Senegalese capital of Dakar from 5 to 8 January. Mr Ehrenstrale, attending as an observer, presented an *AI* conference document outlining the situation of sentenced Namibian political prisoners who are forced to serve their prison terms thousands of kilometers away on Robben Island in South Africa, and of persons detained in Namibia itself under the provisions of the South African Terrorism Act.

During the Dakar conference Mr Ehrenstrale met officials of the Senegalese government for informal discussions on human rights problems. He then flew to Brazzaville, capital of Congo, where he had

an audience with President MARIEN NGOUABI.

In July 1975, President Nguabi declared an amnesty lifting the restrictions still imposed on former political prisoners who, since a previous general amnesty in November 1973, had been under house arrest or working with "production brigades" (September 1975 *Newsletter*).

On the final stage of his mission, Mr Ehrenstrale visited Chad, a country which was the object of a major *AI* campaign in January 1975 (February 1975 *Newsletter*). Mr Ehrenstrale met the Chadian Minister of the Interior, Colonel MAMARI DJIME NGAKINAR, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commandant KAMOUNGUE WADAL, and several other high-ranking government officials. Colonel Ngakinar is also Vice President of the Superior Military Council which has ruled Chad since the overthrow of the repressive regime of President NGARTA TOMBALBAYE in April 1975.

Mr Ehrenstrale is preparing a report on his mission for *AI*'s International Executive Committee. In general, he said he found a positive attitude towards *AI* in all the countries he visited, especially in Chad, where the human rights situation has improved dramatically since the coup of April 1975. ■

AI URGES TAIWAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE ELECTION CANDIDATE

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS cabled Premier CHIANG CHING-KUO on 18 December 1975 urging the Government of the Republic of China to make formal charges against PAI YA-TSAN and others detained since October 1975 and "to bring them to open trial with full rights of defence or to release them".

Pai Ya-tsan, a native of Taiwan who is in his mid-30s, was a candidate to the Legislative Yuan elections which were held on 20 December 1975. He was arrested on 23 October 1975, along with other people involved in the publication of a leaflet for his electoral campaign.

The leaflet, a campaign statement, contained 29 questions to Premier Chiang Ching-kuo which included Pai Ya-tsan's suggestions that the government should consider opening diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and "negotiate with the Chinese communists concerning trade and relaxation of economic tension".

According to reports reaching *AI*, a few days after the publication of the leaflet Pai Ya-tsan, fearing for his safety, tried to seek refuge in the United States embassy in Taipei, but found it closed. His detention was made public only 10 days after his arrest.

No official charges have been made against him but an official spokesman said, at the beginning of November, that he was being held for "investigation of his apparent attempt to stir up seditious feeling" through his circulation of views contrary to "basic national policy". ■

AMNESTY IN MALAGASY REPUBLIC

The Malagasy Republic announced an amnesty on 30 December 1975 for all political infractions and crimes committed before 1 January 1975. This followed a referendum on 21 December 1975 which gave a massive public endorsement to the socialist program of President DIDIER RATSIRAKA.

A small number of *AI* investigation cases benefited from the amnesty. Most of them were originally arrested during April 1973 but had subsequently been released on provisional liberty. The amnesty appears to be intended to ease political tensions in Madagascar which reached a crisis point in early 1975 following a mutiny in late 1974 by an élite police unit. ■

AI MEMBER IN SOUTH KOREA FREED

AI learned of the release from prison on 18 December 1975 of HAHN SEUNG-HUN, a leading human rights lawyer and a board member of the Korea Amnesty International committee.

Hahn Seung-Hun was sentenced on 11 September 1975 to 18 months' imprisonment, with 18 months' suspension of civil rights to follow, after he had been found guilty of violating the Anti-Communist Law. This was in connection with a collection of his essays first published in 1972. He filed an appeal against his sentence which has now been suspended for three years by the Seoul High Court.

Hahn Seung-Hun was an *AI*-adopted prisoner. When the court passed its verdict in September 1975, the *AI* Executive Council was meeting in St Gallen, Switzerland and a cable was sent in the name of the Council chairman to President PARK CHUNG-HEE of South Korea strongly protesting against the sentence. ■

CZECHOSLOVAKIA RATIFIES COVENANT

AI's Secretary General sent a letter on 31 December 1975 to President GUSTAV HUSAK of Czechoslovakia expressing satisfaction that Czechoslovakia had ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on 23 December 1975 and that, as Czechoslovakia is the 35th country to do so, the covenant will come into force in three months' time. ■

CLAIMS OF POLICE ABDUCTION IN RHODESIA

Dr EDSON SITHOLE, a former *AI*-adopted prisoner who disappeared in Rhodesia on 15 October 1975 (November 1975 *Newsletter*), was abducted by members of Rhodesia's Special Branch, according to a report prepared by an investigator working for Dr Sithole's father.

The detective, JOHN TAYLOR, was reported on 17 January to have obtained signed affidavits from a number of witnesses who claim to have seen Dr Sithole in the custody of two Special Branch members

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.

Sri KUSNAPSIAH, Indonesia

SRI KUSNAPSIAH has been in prison in Indonesia for more than 10 years. She was arrested towards the end of 1965 at a time when hundreds of thousands of people were detained for allegedly taking part in an attempted coup against the army leadership. She has not been tried and there is no formal charge against her.

Sri Kusnapsiah is now about 67 years old. During her earlier years she was active in the independence movement against the Dutch. In the 1950s she became involved in the leftwing women's organization GERWANI and for several years she was a member of its Jakarta provincial committee. Sri Kusnapsiah's husband was also a political activist and worked for many years in the trade union movement. He too was arrested in late 1965 and as far as is known has been detained ever since. They have several adult children.

The Indonesian Communist Party and other leftwing organizations, such as GERWANI and the trade unions, were banned shortly after the abortive coup of October 1965. Many people whom the Indonesian government claimed to be members of such organizations, or in some way connected with them, were liable to summary arrest without recourse to normal legal safeguards. Sri Kusnapsiah was not involved personally in the attempted coup but was arrested during the army's purge against the Indonesian Communist Party and other leftwing groups.

Shortly after her arrest, Sri Kusnapsiah was taken to Bukit Duri prison in Jakarta. In April 1971 she was transferred to a long-term detention camp for women at Plantungan in central Java. Most of the women there have to work for their living, many of them in the fields. In view of Sri Kusnapsiah's age this is naturally a great hardship and it is probable that her health is no longer very good.

Please send courteously worded appeals

shortly after his disappearance. The affidavits, Mr Taylor said, will be the basis of an application for a writ of *habeas corpus* which is to be brought in the high court by the Sithole family.

The Rhodesian authorities continue to deny any involvement in Dr Sithole's abduction. ■

ADOPTED PRISONER TO STAND TRIAL IN INDONESIA

Reports reaching *AI* in January say that OEI TJU TAT, an *AI*-adopted prisoner in Indonesia, is due to stand trial in the Central Jakarta Court. Oei Tju Tat was vice chairman of BAPERKI, a cultural

pressing for Sri Kusnapsiah's release on account of her age and the long detention already served, to: President Suharto, Istana Negara, Jalan Veteran, Jakarta, Indonesia; and to: Admiral Sudomo, Kepala Staf KOPKAMTIB, KOPKAMTIB, Jalan Merdeka Barat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Gunar RODE, Soviet Union

GUNAR RODE was born in 1934 and is a Latvian citizen of the Soviet Union. In 1962, when he was a student of biology at Riga University in the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, he was arrested and charged with "treason", "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and participation in an "anti-Soviet organization". Specifically he was accused of belonging to a quasi-Marxist group which advocated autonomy for Latvia. He was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in a corrective labour colony.

Although Gunar Rode served part of his sentence in a colony in Mordovia, he has been sent to Vladimir prison three times as a punishment, each time apparently for 3 years. At present he is in Vladimir prison and is reportedly ill with a stomach ailment.

Please send politely worded cards appealing for his release to: SSSR, Moskva, ul Pushkinskaya 15a, Prokuratura SSSR, Generalnomu Prokuroru R.A. Rudenko (Procurator General of the USSR).

Steven CAROLUS, South Africa

STEVEN CAROLUS, aged 36, was detained under Section 6 of the South African Terrorism Act on 7 November 1974. He was held for more than five months but was neither charged nor brought to trial. He was released from detention at the end of April 1975.

Many members of the "black consciousness" movement, with which Steven Carolus was associated, have been similarly detained since September 1974 in what is regarded as an attempt by the South African government to disrupt the activities

association consisting largely of Chinese citizens. He was a minister in the last cabinet of the late President SUKARNO before that administration was dissolved in early 1966.

In October 1965 an abortive coup was staged against the army leadership in Indonesia. Hundreds of thousands of people were arrested and detained without trial, for alleged involvement in the attempted coup. Oei Tju Tat was arrested in March 1966 on suspicion of alleged involvement in the abortive coup, though the real reason for his arrest was his personal association with the government and policies of President Sukarno.

Oei Tju Tat will be one of only some

of those organizations and individuals who oppose their *apartheid* policies.

Section 6 of the Terrorism Act empowers the security police to detain any person without charge and hold them incommunicado for an indefinite length of time. A number of detainees arrested in September 1974 are known to have been held for more than a year before being released uncharged. Nine others who have been charged under the act are currently on trial in Pretoria.

In September 1975, five months after his release from detention, Steven Carolus was arbitrarily banned for 3 years under the Suppression of Communism Act. Under the terms of this banning order he is subject to restrictions which make it impossible to lead a normal life. Among other things, he may not attend gatherings of more than three people, enter any educational institution, travel freely, or be quoted in the press.

Many banned people are unable to obtain employment because of these restrictions. Banning orders are administratively imposed and may be renewed upon expiry. However, any contravention of the terms of a banning order is a crime punishable in a court of law.

Steven Carolus is married with one child. He lives in Athlone, Cape Province.

Please send courteously worded letters of appeal, asking for the lifting of the banning order, to: Hon J.T. Kruger, Minister of Justice, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa.

News of Past Campaigns

Rhodesian Detainee Freed

Reverend CANAAN BANANA, the former vice president of the African National Council (ANC) who was on the *AI Prisoner of the Month Campaign* in November 1975, was released from detention in Rhodesia on 15 January. Under the terms of his release, he is restricted to a 20 kilometer radius of his home in Bulawayo.

Reverend Banana became vice president of the ANC at the time of its formation in 1971. However, he left Rhodesia in 1973 to take up a theological scholarship in the United States. He was detained in May 1975 when he returned to Rhodesia after completing his studies.

800 people who have so far been tried in connection with the 1965 events. Tens of thousands of political prisoners have been in prison for 10 years without a real possibility of a fair trial. ■

NEW AI SECTION IN PAKISTAN

AI's International Executive Committee has formally recognized a new national section in Pakistan. This follows a visit in March 1975 to Pakistan by *AI* Secretary General who received assurances from Prime Minister ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO that the government would have no objection to the formation of an *AI* section in the country. ■

IRAN EXECUTES NINE

Nine persons were executed in Iran on 24 January for alleged acts of sabotage and terrorism despite an *AI* appeal to the SHAH for clemency. Another condemned person's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS cabled the Shah on 22 January and visited the Iranian embassy in London to ask that an *AI* observer be allowed to attend the appeal hearing against the sentences.

The defendants had been condemned to death by a military tribunal after a trial that not only was held *in camera* but which was kept secret until the official announcement of the sentences on 31 December. ■

DETAINEES RELEASED IN SINGAPORE

Eight political prisoners were released from detention in Singapore on 12 December 1975 after being held without trial for 18 months. One of the eight was T.T. RAJAH who is well-known in Singapore as one of the few lawyers willing to defend political prisoners.

Another detainee was CHAN SUN CHOY, a journalist of the *Sin Chiew Jit Poh* Chinese-language newspaper who had previously spent one year in detention in 1963. The remaining released prisoners included an 18-year-old woman construction worker, a former civil servant, a student and a shop assistant.

The eight were detained under the Internal Security Act during a large-scale security operation in June 1974, and had subsequently been taken up by *AI* groups. The Singapore government alleged that they were members of the Malayan National Liberation Front, an arm of the illegal underground Malayan Communist Party (MCP).

More than twenty men and women were released from detention in Singapore during 1975, but *AI* estimates that at least 40 political prisoners remain in various detention centers and holding centers. Their periods of detention range from 13 years without trial to less than one year. ■

EXECUTIONS IN SUDAN

Six people, including a paratroop colonel, were executed by a firing squad in Khartoum on 23 January for leading an abortive coup against President JAAFIR AL-NEMERY on 4 September 1975 (October 1975 *Newsletter*), according to an announcement from the Sudanese Army's General Headquarters.

The alleged leader of the coup, Lieutenant Colonel HASSAN HUSSEIN OSMAN, was among those shot. The death sentence passed on another alleged conspirator was commuted to life imprisonment.

In all, more than 180 persons were reported to have been arrested in September 1975 following the coup attempt. The majority have not yet been brought to trial. ■

STUDENT RELEASED IN MALAYSIA

Student leader JULIET CHIN was released from detention in West Malaysia on 12 December 1975. She was an *AI*-adopted prisoner and had spent exactly one year in detention without trial. Her release was under a restriction order which limits her freedom of employment and association.

Juliet Chin, aged 24, is a Malaysian citizen. She was a student of architecture at the University of Singapore where she was secretary general of the students' union. Together with a number of other students, she was deported from Singapore on 11 December 1974 for allegedly violating a written undertaking not to become involved in politics while studying in Singapore.

On arrival in West Malaysia she was arrested under Malaysia's Internal Security Act. ■

GREEK PRISONER THANKS AI

VASILIOS DEDOTSIS, a Jehovah's Witness imprisoned in Greece because of his refusal to perform military service, has written to *AI* to say that as a result of his inclusion on the greetings card list in 1975 he has received about 500 letters and cards from all over the world. He writes:

"My dear friends, reminding you again that I cannot manage to thank personally all those who wrote to me, I would ask you very earnestly to undertake this obligation for me and thank the various local groups in the different countries on my behalf, telling them of my boundless affection and my great respect for the members of your distinguished organization all over the world." ■

IEC CHANGES COUNCIL DATE

AI's next International Council meeting will be held in Strasbourg, France, 24-26 September, a week later than originally scheduled, the International Executive Committee decided at its meeting in London 16-18 January.

The IEC made the change to allow the council meeting to be held in the headquarters of the Council of Europe which has better facilities.

The IEC also decided to raise the individual membership fee from £3 to £5 and restructure the International Secretariat to meet the problem created by the forthcoming departure of the Deputy Secretary General and the Head of Research.

New procedures for the Borderline Committee and plans for the promotion/fundraising campaign were discussed and final approval was given to the Pacific Regional Conference. There was also discussion on the relationship between human rights and international trade and aid, and on the relationship between economic and social rights and civil and political rights. ■

PRISONERS FREED IN MOROCCO

Morocco announced the release of a number of political prisoners on 13 December 1975, the Islamic festival of *Aid Al Kebir*. This followed a decision by King HASSAN II to commute parts of their sentences. Fifty-five prisoners, both criminal and political, received reductions in their prison terms. The prisoners included three former cabinet ministers serving prison sentences for corruption.

AI has received a list of 14 political prisoners who were liberated as a result of this amnesty. They include 11 persons arrested between December 1969 and March 1970, who were sentenced in September 1971 by the criminal tribunal at Marrakesh. This trial was attended by *AI* observers (August 1975 *Newsletter*) who reported that torture had been used on the accused and that the defence lawyers were hindered in their efforts to aid their clients. The remaining three prisoners freed in the December amnesty had been arrested in 1973 and sentenced by the criminal tribunal at Agadir in September 1975.

There were a number of *AI* adoptees among those released, including AHMED BENJELLOUN, a leading militant of the opposition *Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires* (USFP), who was sentenced to a 10 year prison term at the 1971 Marrakesh trial.

His release was marred by the murder, on 18 December 1975 of his brother, OMAR BENJELLOUN, who was stabbed and beaten to death outside his home in Casablanca. Omar Benjelloun had a long record of opposition to the government of King Hassan and edited the USFP newspaper, *Al Mouharir*.

He was arrested on political grounds in March 1973 and was tried at Kenitra between July and August 1973. Although acquitted, he was not released, and was adopted by *AI*. He was eventually released into provisional liberty in August 1974. The Moroccan authorities have arrested several people in connection with the murder of Omar Benjelloun. ■

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Nepal Section

Mail for the Nepal Section of Amnesty International should now be addressed to Veerendra Keshari, 1/227 Kalikasthan, Kathmandu, Nepal; Telephone 12651.

Amnesty International of the USA

The address of the United States' section is now: 2112 Broadway, New York, New York 10023.

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campaign for the abolition of torture

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TORTURE IN URUGUAY: REPORTS ALLEGE DEATHS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL issued a public statement on 13 January criticizing the continuing arrests and torture of political detainees in Uruguay which resulted in at least one death during the preceding month. A few days after the statement, *AI* received a report claiming that a transport worker had died under torture.

During raids and mass arrests carried out by the police and military at the end of October and the beginning of November 1975, 600 to 700 people were detained. The raids were aimed mainly at members of the banned Communist Party who are liable to long sentences under recent legislation which has been applied retroactively.

Reports received by *AI* indicate that, following the arrests, torture occurred on a massive scale and that several detainees have been transferred to the military hospital in a critical condition.

Those in hospital include JOSE LUIS MASSERA, a former parliamentarian (prior to the dissolution of Congress in June 1973) and a communist leader, who has a fractured pelvis, RAUL TOST, whose injuries include fractured ribs and a collapsed thorax, and HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ, secretary of *Union Portuaria*, the dock workers' union.

ARGENTA ESTABLE, aged 64, reportedly died in the military hospital on 17 December 1975 as the result of the treatment he received at the second department of the National Directorate of Information and Intelligence and at the Third Infantry barracks. He was accused of contributing to the Communist Party before it was banned in December 1973. His wife is still in detention.

These recent violations that have occurred in Uruguay have not been confined to members of the Communist Party. Prominent lawyers, doctors, teachers, writers, architects and numerous workers are among those arrested and tortured.

The arrests have taken the form of abductions. They are often carried out during the night, houses are ransacked and many arrests have not been acknowledged. Relatives have been taken as hostages in cases where the wanted person was not found. Señora BACCHI, the 80-year-old mother of a trade union leader, was held for 72 hours until her son was captured.

The relatives of most of the people who disappeared during the raids remain unable to establish their whereabouts. After more than two months they continue to be held incommunicado in military barracks,

where torture is common practice.

ALBERTO ALTESOR, aged 60, a former parliamentarian and Communist Party leader, who was recovering from a heart operation, was detained on 21 October 1975 and has disappeared without a trace. Fears have been expressed for his life. His three sons were detained previously and two have been tortured.

On 11 January 1976 General LIBER SEREGNI, a presidential candidate for the progressive *Frente Amplio* (Broad Front) in the 1971 elections, was re-arrested following four bomb explosions in the exclusive seaside resort of Punta del Este. It is alleged that the bombs were planted by the authorities as a provocation. General Seregni was previously arrested on 9 July 1973 following mass demonstrations against the military takeover. He was held incommunicado and in poor conditions until he was released conditionally on 2 November 1974.

Repeated and consistent appeals by *AI* and other international bodies to the government of Uruguay have so far not met with any response. *AI* is therefore planning an intensive international campaign during February and March to halt torture in Uruguay. A full report will appear in the next *CAT Bulletin*. ■

AI SUBMISSION ON TORTURE TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

AI submitted a statement to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on 19 January, proposing a number of steps this commission should take to ensure effective follow-up to the declaration on torture adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1975 (January *CAT Bulletin*).

In its resolution 3453 (XXX) which accompanied the declaration, the General Assembly asked the commission, at its 32nd session (2 February–5 March 1976) to "study the question of torture and take any necessary steps for: (a) ensuring the effective observance of the declaration . . . ; (b) the formulation of a body of principles for the

Documents Describe Indonesian Torture

Strong and reliable allegations of past and current torture in Indonesia are contained in a report published in *The Sunday Times* of London on 11 January. In the report TJIOU, a girl of Chinese origin described her experiences in various camps for political prisoners. She left Indonesia in 1975.

Tjiou was arrested in 1968, because she had belonged to a communist youth organization before the abortive coup in 1965, and was taken to the local military post.

"I remember the day I entered that place: all I saw was people covered with blood sitting close to each other. They had all been tortured . . . one, a woman, had both eyes bleeding. There were screams all over the place, people pleading for mercy."

Stripped naked, she was beaten with a stick by an army intelligence officer:

"He started to burn off my hair . . . you cannot realize the pain to me of my hair burning. Then they put me on the table and opened my legs. They took a stick and thrust it up my vagina. They burnt my pubic hair. I could not believe I was still alive."

She mentioned how others suffered

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Allegation of Internment in Mental Hospital in Yugoslavia

Further investigation into the internment in Yugoslavia of RADOVAN BLAGOJEVIC, a 35-year-old lawyer from Belgrade, in a mental hospital allegedly for political reasons (January 1976 *CAT Bulletin*), has not yet produced any clarification of the reasons for and circumstances of his confinement. *AI* is continuing to study this case.

protection of all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment . . .". *AI* urged the commission to study the possibility of creating a convention on torture, which should declare torture a crime under international law, and contain mechanisms for investigation and enforcement.

AI asked that all UN member states be requested to incorporate the principles and provisions of the declaration into their national legislation. *AI* also proposed that an appropriate body should elaborate a code of ethics for lawyers, relevant to the problem of torture. Similar codes for medical and law enforcement personnel are already being prepared by other UN bodies. ■

appeals

Nejib EL-EUCH, Tunisia

A student in his early twenties, NEJIB EL-EUCH was arrested in mid-November 1973 and was one of 202 young people tried before the State Security Court in August 1974 for "plotting against the state", "slandering the Head of State", "spreading false information" and forming an illegal association.

This was a major political trial, aimed at youthful critics of the government's policies, which resulted in sentences ranging from one to 10 years' imprisonment. An *AI* observer was deported after attending the first day's trial proceedings, during which allegations of torture were made by the defendants.

Nejib el-Euch, who received a 5 year sentence at this trial, was reportedly tortured during pre-trial police detention and subsequently held in solitary confinement at Tunis civilian prison. During this time his lawyers reported that he was in a state of deep delirium for over a month and was unable to get up.

Since his transfer to the Bordj Er-Roumi prison in Bizerta in June 1975 his state of health has deteriorated seriously. A prison psychiatrist examined him and judged him to be in need of immediate and continuous medical care and supervision. Since that time he has received no medical attention. He is reported to be in a state of permanent nervous breakdown and almost constant delirium. He is allegedly under pressure to beg for a formal pardon from President HABIB BOURGUIBA.

Standards of hygiene are notoriously bad at Bordj Er-Roumi, and medical facilities are non-existent. Nejib El-Euch is in evident need of immediate hospitalization and constant medical care. There are now grave fears that, unless he receives such attention, his mental health will be permanently impaired. Moreover, it is likely that his desperate condition is having a grave effect on his 24 cell-mates who, like Nejib El-Euch, are mostly in their early twenties.

Send courteously worded letters, requesting that Nejib El-Euch receive adequate medical and psychiatric care, to: Son Excellence Habib, Bourguiba, Président de la République, Tunis, Tunisia; and to: Son Excellence M. Tahar Bel Khodja, Ministre de l'Intérieur, Tunis, Tunisia.

Francisco TELLEZ LUNA, Spain

FRANCISCO TELLEZ LUNA was one of four workers arrested on 11 December 1975, in Santa Coloma de Gramanet in Spain, after civil guards had dispersed a group of workers who had been organizing a strike. The strike had been called to ask for an amnesty, better salaries and trade union freedom. He was arrested after his house had been searched, although nothing was found.

All four were taken to the Civil Guard barracks in Badalona, where they were interrogated and tortured. Francisco Tellez, the father of three young children; was the most severely tortured. According to reports *AI* has received, he was beaten on the soles of his feet with hard rubber tubing. He was made to lie on a table and civil guards sat on him while others beat him savagely with a set-square, causing 15 to 20 bleeding wounds in his chest and more on the soles of his feet. A lighted candle was held near his testicles for half an hour.

Francisco Tellez was removed to a civilian hospital where a doctor was able to give a detailed report of his physical injuries. These include direct lesions in the eye, genitals, abdomen and ribs which suggest beating with a belt or rope as well as with fists. Severe bruising of varying intensity in the ribs, abdomen, back, buttocks, testicles, penis, thighs, legs and feet point to more than one session of heavy beating. One nail of the left foot had been torn out. The loss of blood and bruising on legs and ankles show that Francisco Tellez was tied, and possibly suspended upside down. He needed treatment with a kidney machine for renal dialysis as a result of kidney failure.

AI has just learned that Francisco Tellez has been released on bail, after payment of 10,000 pesetas, and is now recovering at his home. Charges are still being held against him, although he does not appear to be connected with violent activities. The three men who were arrested with him have, in the meantime, been released.

In the light of the detailed, authenticated report received by *AI*, it is appropriate to request a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding the interrogation and injuries undergone by Francisco Tellez, as well as to ensure that he is not returned to prison.

Please send courteously worded letters, preferably in Spanish, to: His Royal Highness King JUAN CARLOS I, Palacio de la Zarzuela, Madrid, Spain, requesting his formal intervention to ensure that a full investigation is made into the circumstances of Francisco Tellez' interrogation and injuries, that those responsible for his maltreatment be brought to justice and that any charges against him be dropped. Please send copies of your letters to the Spanish Embassy in your country.

BRAZILIAN JOURNALISTS CONTEST FINDINGS OF OFFICIAL INQUIRY

The Brazilian Union of Professional Journalists in São Paulo have sent a letter, signed by 467 journalists, to the First Military Court in São Paulo contesting some of the findings of the official inquiry into the death in custody of VLADIMIR HERZOG on 25 October 1975 (December 1975 *CAT Bulletin*).

The Commission of Inquiry ruled on 20 December 1975 that Vladimir Herzog had definitely committed suicide in his cell at the Destacamento de Operações de Informações (Department of Intelligence Operations of the army) in São Paulo. In their letter, published on 13 January in the *Jornal do Brasil*, the journalists question several points in the report. First they categorically refute the testimony of one journalist who claimed that Vladimir Herzog had been sacked from *O Estado de São Paulo* in 1963 during a leftwing purge. He left the paper of his own volition in 1965.

The letter also suggests that several important questions have to be answered before the case can be closed satisfactorily. Why, when the prison regulations stipulate that no possibly harmful objects may remain on a prisoner and prison overalls are not issued with a belt, was Vladimir Herzog able to hang himself with such a belt? Why is there a discrepancy in the description of the clothes he was wearing in the doctor's autopsy report and those described in the first medical report? In the autopsy the corpse is described as being dressed in civilian clothes, yet in the official

photograph taken after the discovery of the body, he is dressed in prison overalls. A body is not supposed to be touched in any way before an autopsy.

How could the prison authorities have known before Vladimir Herzog wrote his testimony that it would not incriminate him in any serious charges? In all their statements the authorities stressed that they were surprised that he had killed himself when he was to have been released that night. Why is there a contradiction between the statement of the rabbi who officiated at Vladimir Herzog's burial in which he said that Herzog had not been treated as a suicide and that of another member of the Jewish congregation who said that he had?

Finally, the authorities stated that 21 witnesses submitted evidence to the commission without any coercion. However, all the witnesses were held in detention in the Destacamento de Operações de Informações where Vladimir Herzog had been detained and this, in the opinion of the journalists, constitutes a form of constraint.

Another prisoner, JOSE MANOEL FILHO, was found dead in his cell in the Destacamento de Operações de Informações in São Paulo on 17 January in similar circumstances to Vladimir Herzog. Two days later President ERNESTO GEISEL dismissed General EDUARDO D'AVILA MELLO from his position as commander of the 2nd Army and replaced him with a more moderate commander, General DILERMANDO GOMES MONTEIRO.■

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Documents Describe Indonesian Torture

similar brutal treatment: a woman who had boiling water poured over her head, another whose nipples had been cut off, a village headman who died as a result of electric shock torture.

Another recent confirmation of the continuing use of torture, also reported in *The Sunday Times*, comes from a document smuggled out of an East Java prison camp at the end of 1975. It recounts how naked political prisoners would be faced by a row of interrogators, holding canes and clubs.

"With the first question they are kicked and beaten, and things rapidly get worse . . . electric shocks are administered to the person's ears, nose and genitals to extract confessions. To prevent screams being heard, songs are played loudly over a tape recorder."

According to the document, one prisoner, TIO HO YI, attacked his torturers and was beaten ferociously, then dragged up and down a ditch until he was caked with mud and blood. Subsequently his arm was chained to his leg in such a way that he could neither stand up straight nor lie down, a form of torture called "crucifixion without nails". He went mad after he had been left in this position for 11 months.

Although it is generally difficult to obtain accurate information about the practice of torture in Indonesia, because of the widespread fears of reprisals to prisoners, released prisoners and their families, and the strict control over the prison population, *AI* has reason to believe that torture is still being practised routinely in political cases. Even prisoners who have been held for years without trial are still liable to occasional renewed interrogation and torture by military security.■