

# amnesty international newsletter

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## INDONESIA

### AI ASKS SUHARTO TO FREE 55,000 DETAINED 7 YEARS WITHOUT TRIAL

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL urged Indonesia in March to declare a general amnesty for more than 55,000 men and women who have been detained without trial since the 1965 attempted coup which failed.

The call came in a letter to President SUHARTO from SEAN MacBRIDE, chairman of AI's International Executive Committee. Mr MacBride repeated the appeal March 14 at a news conference in The Hague which also launched a special report on Indonesia published by the Dutch Section of AI.

Mr MacBride asked President Suharto to mark this year's 25th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a special act of clemency towards the prisoners. He noted that Indonesia is a member of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam, which meant that it was charged with supervising the release of civilian detainees there. He said this placed a moral responsibility on the Indonesian government in regard to its own prisoners.

Mr MacBride also released to the press the text of specific proposals he had made to President Suharto for improving the physical and legal conditions of detention.

The Dutch report is a special 32-page English language edition of the Section's magazine *Wordt Vervolgd*. Called "Indonesia Special", it illuminates the plight of the prisoners and their families with special articles and photographs.

Copies may be obtained by writing to the AI Dutch Section, Roetersstraat 34, Amsterdam, Holland. Price: 2 guilders per copy.

### Torture victims in Turkey talk on TV of their ordeal

Four Turkish victims and five other ex-prisoners provided detailed evidence of torture in their country in a secretly-made film shown on British television March 12.

The four included a young girl who told of being brutally tortured with electric shocks for 30 days and then was found not guilty in court of possessing a banned book. Another was a respected lawyer, MUKKEREM ERDOGAN, who had defended several alleged opponents of the government and who, as he told the television interviewer, was then arrested himself and tortured.

Most of the film was shot secretly on location by a team from Granada television which

went to Turkey following AI's own report on torture there (January *Newsletter*). Denied official permission to make a film, they posed as tourists and filmed with ordinary cameras.

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS also appears in the film, presenting *Amnesty's* comments in an interview shot at the International Secretariat in London.

The Granada team contacted 80 prisoners in Turkey and questioned 28 in detail. Most gave written statements only, but nine agreed to be interviewed on film. Of these three asked the team not give their names or show their faces. Six, however, spoke openly. The team also managed to film secretly the exterior of the house in the suburbs of Istanbul where most of the tortures allegedly took place.

Granada announced after the screening of the

### AI ASKS SWEDEN TO RAISE TURKISH TORTURE QUESTION AT COUNCIL OF EUROPE

AI has asked Sweden to draw the Council of Europe's attention officially to the mounting evidence of systematic torture in Turkey.

Secretary General Martin Ennals made the request while on a five-day visit to Sweden March 21-25. During his stay Mr Ennals had talks with Prime Minister OLOF PALME and other Swedish parliamentarians and civil servants.

Mr Ennals went to Sweden at the invitation of the Swedish Section to attend its annual meeting. While there he also spoke at a meeting March 21 to mark the 13th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa.

film that it was making it and all the material the team collected available to the Council of Europe and to the British Foreign Office.

National Sections wishing to have this highly-recommended film shown in their own countries should ask their local or national television services to write for details to: World in Action, Film Library, Granada TV Ltd., Manchester M60 9EA, England. Swedish television and radio have also recently presented programmes on torture in Turkey.

Professor PETER NOLL, professor of Penal Law at Zurich University visited Turkey from February 27 to March 6 as a joint observer for AI and the International Commission of Jurists at the trial of the Dev-Genc (Revolutionary Youth) group. He also interviewed many lawyers, politicians, journalists and military officers.

In his report published March 21, Professor Noll said many persons, especially students and other youths, have been tortured by the civil,

secret and military police and that he himself had met several of the torture victims. He also criticised aspects of the trial he attended and of the legal system as a whole. He concluded that the state of martial law in Turkey no longer was necessary.

#### CORRECTION: VERDICT STILL AWAITED ON KOREAN SECTION OFFICIAL

The March *Newsletter* report that the Reverend UN MYUNG-KI, a committee member of AI's Korean Section, had already been found guilty of allegedly "spreading a groundless rumour" was incorrect. Later information indicates that this release from detention was to allow him to receive medical treatment in a hospital or in his own home while awaiting a final verdict.

At the time this month's *Newsletter* went to press, the Reverend Un (cq) had already made three appearances in court without a decision being reached on the charges against him.

#### 'Six Greek lawyers tortured'

Six Greek lawyers detained by police in Athens smuggled a message out of prison in March pleading for help because of the "unbearable" suffering they were experiencing under torture. Another prisoner reported hearing one of the lawyers, CONSTANTINE ALAVANOS, screaming day and night.

Alavanos, ANTONIOS VGONTZAS, PANYOTIS KANELAKIS, NIKOS KARAMANLIS, DIMITRIOS PAPPAS and DIONYSIOS BOULOUKOS were arrested between February 26 and March 4 after they had defended students who had come into conflict with the regime. They have been held incommunicado ever since then without any official charges being brought against them.

"We have just received reliable evidence that these men are being brutally tortured in ESA Military Police Headquarters in Athens," an AI statement on March 26 said. "A message from one of the lawyers in his own handwriting says: 'Please do whatever you can - the suffering is unbearable.' We are convinced that the message is authentic."

AI said it was gravely concerned at this latest indication of the continuing torture of prisoners in Greece. It called on the Greek government to allow the six lawyers immediate access to legal counsel and to visits from their families. AI also said the government should either bring charges against the men or release them.

#### Fresh Vietnam approaches

AI made fresh approaches in March to the parties to the Vietnam conflict and ceasefire agreement in a continuing effort to secure the release of all political prisoners in the country (March *Newsletter*).

In the Netherlands, SEAN MacBRIDE met the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Commission to brief Dutch legislators on the situation.

#### Clemency sought for Czechs

MARTIN ENNALS wrote to the Czechoslovak Ministers of Justice and of Defence in March seeking reconsideration of the cases of five seri-

ously-ill and well-known intellectuals: Dr MI-LAN HUBL, Professor LADISLAV KALINA, KAREL KYNCL, Professor JAROSLAV SABATA and VLADIMIR SKUTINA. The letter followed the amnesty declared on February 22 by President LUDVIG SVOBODA, which did not extend to political prisoners but which provided for the review of cases of seriously-ill prisoners.

In February SEAN MacBRIDE wrote to President Svoboda and to the First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Dr GUSTAV HUSAK, pleading for clemency for all political prisoners. President Svoboda was re-elected on March 22 and new approaches to him and other Czechoslovak officials are being planned.

#### Ghana releases 23 detainees

Ghana's ruling National Redemption Council on March 6 marked the 16th anniversary of the nation's independence by announcing the release of 23 members of the disbanded Progress Party from detention. The Progress Party had been in power until the military coup of January 13 1972. Those released included former cabinet ministers and ministerial secretaries. They had been held without trial for 14 months, and some had been taken by AI as investigation cases.

#### Disappearance of Brazilian

AI launched a campaign on March 19 to discover the whereabouts of LUIZ BASILIO ROSSI, professor of economics at the Faculty of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters in Penapolis, Sao Paulo State, Brazil. Fears have been expressed for Professor Rossi's life since February 15 when armed military and local police surrounded his home and arrested him. Nothing has been heard of Professor Rossi since then, and the military headquarters where he was taken denies all knowledge of his present whereabouts.

The International Secretariat has produced an adoption case sheet on Professor Rossi and has circulated it to a large number of international organisations, asking them to press the Brazilian authorities for an investigation into his disappearance.

#### AI observer at US trial

AI has asked a Kenyan lawyer, K. GEORGE KIRN-AITHE, to observe the trial in Los Angeles of DANIEL ELLSBERG and ANTHONY RUSSO. Both are charged with espionage, conspiracy and grand larceny in connection with publication of the secret Pentagon Papers, official history of American involvement in Vietnam.

An AI statement on March 8 said the decision to send an observer was taken because "the use of espionage laws is a particularly disturbing response to what apparently was an act of conscience in opposition to a war many believe unjust and illegal."

#### GDR amnesty frees 31,000

More than 31,000 prisoners and detainees were freed under the amnesty declared by the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) to mark its 23rd anniversary last autumn (December *Newsletter*), according to official figures released in March. The amnesty ended January 25.

The figures said that 25,351 persons had been released from prison and a further 6,344 from pre-trial detention. Of these, 1,771 were re-

leased to West Germany and West Berlin. Some 58% of those released had been serving sentences for purely political offences, according to unofficial estimates.

### Chairman in Moscow talks

SEAN MacBRIDE, Chairman of the IEC, met with officials of the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow on March 19. The 1½-hour talks at the ministry explored the possibility of opening a dialogue between AI and the Soviet government.

It was the first time AI had ever held official-level talks with the Soviets. Afterwards, Mr MacBride, who was in Moscow attending a World Peace Council meeting, described the talks as "both useful and encouraging".

### Jordan commutes sentences

Radio Amman announced on March 15 that KING HUSSEIN of Jordan had commuted the death sentences passed in February on ABU DAUD and 16 other prisoners (March Newsletter). AI cabled the king on February 22 urging him to intervene and spare the prisoners' lives.

### ORGANISATION

### FINANCE MEETING RECOMMENDS £170,000 BUDGET FOR 1973/74

The Finance Meeting on March 17 recommended a budget of £170,000 for the fiscal year 1973/74. This was on the basis of firm commitments from National Sections. The recommendation will be considered by the International Executive Committee when it meets in London April 6-8.

If approved, the new budget will mean that two research posts will be frozen, and there will be a reduction for the next 12 months in some services provided by the Secretariat.

Representatives of nine National Sections attended the Finance Meeting at the IS. The Treasurer, LOTHAR BELCK, had invited other Sections unable to attend to submit their comments on the agenda and on the original budget proposal.

The meeting considered a proposal from a sub-committee established by the International Council to examine ways of revising Section contributions to reflect the national incomes of the countries concerned. The sub-committee's report is being circulated to National Sections whose comments are requested before August 1.

In order to meet the £170,000 recommendation, the IEC will have to revise the budget approved by the Council in Utrecht last September. The new figure includes those costs of the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture (*see below*) not already covered by specific financial commitments by individual Sections.

After the IEC meeting, National Sections will receive a full report outlining the budget proposals and the limitations that will result from them.

### Anti-torture appeal seeks one million signatures

AI has begun its campaign to obtain a minimum of one million signatures for the International Appeal to Outlaw Torture. National Sections will begin receiving the appeal, along with a detailed memorandum, by mid-April. A special

leaflet containing general information about the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture and including a petition form should also be ready by mid-April.

The Finance Meeting (*see above*) approved a total Campaign budget of £13,400. The following day representatives of eight National Sections attended a meeting of the IEC Sub-Committee on the Campaign. The Sub-Committee heard a report on the latest preparations for the conference in Paris in December, on the new world survey of torture by JAMES BECKET and ELISE BECKET SMITH, which is near completion, and on the progress of the Campaign as a whole.

Invitations to the Paris Conference have now been sent to more than 200 non-governmental organisations and other world bodies, and positive responses are already exceeding expectations.

### Sections and Groups

The new address of the Peruvian Section is: Dra. Laura Caller, Jirón Pachitea 279 - Of. 500-501, Lima, Peru.

Groups are reminded that it is essential to give their group number and return address in all correspondence with the International Secretariat.

### POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS

#### From past campaigns... 'Zanzibar brides' escape

Three of the six widely publicised "Zanzibar Brides", who were forcibly married to members of the Zanzibar government in October 1970, and who were jointly on the *Postcards for Prisoners Campaign* in November 1971, have escaped.

Badria MUSSA, Fawzia MUSSA and Wajiha YUSUF fled to the Tanzanian mainland in a canoe at the end of February, in a pre-arranged escape organised by friends. They then travelled overland to Mombassa and flew from Nairobi to Teheran where they are now staying with relatives. Nasreen Mohammed HUSSEIN failed to join the other three and is still under strict house-arrest in the home of her "husband" in Zanzibar. Eight relatives of the girls were arrested as a result of the escape.

Nasreen Mohammed Hussein is the only one of the six "brides" of Persian descent still detained. Helem NASSOR, who had been forced to marry SHEIKH KARUME, former ruler of Zanzibar, was divorced by him in January 1972 after giving birth prematurely. Nasra MOHAMED, whom Karume also took as a bride, was released in April 1972 after his assassination.

Father Cosmas DESMOND<sup>\* \* \*</sup> of South Africa, who was on the Prisoner of Conscience Week Campaign in 1972, arrived in London on March 6, after authorities relaxed the conditions of his house arrest temporarily in order that he might fly to England to visit his father who is ill. Father Desmond was returning to South Africa early in April.

#### This month's campaign...

#### Bizhan JAZANI, Iran

Before his arrest, Bizhan Jazani was the Director of the Tablis Film Company in Teheran

and studied at night at the University of Teheran for a Doctorate in Philosophy. He is married and has two young children. He was arrested in January 1968 and brought to trial together with 13 others in December 1968. They were charged with "forming a group with communist ideology which had conspired against the security of the State". An AI observer who attended the trial, which was held before a military tribunal, reported that the prosecution case was "ludicrously inadequate". He said it relied predominantly on individual guilt by association, and on group guilt established largely on the basis of one man's statement, which the defence said was one of several "confessions" extracted under torture.

Jazani himself denied the charges and alleged that he had been tortured during interrogation. He was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and is at present in Ghasar Prison, Teheran. He is reported to be suffering from a stomach ulcer.

Please send courteously worded cards appealing for Bizhan Jazani's release to: His Imperial Majesty Shahanshah of Iran, Niavaran Palace, Teheran, Iran; and to: His Excellency Sadeg Ahmadi, Minister of Justice, Avenue Davar, Teheran, Iran; and to: His Excellency Asadollah Alam, Minister of Court, Saadabad Palace, Teheran, Iran.

## GUMULJO Wreksoatmodjo

### Indonesia

Gumuljo Wreksoatmodjo, aged 62, is a well-known lawyer. Before his arrest in 1966, he was a member of the Moslem Party, Nahdlatul Ulama, and also a member of the left-wing association of university graduates, the HSI. The HSI was banned in 1965, immediately after a left-wing coup attempt, and many of its members and leaders were arrested.

In March 1966, Gumuljo undertook to defend Colonel Untung, the coup organiser, who was tried by a military court for attempting to overthrow the government. The case was heard by a special tribunal, the sentence was death, and Untung was later executed. Gumuljo's decision to represent Untung was an act of great courage and one he took knowing that he might himself be suspected of sympathising with the coup attempt. Shortly after the trial, Gumuljo was arrested and has been detained in Salemba Prison in Jakarta ever since. He has not been charged and no formal reason has been given for his arrest. But it is likely that his arrest is, at least in part, the outcome of his legal defence of Untung.

The political background: On September 30 1965, a left-wing coup was attempted in Jakarta and six prominent generals murdered. The Army defeated the coup, took power and ordered a purge of the Communist Party, which was held responsible for attempting to seize power by coup d'etat. During the last months of 1965 and 1966, hundreds of thousands of suspected communists were killed or arrested and the Sukarno government was gradually replaced by a predominantly military administration led by President Suharto. About 55,000 people remain in untried detention (see front page), of whom

Gumuljo is one.

Please send your courteously worded cards to: President Suharto, Istana Negara, Djalan Veteran, Jakarta, Indonesia.

The cards should congratulate him on his recent re-election as President. Courteously worded cards should also be sent to the Indonesian Embassy in your own country.

## Alexander PETROV (AGATOV)

### Soviet Union

Alexander Petrov (Agatov is his pseudonym) is a poet and lyric song writer from Leningrad who is well known as the author of two popular Russian songs. Some of his verse has been published in the Soviet Union. It was the persistent appeals of the Writers Union which led to his release in 1967 from prison and labour camps where he had served more than 20 years of a sentence passed under Stalin.

He was re-arrested in 1968 and tried in January 1969 on a charge of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". The charge was based on some poetry he had written in which he criticised the repressions under the former chief of the secret police, Beria.

Petrov was confined at first in one of the labour camps in the Mordovian Republic, together with other well-known political prisoners. From here he wrote a letter in December 1969 to the editor of a popular literary monthly, "Yunost" (Youth) in which he describes his own case and its injustice and deplores the policy of the Soviet regime of silencing by imprisonment all those who hold and express different views.

In November 1970, he was transferred to Vladimir Prison, 100 miles east of Moscow. Transfer to Vladimir Prison is usually carried out as a punishment for political prisoners. In this case it is likely that Petrov was punished for having continued his literary activities in prison. These included writing the letter mentioned above and also an autobiographical work, "Arestantskiye Vstrechi" (Encounters with Convicts), which has since become well known in "samizdat" (underground publications).

Conditions in Vladimir Prison are notoriously bad, and prisoners are frequently made to share cells with violent criminals or mentally-damaged inmates. For a man who has already spent so long in prisons and camps, a spell in Vladimir could prove very harmful to his health.

Please send your cards appealing for Alexander Petrov's release for health and humanitarian reasons to the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Nikolai Podgorny, and the Minister for Health, B. Petrovsky. Their addresses are: SSSR, g. Moskva, Kreml, Predsedatelyu Prezidiuma Verkhovnogo Sovieta SSSR, N. Podgornomu; and SSSR, Moskva, Rakhmanovskiy Pereulok 3, Ministerstvo Zdravookhraneniya SSSR, B. Petrovskomy.

### RECOMMENDED BOOK

DAVIDSON, Basil. *In the Eye of the Storm: Angola's People*. 1972. Longman, London. £3.95.

Beautifully written account of Angola's history and struggle for independence. Also available in Swedish edition.