

# amnesty international newsletter

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## TORTURE VICTIM WINS CASE

### NORTHERN IRELAND HIGH COURT AWARDS PATRICK SHIVERS £15,000 IN DAMAGES

Former Northern Ireland internee PATRICK SHIVERS, whose ordeal by torture has been widely publicized during AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL's Campaign for the Abolition of Torture, was awarded £15,000 in damages by the High Court in Belfast on 14 February.

The court decision was the outcome of a suit Mr Shivers brought against the now defunct Northern Ireland Ministries of Home Affairs and Defence for false imprisonment, torture and assault after his arrest by security forces in August 1971.

He was one of the internees interviewed in December 1971 by AI's Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Ill-Treatment in Northern Ireland. His statement describing the physical and mental torture he underwent in custody was contained in the Commission's report and was submitted to the British Government.

The £15,000 in damages was the highest such award ever made in Northern Ireland. According to a Government statement, however, no action will be taken against those who were responsible for Mr Shivers' ordeal.

## AI ACCUSES USSR OF VIOLATING COVENANT IN TREATMENT OF POLITICAL DISSIDENTS

AI has accused the Soviet Government of violating its own international undertakings by expelling writer ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN and by continuing its policy of detaining those who work for political and religious freedom.

The undertakings are contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which the Soviet Union ratified last October. At the World Congress of Peace Forces in Moscow the same month (December *Newsletter*), other nations were exhorted to follow the Soviet example.

A statement issued by AI's International Executive Committee on 20 February called on the Soviet Government to restore the rule of law and to free all those detained for their political or religious beliefs.

The statement said that the arbitrary arrest and forcible deportation of Mr Solzhenitsyn and stripping him of his citizenship because of his writings and public statements were irreconcilable with its ratification of the Covenant. Among other things, the Covenant guarantees the right of freedom of opinion and expression and protection against arbitrary arrest, denial of a hearing and arbitrary refusal to allow a person to re-enter his own country.

The IEC also noted "with growing concern the practice of the Soviet and other governments of using deportation and removal of citizenship

as instruments in the suppression of political and religious freedom."

## INDONESIA, GREECE, BRAZIL AND UK ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AGENDA

AI is involved in submissions on three countries whose cases are being considered by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights which began hearings in New York in February.

In 1971 a new procedure was introduced whereby the Commission was empowered to consider situations where there exists "a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

In its first attempt to use this new machinery, AI has asked the Commission to consider the long-term detention of over 50,000 prisoners in Indonesia and to then "intercede with the (Indonesian) Government ... to ensure the immediate trial or release of all untried prisoners".

AI has also contributed factual material to the submission on human rights violations in Greece, Brazil and the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland).

## DETAINEES BRUTALLY BEATEN IN PARAGUAY

AI expressed grave concern 26 February at the arrest and reported brutal beating of between 100 and 200 peasants in Paraguay who have demanded agrarian, social and economic reform.

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS said Paraguay was now second only to Haiti among Latin American countries with the longest term political prisoners, some of whom had been held in the small, filthy, overcrowded cells linked to various police stations in the capital of Asuncion for up to 16 years without trial.

"We deplore the Paraguayan Government's continuing failure to observe the provisions laid down in the American Convention on Human Rights to which Paraguay is a signatory," Mr Ennals said in calling for the release of all the detainees. "Within the Latin American social context, the poor rural population is almost defenceless against miscarriages of justice and encroachments on their human rights."

## AI SUPPORTS 'AMNESTY' CAMPAIGN IN USA

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS has sent the Committee on the Judiciary of the United States House of Representatives a copy of the AI Statement of 22 July 1973 expressing support for the campaign to secure a general, unconditional amnesty for all Americans who refused to serve in the war in Indochina. The House Committee is due to hold legislative hearings on the subject on 7-8 March.

In a letter to Representative ROBERT W. KASTENMEIER, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice, Mr Ennals said that

it was particularly urgent that the wound caused by the war, especially among American youth, be healed.

"The provision by Congress for a universal, unconditional amnesty, that is, total exoneration, would be an indispensable component of the healing process," Mr Ennals said.

### CALL TO EGYPT TO RELEASE PRISONERS

On 13 February Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to President ANWAR SADAT of Egypt requesting the release of a number of persons including NABIL EL HILALI, a prominent left wing lawyer, MOHAMMAD ALI AMER, a trade unionist, and ADIB DIMITRI, a Coptic writer.

They were arrested last April during the period of student and workers' unrest in Egypt, on the grounds of endangering national unity. They were tried by a Special Court on 25 June charged with attempting to reconstitute the Communist Party which is banned in Egypt, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment, renewable every year for up to 5 years.

Nabil El Hilali had been arrested earlier, on 28 December, for allegedly inciting students to riot, had been acquitted by the Court of First Instance for lack of evidence, but was re-arrested a few weeks later.

### URUGUAY ARRESTS LEADING JOURNALISTS

AI cabled President JUAN MARIA BORDABERRY of Uruguay on 20 February urging the immediate release of the 71-year-old founder and chief editor of the internationally-known weekly newspaper *Marcha*, three members of his staff and two well-known Uruguayan writers. Although they had been detained for a week at police headquarters in Montevideo, Uruguay authorities had given no explanation for their arrest.

Those detained are editor CARLOS QUIJANO, *Marcha* staff members JULIO CASTRO, GUILLERMO CHIFLETT and HUGO ALFARO and writers JUAN CARLOS ONETTI and MERCEDES REIN.

AI's United States Section has already asked United Nations Under-Secretary General BRADFORD MORSE to inquire into the situation. AI said that while *Marcha* has had to adapt itself to the narrowing of the freedom of press in Uruguay this year, it has continued to criticize political imprisonment and torture.

"We are concerned that those who have now been arrested may suffer ill-treatment despite the advanced age of some of them," an AI statement said.

### MALAYSIA ASKED TO PROBE ALLEGATIONS

AI has asked the Prime Minister of Malaysia, TUN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK, for clarification of reports that political detainees held under the Internal Security Act have been ill-treated.

A detainee in Taiping detention camp, Mr WONG SUI SONG, who committed suicide on 29 December, allegedly had been in bad health for some time but was unable to obtain the necessary medical treatment.

Several detainees in another camp, Batu Gajah, allegedly were injured in a clash with a federal reserve unit which was called in after they demanded an official report on Mr Wong's death.

Some of the injured reportedly were taken to a hospital and handcuffed to the beds against

### IRAN EXECUTION FIGURE SOARS TO 198

The total of known executions in Iran over the past 2½ years has reached 198 following the execution of eight political prisoners 18-19 February.

The two executed on 18 February were among seven persons sentenced to death in January for their alleged participation in a plot to assassinate the SHAH (February *Newsletter*). Two others had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment on appeal and the other three were reprieved by the Shah and also had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

The six men executed on 19 February were said to have been found guilty of alleged sabotage, murder, robbery and anti-state activity.

medical advice. It was further alleged that a three-month punishment diet combined with severe physical restrictions was then imposed on detainees in both camps. Detainees had been on hunger strike since 29 December.

### SPANISH PRISONERS GO ON HUNGER STRIKE

AI called on 18 February for an urgent investigation into current hunger strikes by political prisoners in Santander Provincial Prison and Pontevedra Provincial Prison in Spain.

All five of Santander's political prisoners - including three AI investigation cases awaiting trial since September 1972 - began a hunger strike on 14 February after the prison director called in machine gun-armed police to settle an altercation between guards and prisoners. Two of the prisoners involved were put into solitary confinement.

The hunger strike at Pontevedra began 27 January after complaints by prisoners about restrictions on visits from their families and on lack of proper sanitary facilities failed to improve the situation. At least seven of the prisoners are under adoption by AI groups.

Meanwhile, 31 Jehovah's Witnesses who have been serving prison sentences in Santa Catalina Prison, Cadiz, were reported early in February to have been released as a result of the new legislation regulating the "refusal to do military service". Among those freed was ANTONIO SANCHEZ MEDINA, who has been in prison since 1962.

### RHODESIAN PRISON CONDITIONS WORSEN

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to the Rhodesian Government in February calling for an inquiry into the deterioration of conditions in detention camps. The letter followed news of the death of KENNETH CHIANSO, a political detainee who was allegedly removed from Gwelo Prison in a coma. Another prisoner, SHADRECK CHIPANGA, was reported to be gravely ill and in need of urgent medical attention.

Calling for an investigation into their treatment, Mr Ennals also expressed concern at the increased use of preventative detention of people opposed to the regime. The number of people detained has trebled in the past 12 months. This is in addition to the hundreds of



other people who have been subjected to detention of about 30 days for interrogation purposes.

### 10 SWAPO LEADERS ARRESTED IN NAMIBIA

AI has protested to South African authorities over the detention under the Terrorism Act of 10 leaders of the South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO) and the SWAPO Youth League.

The leaders, who include SWAPO Chairman DAVID MEMORO, are among more than 300 people who have been detained during a recent series of raids in and around Windhoek.

### CAUSE FOR CONCERN IN BANGLADESH

AI has written to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh MUJIBUR RAHMAN, expressing continuing concern about political prisoners in the country. Some 33,000 prisoners were supposed to be released by 16 December 1973, Bangladesh Independence Day, following the announcement of a general amnesty for alleged collaborators not charged with specific offences (January Newsletter).

Reports from Bangladesh suggest that by the middle of January only between 5,000 and 15,000 prisoners were released. AI has asked Bangladesh for official figures but in the absence of them, AI must conclude that political prisoners are still detained under the Collaborators Order.

The Bangladesh parliament passed a Special Powers Act on 5 February to replace President's Order 50 under which a number of left wing political opponents of the government are reportedly detained. The Act provides for preventive detention, suspension of association and trial by a special tribunal.

### GREECE ASKED TO FREE YAROS DETAINEES

Martin Ennals wrote to President PHAIDON GIZIKIS of Greece on 1 February appealing for the release of those people who have been deported to the island of Yaros (February Newsletter). Mr Ennals cited with concern the case of one of the deportees, NIKOS KIAOS, who was alleged to have been badly beaten.

## POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS

### FROM PAST CAMPAIGNS

#### DETENTION OF GRIGORENKO IS EXTENDED

General Pyotr Grigorevich GRIGORENKO of the Soviet Union, who was on the *Postcards for Prisoners Campaign* in June 1972 has had his detention in a mental hospital extended for a further six months by a psychiatric commission. He is at present held in Stolbovaya Hospital, south of Moscow.

\* \* \*

Andrei Alexeyevich AMALRIK of the USSR (August 1972 Campaign), now in exile in Magadan Province, has been allowed to take a job as a senior laboratory assistant in a scientific institute.

\* \* \*

Both Danilo Lavrentevich SHUMUK of the USSR (December 1972 Campaign) and his wife, Nadya Svitlychny, who is serving a 4-year labour camp sentence, are reported in poor health. Mr Shumuk has a vitamin deficiency which affects his

nervous system and his wife is known to be suffering from tuberculosis.

### THIS MONTH'S CAMPAIGN

#### Vladimir SKUTINA, Czechoslovakia

Vladimir SKUTINA is a Czech journalist and writer who was a well known television personality during the Dubcek period. He represented the ideals of the reform movement and maintained his stand after the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact troops in August 1968 and after his dismissal.

He was arrested in 1969 and again in 1971. On both occasions the Act of Indictment alleges that he slandered the First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Dr Gustav Husak, and attacked the Czechoslovak-Soviet alliance and the Soviet Union itself. On 1 July 1971 he was sentenced to 50 months' imprisonment and is in detention in Mirov, Moravia.

Mr Skutina is critically ill. He suffers from a chronic inflammation of the pancreas and he has a blood clot on his brain. He recently suffered a nervous breakdown and is at present hospitalized. His weight is under 112 pounds. His wife has not been allowed to see him for the last nine months and in his last letter to her he says that he has given up hope to see her again.

AI appealed twice to the Czechoslovak authorities for Vladimir Skutina's release and he was previously put on the *Postcards for Prisoners Campaign* in May 1971.

Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for his release on medical and compassionate grounds to: Dr Gustav Husak, First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Praha 1 - Nove Mesto, Nabrezi Kyjevske Brigady 12, Czechoslovakia; and to: General Ludvik Svoboda, President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Praha - Hrad, Czechoslovakia; and to: Dr Jan Nemecek, Minister of Justice, Praha - Nove Mesto, Vysehradská 16, Czechoslovakia.

Clodomiro ALMEYDA, Victorino FARGA, Mario CESPEDES, Bruno VON EHRENBURG Pincheira, Hernan Alfonso PACHECO Quiroz, Chile

There are estimated to be at least 9000 political prisoners detained in Chile since the military coup of 11 September 1973. The vast majority can be considered prisoners of conscience, whose sole "offence" was support for the constitutional and democratically elected government of President SALVADOR ALLENDE. Most are still untried after over five months in prison.

Prisoners come from all sectors, and all professions, ranging from active politicians to doctors who refused to support a strike against the Allende Government, or the young members of a new religious movement which opposed materialist doctrines.

In this Newsletter we are having a special postcard campaign for five Chilean prisoners who illuminate the plight of the many thousands of others.

- Clodomiro ALMEYDA. Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and teacher of political science. Detained on Dawson Island in the extreme south of Chile.

- Dr Victorino FARGA. Chile's leading lung specialist, detained in the *Estadio Chile* in Santiago.

- Dr Mario CESPEDES. One of Chile's leading historians, detained in Chacabuco detention centre in the deserted north of Chile.

- Bruno VON EHRENBURG Pincheira. A leader of the *Centro de Religion Interior* (Inner Religion Centre), detained in the *Estadio Chile*, and soon to be tried by Court Martial.

- Hernan Alfonso PACHECO Quiroz. Member of the Central Committee of the MAPU party (a splinter group from the Christian Democrat Party, which supported the Allende Government); detained in 'Campamento Isla Riesco', Colliguay, Valparaiso Province.

Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for their release to: General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, Presidente de la Junta Militar, Edificio Diego Portales, Santiago de Chile; and to: General Oscar Bonilla, Ministro del Interior, Edificio Diego Portales, Santiago de Chile; and to: Vice-Almirante Patricio Carvajal Bravo, Ministro de Defensa Nacional, Plaza Bulnes, Santiago.

### Ratna Prasad KHAREL, Nepal

Ratna Prasad KHAREL was a member of the Nepalese parliament who was arrested on 12 August 1972 after making a speech at a meeting in which he asked for democratic reforms and the release of political prisoners in the country. He has been held without trial under the Security Act ever since. In late February 1973 Mr Kharel went on a hunger strike with two other MPs held without trial. They demanded the release of political prisoners and improvement in medical treatment for ailing prisoners, and separation from mentally ill prisoners, who, in Nepal, are held in the same jails.

Despite internal opposition against the continued imprisonment of Mr Kharel he still remains detained without trial.

Please write courteously-worded cards appealing for his release to: His Majesty Maharadjahiraja Birendra Bir Bekram Shah Deva, The Royal Palace, Kathmandu; and to: His Excellency Rajendra Prasad Rijal, The Prime Minister of Nepal, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu.

### IEC NAMES DICK OOSTING TO FILL FIRST POST IN NEW ANTI-TORTURE DEPARTMENT

The International Executive Committee, meeting in London 15-17 February, appointed DICK OOSTING of AI's Dutch Section to fill one of the two Campaign Organizer posts in the new department established inside the International Secretariat to step up the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture (January *Newsletter*).

Mr Oosting, 27, has been active in the Dutch Section's own campaign against torture and has translated the *Amnesty International Report on Torture* into Dutch. He took up his new appointment on 25 February.

The IEC will be filling the other organizer post in March. Recruiting is continuing for the new positions of Deputy Secretary General and

Office Manager in the Secretariat.

The IEC also established a sub-committee to oversee the anti-torture drive. A number of experienced persons outside the IEC will be co-opted to it.

During the 33 hours of meetings the IEC reached many important decisions concerning future research and action programs. These included extension of the Information Office's publications department, mission programs in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, and the establishment of a special projects budget for programs not covered by the regular budget.

A special meeting was held between the IEC and Secretariat staff and a committee was set up to study IEC-Staff relations.

Most items on the agenda were covered but matters outstanding for the next IEC meeting in May include relations with governmental and non-governmental organizations, the working of the Borderline Committee's procedures, and a number of other questions.

### 1974 COUNCIL WILL MEET IN DENMARK

The 1974 International Council Meeting will be held at the Askov Hojskole (High School), 6600 Vejen, Jutland, Denmark, from 6-8 September. The Finance meeting will be held on 5 September and other IEC and Committee meetings will be held during this period. National Sections must register their membership for purposes of voting rights and credentials before 7 July, which is also the last date for receipt of proposed amendments to the Statute.

### PRISONER RELEASES AND CASES

The International Secretariat learned in January of the release of 76 AI-adopted prisoners and the death of one, and took up 212 new cases.

### HEADQUARTERS SOUGHT FOR SECRETARIAT

National Sections are invited to make proposals to the Secretary General concerning suitable sites or premises for the International Secretariat, should it be decided to move the Secretariat out of London on expiry of the present lease in Theobald's Road in 1976.

Geneva, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Paris and Vienna have all been mentioned as possible future locations, but firm proposals are required.

### FUND-RAISING IDEAS FOR NEWSLETTER

The 1973 International Council Meeting in Vienna approved a fund-raising document by IEC member DIRK BÖRNER which, among other things, suggested that ideas for fund-raising be a regular feature of the *AI Newsletter*. Mr Börner himself is already compiling a handbook for Sections and Groups on the subject.

Sections and groups are invited to submit successful techniques they have used for raising funds for AI. We hope to publish the most original of these in the *Newsletter* each month.

Group 2 of Pinneberg, West Germany, for example, raised 1,300 marks (about £250) during the 1972 Prisoner of Conscience Week by the simple device of preparing a huge cauldron of hot pea soup and dispensing it to passers-by on a cold Saturday morning.



## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

LAURET, J.C.; and LASIERRA, R. *La Torture et les Pouvoirs*. 1973. Balland, 33 rue Saint-Andre des Arts, Paris 75.006. 550 pages. 42 francs.

Very well documented, this book is in fact a long historical description of the use and increased technology of torture. One of the authors, who spent several days at Amnesty when writing his book, dedicates to Amnesty International a special section in the last chapter, mentioning particularly the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture. Includes an extensive bibliography.

BAO, Ruo-wang; PASQUALINI, Jean; and CHELMINSKI, Rudolph. *Prisoner of Mao*. 1973. Coward, McCann and Geoghegan Inc., 200 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. USA. \$8.95 or £4.00.

This may be the first full-length and credible account of life in a Chinese Labour Camp. Amnestied in the late 1950's, Bao Ruo-wang (who is a French national) was released and expelled from China in 1964 to mark France's diplomatic recognition of Peking. Highly recommended.

GOUGH, Kathleen; and SHARMA, Hari P. *Imperialism and Revolution in South Asia*. 1973. Monthly Review Press, 33/37 Moreland Street, London EC1. 470 pages. £6.45.

The book contains some twenty highly interesting articles on the political and economic scene in the countries of the Subcontinent. Outstanding among these is Hamza Alavi's excellent analysis of the state bureaucracy in Pakistan and Bangladesh, "The State in Postcolonial Societies". Whereas other articles give useful background material on communist and revolutionary movements in India and Sri Lanka, the book as a whole fails to analyse and explain the causes underlying the factionalism to which the left in the Subcontinent has been subject. However, fact and figures do explain why India's basic problems of unemployment and landless labour and thus political unrest remains, in spite of the great revolution.

MAXWELL, Neville. *India and the Nagas*. 1973. Report No. 17 of Minority Rights Group, 37 Graven Street, London WC2. £0.45p.

This latest in the MRG series on minorities gives an excellent account of the struggle of the Nagapeople for independence from India, and explains why the Indian Government could not comply with the Nagas demands, feeling that it would gravely compromise the unity of the Indian state as a whole. Since the Indian Army's successful intervention in Bangladesh, its actions in Nagaland have intensified, and in September 1972 the ceasefire with the rebels was officially broken, following an assassination attempt on the Chief Minister. Whereas atrocities are being committed by both sides, the report in an appendix gives a substantive list of atrocities allegedly committed by the Indian Army, and although these reports lack necessary corroboration, their detail levels serious charges against the practices of the Indian Army.

GOOD, Robert C. *UDI: The International Politics of the Rhodesian Rebellion*. 1973. Faber and Faber, 3 Queen Square, London WC1. \$4.95.

Robert C. Good was American Ambassador to Zambia during the early years of the Rhodesian rebellion. From the vantage point of Lusaka he observed the undercurrents of discontent which led up to the illegal Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) by the Smith regime in November 1965, and the confused international reactions it provoked. Although concerned mainly with those reactions, the book deals also with the progressive erosion of the rights of Rhodesia's African population, and is indispensable to an understanding of the issues which have led to the present situation in Rhodesia.

AMADI, Elechi. *Sunset in Biafra*. 1973. Heinemann, 15-16 Queen Street, London W1. £0.70p.

A factual account of his experiences during the Nigerian Civil War by a former army officer who is now one of Nigeria's foremost novelists. As a civilian, Amadi

tried to avoid becoming involved in the conflict that overwhelmed his country for two and a half years, but as a former army officer and a member of a minority tribe, he found himself suffering the same persecution in the secessionist state of Biafra that the Biafrans claimed to suffer within Nigeria. Detained for many weeks without trial in Port Harcourt, he was only released when Nigerian forces retook the city from the Biafrans. His description of the physical and psychological problems faced by prisoners makes an interesting contrast with the account given by Wole Soyinka (another literary figure, but one who was imprisoned by the Nigerians rather than the Biafrans), whose prison diary, The Man Died, was reviewed in the January 1973 *Newsletter*.

DILLON, Martin; and LEHANE, Denis. *Political Murder in Northern Ireland*. 1973. Penguin Books, Bath Road, Harmondsworth, Middlesex UB7 ODA, England. £0.50. Written by two journalists working on the *Belfast Telegraph*, the only non-aligned Ulster newspaper, this book presents well-documented evidence that the number of political assassinations has now reached 200. They analyse the three groups involved in the killings, the Irish Republican Army, the Protestant extremists and the British Army, but come to the conclusion that the majority of these unsolved murders were committed by Protestant extremist groups, as for example the Ulster Volunteer Force. The evidence is presented dispassionately and objectively. The two authors link the increase in these murders with the growing frustration and disappointment of the loyalist section of the community at the British Government's failure to contain IRA violence and their fear of being betrayed by the politicians.

VON DER WEID, Jean Marc. *Brazil: 1964 to the present. A political analysis*. 1972. Editions Latin America, PO Box 218, Station N, Montreal 129, Quebec, Canada. \$1.00 or £0.40.

Jean Marc Von der Weid was a student leader at the University of Rio de Janeiro until his arrest in September 1969. He was exchanged for the Swiss Ambassador along with 69 other political prisoners in January 1971. This 'short book' in the form of an interview presents his analysis of the events leading up to the 1964 coup, discusses the coup in some detail and then analyses the role played by various groups in opposition to the regime since then. There are two short appendices on political groupings and political personalities.