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KGB ARRESTS TWO MORE MEMBERS OF AI GROUP IN MOSCOW ON 'ANTI-SOVIET' CHARGES; PAPERS CONFISCATED IN SEARCH OF FLATS

KGB officials arrested two more members of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL's Moscow group on 18 April and conducted lengthy searches of the apartments of two other members, confiscating *AI* material. Another member, biologist SERGEI KOVALYOV, was arrested on 28 December 1974 and is still detained (January *Newsletter*).

The two new arrests were of 35-year-old physicist ANDREI TVERDOKHLEBOV, secretary of the group, who was detained in Moscow while on his way to work, and Ukrainian writer MIKOLA RUDENKO, who was arrested in Kiev.

Mr Tverdokhlebov, whose flat was searched on a number of occasions late last year, was still detained in Moscow's Lefortovo prison as this *Newsletter* went to press. But Mr Rudenko was freed on 20 April after signing an undertaking not to leave Kiev. He was told he would await further investigations and a trial under article 187-1 of the Ukrainian criminal code for spreading material defamatory to the USSR.

Dr Kovalyov was arrested and flown to Lithuania in connection with a KGB operation known as "Case 345" which was directed at the *samizdat* journal *The Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church*. It is known that he has been charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS cabled Soviet Communist Party leader LEONID BREZHNEV on 19 April to express *AI*'s grave concern at the new arrests and at the searches. He called for the immediate release of all three Moscow group members.

"*AI* reiterates the assurance that all activities of the USSR group are legal under Soviet law and that in accordance with *AI*'s statute the group only works for the release of prisoners outside the USSR," the cable said.

Reports from Moscow said that KGB officials had also searched the apartments of the group's chairman, VALENTIN TURCHIN, a computer expert, and VLADIMIR ALBRECHT, a mathematician, confiscating documents that included *AI* material.

The Moscow group (it is not, as sometimes mistakenly called, an *AI* section) was recognized by *AI*'s International Executive Committee last September. Acceptance of the group's application for membership came after Martin Ennals and two members of the IEC—DIRK BORNER and THOMAS HAMMARBERG, presently IEC Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively—went to Moscow and spoke to its leading members. The three *AI* officials were assured that the applicants understood *AI*'s work for human rights and its rule against groups working for prisoners in their own country.

The group was subsequently assigned three prisoners of conscience: one in Sri Lanka, one in Spain and one in Yugoslavia, reflecting *AI*'s traditional political and geographical balance in adoption work.

On 16 January 1975, however, Mr Turchin issued a statement to foreign newsmen in Moscow complaining that since November, because of interference with their mail, the group had not received any material—not even the case sheets on their three prisoners—which had been sent to them from *AI*'s International Secretariat.

In a statement issued with the cable *AI* said that none of the

AI LISTS 252 WOMEN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN 25 COUNTRIES

AI published a list on 20 April of 252 women who are imprisoned in 25 countries throughout the world for political, religious or ethnic reasons.

In an introduction, *AI* said that although its work for prisoners of conscience and for the the abolition of torture and capital punishment is neither circumscribed nor directed by consideration of the victims' nationality, ideology, religion or sex, it was particularly important this year to note the plight of women political prisoners.

"Many have not been charged or tried," *AI* said. "Some have been tortured. All are adopted or under investigation by Amnesty International as prisoners of conscience.

"...The fact that they are women is relevant in that it makes them especially vulnerable to torture and maltreatment, and gives the separation from children and family a particular significance."

The list is prefaced by four detailed cases of individual women detained in Indonesia, the Soviet Union, Spain and Brazil.

material sent to the group was secret or confidential in any way, nor could any of it justify the reported charge against Mr Tverdokhlebov of "spreading slander against the Soviet state".

"All of our members in the USSR who have been arrested and harrassed are law-abiding Soviet citizens whose concern for human rights has led them to join Amnesty International in order to work for prisoners of conscience throughout the world," the statement said.

MEN EXECUTED IN SOUTH KOREA, POLICE MANHANDLE OBSERVER

AI protested on 9 April to the Republic of Korea against the execution that morning of eight alleged members of the so-called "People's Revolutionary Party" (PRP) whose sentences were only confirmed by the Supreme Court in Seoul the previous day.

In a formal letter delivered to the South Korean embassy in London, *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS also protested against the physical assault of a member of *AI*'s official team in Seoul, British lawyer BRIAN WROBEL. Mr Wrobel was manhandled by uniformed and plainclothes police officers as he tried to enter the Supreme Court building during the hearing.

The eight executed men had originally been charged in July 1974 with membership in the PRP, which was accused of being

an underground organization that instigated, as agents of North Korea, anti-government student demonstrations last spring. The presidential emergency decree under which they were charged was rescinded in August 1974, but the eight were tried *in camera* by an emergency court martial and condemned to death.

"The government of the Republic of Korea is aware that the evidence presented publicly against the eight men has been judged to be questionable by independent observers and has been vigorously challenged in South Korea and internationally." Mr Ennals said.

"The haste with which the men have been executed is particularly regrettable because, under Korean law, a stay of execution could have been affected by appeal for clemency or for re-trial, and not the slightest opportunity was permitted for the men to appeal or to ask for a re-trial."

He said Mr Wrobel had been personally assured by the public prosecutor that the eight would not be executed before an appeal for clemency or a re-trial.

Safety Fears for Uruguayan Detainees

AI urged Uruguay on 17 April to guarantee "the physical integrity and full legal safeguards" of the dozens of teachers, trade unionists and young students detained in the country's latest wave of arrests. Six of the students are aged between 14 and 16 and have been held incommunicado from their families since 20-22 March.

The current wave of arrests began at the end of February with the detention of trade union leaders and workers in Montevideo and the provinces. The arrests hit members of the secondary school teacher's union and the young students at the end of March after public protests against socio-economic conditions in the country. *AI's* concern was heightened by allegations that at least some of the detainees have been tortured.

"Most of these arrests would represent violations of the right to freedom of speech and association," *AI* said in a statement released to the press. "But an even more disturbing feature is the total lack of legal protection for the detainees. This includes long periods of incommunicado, varying degrees of maltreatment during interrogation, and the failure of arresting authorities to bring detainees before a judge, either civilian or military."

PHILIPPINES: BENIGNO AQUINO ON HUNGER STRIKE

BENIGNO AQUINO, a leading opponent of the martial law administration of President FERDINAND E. MARCOS, and an *AI*-adopted prisoner, went on hunger strike on 4 April to protest against the injustice of his current trial before a military tribunal. At the time of going to press, he is reported to be weakening, but determined to continue his protest.

Senator Aquino was widely regarded as a serious challenger to President Marcos if presidential elections had not been indefinitely postponed because of the imposition of martial law in September 1972. Señor Aquino was arrested a few hours after the imposition of martial law. He is currently being tried by the military tribunal on charges of subversion, murder and illegal possession of firearms. An urgent action campaign has been launched by national sections.

AI Sends Appeal to Equatorial Guinea

AI urged President MACIAS NGUEMA of Equatorial Guinea on 13 April to halt the atrocities being inflicted on political prisoners in the country.

A cable from Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS said *AI* was gravely disturbed at reports of atrocities and of "continuing indications that basic human rights (are being) consistently violated".

According to *AI's* information, more than 300 prominent Equatorians have been killed—some of them tortured to death—since March 1969 when President Nguema suspended the constitution that took effect when the country became independent a year earlier after almost two centuries of rule by Spain.

Last June between 30 and 100 political prisoners in Bata, the capital of the mainland portion of Equatorial Guinea (the country includes a number of islands in the Gulf of Guinea), were killed after the President had alleged that they were plotting against him in prison.

In December 1974 Equatorian exiles in Europe issued a list of 319 persons whom they alleged had been executed since 1968. The list included former government officials, members of parliament, civil servants, members of the armed forces, business men, students, chiefs and agricultural workers.

MARTIN ENNALS MEETS HEADS OF PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH

AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS had talks with Prime Minister ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO of Pakistan and Sheikh MUJIBUR RAHMAN, President of Bangladesh, during a visit to South Asia in March and April (*April Newsletter*). Mr Ennals also participated in the *AI* South Asia Regional Conference held in New Delhi, India, 20-23 March (see page 4).

In Pakistan, Prime Minister Bhutto told Mr Ennals of his respect for *AI's* work and said he welcomed the establishment of an *AI* national section in the country.

Discussion also focused on the situation of political prisoners in Pakistan where the main opposition party has recently been banned and where many of Mr Bhutto's opponents and other political leaders are detained. Recent acts of violence in the country have resulted in the deaths of several leading politicians, including both government supporters and opponents.

Mr Bhutto told Mr Ennals that everything undertaken by his government was in accordance with the law, including the state of emergency he had declared and which he submitted for approval to the Supreme Court. Mr Bhutto assured Mr Ennals that if the court found his actions unconstitutional, the action would be rescinded.

He agreed with Mr Ennals, however, that there was need for a greater flow of information regarding the numbers of persons detained and released and regarding the whereabouts of those in custody and their circumstances of detention. He said he hoped this information would be more readily available in the future.

In Bangladesh, President Mujibur Rahman, who himself was twice adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience, discussed with Mr Ennals the political situation in the country that had resulted in the declaration of a state of emergency and the wide use of the Special Powers Act.

Sheikh Mujib said he was reluctant to imprison those who opposed him but listed many acts of political violence by opponents of his regime. Mr Ennals drew his attention to the fact that many people had now been in prison for prolonged periods awaiting trial.

He said *AI* recognized the magnanimity of the overall amnesty declared by Bangladesh for many of the so-called collaborators who failed to oppose the Pakistani authorities during the civil war. But he mentioned the enlarged powers of arrest and detention acquired under the emergency declared in December, under which a well-known civil liberties lawyer had been detained and then released shortly before Mr Ennals' visit to Bangladesh.

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.

Martin SOSTRE, USA

On 15 July 1967 MARTIN SOSTRE was arrested and charged with the sale of heroin to Arto Williams, a drug addict. This was the culmination of a period of police harassment which had begun shortly after Mr Sostre opened the Afro-Asian Book Store in Buffalo, New York, in March 1965. Mr Sostre has always denied that the sale of heroin took place and insists that he is the victim of a police frame-up because of his political activities. He was, however, sentenced to 25-30 years' imprisonment for the sale of narcotics, 5-10 years' for assault on a policeman and one year for the possession of narcotics.

In March 1971 Arto Williams, the only person who testified directly to the sale of heroin, retracted his testimony against Mr Sostre and admitted that he had committed perjury in order to obtain his own release from prison. It was not until March 1974 that Mr Sostre's appeal for a writ of *habeas corpus* was heard and Arto Williams appeared in court to retract his earlier testimony. The judge rejected Mr Williams' testimony on this occasion and stated that recantations of testimony must be "looked upon with the utmost suspicion".

Please send courteously worded appeals for a pardon to be granted to Mr Sostre to: The Honorable Hugh Carey, The Governor of New York, State House, Albany, New York, USA.

Theodossi A. BELYAKOVSKI, Bulgaria

THEODOSSI ALEXANDROVICH BELYAKOVSKI, who will be 77 years old this month, is in very poor health, having been paralyzed some years ago. He was sentenced on 13 February 1974 by the City Court in Sofia to 3 years imprisonment along with Vladimir Makarov and Catherine Lvoff, a French citizen, sentenced to 5 and 4 years' respectively. Because of French diplomatic intervention Miss Lvoff was released three weeks after the trial.

Mr Belyakovski was born in Tsarist Russia and left the country after the civil war to settle in Bulgaria. At the end of the World War II he was arrested by the Soviet military authorities and deported to a labour camp in Russia where he was held until 1956. He was then allowed to return to Bulgaria where he adopted Bulgarian nationality and worked as an electrician.

The accusation claimed that Belyakovski and his two colleagues actively took part in forming an anti-state group aimed at the destruction of the socialist order in both Bulgaria and the USSR. This charge appears to be a gross exaggeration of the old pensioner's abilities and intentions since it is based merely on the fact that Mr Belyakovski met

and discussed with his two friends problems of human rights and political dissent in Eastern Europe. They were also charged with "disseminating slanderous fascist literature and propaganda material", which referred to publications found in their possession printed by the *émigré* press abroad. These included writings by dissident Soviet intellectuals like Bukovsky, Sakharov, Solzhenitsyn and by emigrant Russians like Berdyaev.

Mr Belyakovski was furthermore accused of maintaining contact with his relatives in Belgium from whom he was receiving "subversive" literature. The official press in Bulgaria deliberately tried to misinterpret the intentions of the three defendants and accused them of working for foreign intelligence agencies, in spite of the fact that all three firmly rejected these charges during their interrogations, and in any case they were never mentioned during the trial itself.

Mr Belyakovski and Mr Makarov, conscious of their innocence, appealed immediately against the sentences, but their appeal was rejected.

Please send courteously-worded cards asking for Mr Belyakovski's release on health and age grounds to: His Excellency Todor Zhivkov, Chairman of the State Council, Sofia, Bulgaria.

Roberto THOMPSON, Paraguay

ROBERTO THOMPSON, the editor of the Asuncion daily newspaper *ABC Color*, was arrested on 8 December 1974 for publishing "negative stories which disturb the peace" after the appearance of an article on an Argentinian "terrorist". As a refutation of the charge his newspaper then printed a collection of past editorials reflecting its policy of condemning violence.

Nevertheless, Roberto Thompson has now been detained for three months for exercising normal journalistic functions and is therefore a prisoner of conscience. As nobody who is detained for political reasons in Paraguay is ever formally charged or brought to trial, Roberto Thompson's release or continued detention is entirely dependent on President Alfredo Stroessner's personal decision.

All journalist members of Amnesty International are urged to send letters in their professional capacity, to President Stroessner and the Paraguayan Embassy in their own country calling for the observation of due process of law as regards their colleague or his immediate release. They should also enlist the support of other journalists in their own country. Please send courteously-worded appeals to: Excmo. Sr Presidente de la Republica del Paraguay, Gral. de Ejercito Alfredo Stroessner, Palacio de Gobierno, Asuncion, Paraguay.

Drive to Help Prisoners in Vietnam

AI sent cables on 4 April 1975 to President NGUYEN VAN THIEU of the Republic of Vietnam (Saigon), President NGUYEN HUU THO of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (PRG) and Prime Minister PHAM VAN DONG of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (Hanoi), urging them to ensure the life and security of civilian prisoners held in conflict areas and to take all measures to prevent ill-treatment of existing prisoners or those who are newly captured. A similar appeal for intervention was made to the member-states which participated in the International Conference on Vietnam in January 1973.

On 6 April 1975, AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS, in a cable sent to the United Nations Secretary General KURT WALDHEIM, also requested that the UN make special arrangements to safeguard the lives of thousands of prisoners detained in South Vietnam.

AI national sections are being asked to make representations to the embassies of the governments involved along the lines of the cables already sent.

AI's International Executive Committee, meeting in London 11-13 April, established an emergency structure within the International Secretariat to deal with the Vietnam prisoner situation. The IEC provided for extra staff and services to do everything possible to try to safeguard the lives and human rights of prisoners detained

in Saigon and in areas recently captured by the PRG.

In the wake of the recent visit of eight US congressmen to Saigon, further releases of well-known prisoners are reported, although the rumours are as yet unconfirmed. Among those reported freed on 26 March are student leader HUYNH TAN MAM, Young Christian Workers leader DOAN KHAC XUYEN, PHAM TRONG CAU, NGUYEN THI MAN and Mrs CAI THI QUE-HUONG. All were thought to be the subject of inquiries on the part of the congressmen.

At the end of March there were new arrests of prominent Saigon lawyers, journalists and students, among them Judge TRAN THUC LINH, lawyers PHAM NAM SACH and NGUYEN VAN CHUC, Professors CHAU TAM LUAN and NGUYEN THANH VINH, and journalists DINH TU THUC, NGUYEN HUU DUONG and DAU PHI LUC. The reasons for their arrests are not yet known.

Observer Calls Rhodesian Trial 'Sham'

An *AI* observer at the "trial" in Rhodesia of African nationalist leader Reverend NDABANINGI SITHOLE (April *Newsletter*) has denounced the proceedings as a "judicial sham".

On 2 April a court in Salisbury ordered that Reverend Sithole, a leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), who was re-detained on 4 March should remain in detention. Two days later, Prime Minister IAN SMITH announced that Reverend Sithole would be freed immediately so that he could attend a special meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Dar es Salaam. The ZANU leader then flew to Tanzania and is reported to have decided not to return to Rhodesia for the present.

American attorney E. CLINTON BAMBERGER, who attended Reverend Sithole's "trial" as observer for *AI* and for the Washington-based Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, reported that what was in effect an administrative tribunal had been falsely presented as a full judicial trial.

Mr Bamberger said that the participation of Rhodesia's acting chief justice in the proceedings had been designed to strengthen this impression and was in his view a "prostitution of the judiciary". He said that the proceedings had been deprived of any possible justification by the government's failure publicly to substantiate allegations that Reverend Sithole had plotted the assassination of his political rivals. He declared that the courtroom had merely been used to publicize government allegations of atrocities said to have been committed by ZANU guerillas.

AI News in Brief

3 GO BEFORE SECRET TRIBUNAL IN SPAIN

Three of the 16 Spanish people arrested in September 1974 following the bomb attack in Madrid's Cafe Rolando were due to appear before a secret military tribunal towards the end of April.

The three are: EVA FOREST TARRAT, psychiatrist and writer, mother of three children and the wife of the internationally-known playwright ALFONSO SASTRE; ANTONIO DURAN, a building worker and leader of the *Comisiones Obreras* (underground trade unions); and MARIA LUZ FERNANDEZ, a schoolteacher and librarian at the Cuban Embassy.

The three face a maximum sentence of death by garrotting. They all have already been tortured and held in solitary confinement for long periods (December 1974 and March 1975 *Newsletters*).

AI TELLS IRAQ OF CONCERN FOR KURDS

On 7 April *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS sent a letter to President AHMAD HASSAN AL BAKR of Iraq and Vice-President SADDAM HUSSEIN TAKRITI expressing concern that "during the past year of hostilities large numbers of Kurdish and non-Kurdish civilians have not been accorded the protection guaranteed by international humanitarian law." Mr Ennals also appealed for the release of all Kurdish civilian detainees and an inquiry into all allegations of torture and the very high incidence of executions

AI has the names of 551 Kurdish civilian detainees whose whereabouts are mostly unknown; of 43 Kurds who have reportedly died as

a result of torture; and of 91 persons executed since April 1974. Copies of these lists were enclosed with the letter.

On 16 April *AI* issued a news release based on the Secretary General's letter to the President of Iraq.

Concern for the Kurds in Iraq has increased recently after an agreement was signed by Iraq and Iran in Algiers on 6 March, which included the closing of the Iraq/Iran border on 1 April and the withdrawal of Iranian aids to the Kurds. The Kurds have been fighting for more autonomy in northern Iraq for 13 years, and the agreement has led to the apparent collapse of the Kurdish rebellion led by MULLA MUSTAFA BARZANI. Large numbers of Kurds are now stranded in Iraq, homeless and with no access to provisions or medical aid.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in March of the release of 58 *AI*-adopted prisoners and took up 130 new cases plus four "group adoptions" totalling 36 prisoners.

Chad Coup Overthrows Tombalbaye. President NGARTA TOMBALBAYE of Chad was overthrown in a military coup on 13 April, and was later reported to have died in the fighting. Chad was one of the countries on a special *AI* campaign launched last November and designed to encourage general amnesties in a number of French-speaking West African states. In January 1975 hundreds of *AI* groups appealed to the Chad President to release prisoners held without trial since 1972.

AI Korean Board Member Arrested. Mr HAN SEUNG-HON a member of *AI*'s South Korean Committee and a prominent defence lawyer in Seoul, was arrested on 25 March on charges of "praising an anti-state organization". The charges relate to an article written in September 1972 in which, while mentioning no names, Mr Han lamented the death of a man executed for his alleged participation in a North Korean spy-ring.

Indonesia Frees Mochtar Lubis. Former *AI* adoptee MOCHTAR LUBIS, founder and editor of the leading Indonesian newspaper *Indonesia Raya*, who was re-arrested on 10 February (March *Newsletter*), was released from Nirbaya prison in Jakarta on 15 April, according to an official government spokesman.

Reports said that Mr Lubis had been cleared of suspicion of possible involvement in the January 1974 demonstrations over the visit to Jakarta of the then Japanese Prime Minister KUKUEI TANAKA. The reports also said all restrictions had been lifted on Mr Lubis' movements.

IEC Hears Report on Meeting in India. *AI*'s International Executive Committee meeting in London 11-13 April, received a report from MUMTAZ SOYSAL on the Asian Regional Conference held in New Delhi 20-23 March (see page 2). The conference, attended by delegates from *AI* groups, committees or members in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, concentrated on the problems of *AI*'s activities in the area.

The IEC also considered arrangements for the proposed Pan-Pacific Conference on Human Rights which it hopes to organize in Tokyo in December. The IEC also established an emergency structure to deal with the Vietnam crisis and scheduled a far-ranging discussion on the problems and program of *AI* development at its next meeting which will be held 4-6 July in London.

Ennals and Rodley Attend Algiers Conference. *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS and Legal Adviser NIGEL RODLEY attended the 10th Congress of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers in Algiers, 2-6 April as observers. They participated in the work of the congress commission on the role of lawyers and law in the promotion of social progress and human rights. The commission adopted statements, subsequently approved by the congress as a whole, on torture and capital punishment. It specially endorsed the view taken by *AI* that the United Nations General Assembly should declare torture to be a crime under international law.

AI Adoptee in USSR Reported Dead. The International Secretariat received reports in April of the death of ERICH ABEL, an adopted prisoner in the Soviet Union. The reports said that Mr Abel, aged 45, a Soviet citizen of German origin, died sometime between Christmas and the end of 1974 in Alma-Ata prison.

Mr Abel had acted as spokesman for a large number of Soviet citizens of German origin who had applied to emigrate. For his activities, he was convicted in January 1974 of "anti-Soviet slander" and sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment. In May 1974 his relatives learned that he was being held under strict guard in a hospital somewhere and was in a serious medical condition, the nature of which was unknown to *AI*.

EGYPTIAN ADOPTEE FREED. NABIL QASSEM, one of six Egyptians adopted by *AI* last December after being arrested on charges of forming a leftwing "secret cell" (January *Newsletter*) has been freed. But *AI* still awaits news of the other five. Meanwhile the trial of 19 Egyptians, including 17 *AI* investigation cases, all accused of forming or being members of a communist organization, has been adjourned until 22 June.

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AI MISSION STRESSES NEED FOR BETTER SAFEGUARDS REPORT SAYS BOTH ISRAEL AND SYRIA ABUSED PRISONERS OF WAR

An *AI* commission of inquiry into allegations of ill-treatment and torture made by Israeli and Syrian prisoners of war captured during the October 1973 war has concluded that both countries were guilty of certain abuses, according to the commission's report published on 10 April 1975. The 34-page report said that the two countries had failed to observe fully the safeguards contained in the Third Geneva Convention concerning the treatment of prisoners of war.

"These violations of the Third Geneva Convention are extremely serious, in that they created circumstances under which ill-treatment and torture could more easily occur," the report says. "Having heard and examined the allegations contained in the testimonies of the former Israeli and Syrian prisoners of war, the commission cannot but conclude that violations of the Third Geneva Convention have indeed led to certain abuses against a number of former prisoners of war."

The *AI* commission was composed of a Norwegian, ASBJØRN EIDE, Director of the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo, Swedish lawyer PETER NOBEL of Uppsala, and Dutch physician Dr KEES VAN VUUREN of Rotterdam.

They visited Israel and Syria during two weeks last October and interviewed 25 Israeli and 21 Syrian former prisoners of war, as well as three Syrian civilians who were kidnapped by withdrawing Israeli forces in the summer of 1974. They also met officials from both governments. The report summarizes statements made by six Israeli and six Syrian former prisoners of war and one Syrian civilian, with a medical conclusion on each.

The report says that because of, among other reasons, the length of time that had elapsed between the occurrence of the alleged abuses and the examination of ex-prisoners by the commission, and because of the scarcity of medical documentation, the commission had not been able to obtain absolute proof that the alleged ill-treatment and torture had indeed taken place. However, as *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS states in his introduction to the report,

"the consistency of many of the testimonies and the fact that in certain cases they appear to be corroborated by the findings of the medical examination, leave little doubt that abuses have been committed by both parties concerned, albeit that those perpetrated against the former Israeli prisoners of war held in Syria appear generally to have been of a more severe nature."

In his introduction, as well as in letters to President HAFEZ ASSAD of Syria and Prime Minister YITZHAK RABIN of Israel, Mr Ennals stresses that

"the purpose of this report is not to condemn and seek retribution for what happened in the past, but to create awareness of the need to prevent similar abuses from occurring in the future."

The report concludes accordingly with a series of recommendations to the two governments that they take steps to secure the full implementation of the Third Geneva Convention concerning the treatment of prisoners of war. The report also urges the Diplomatic Conference (in Geneva) on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts to strengthen methods of international control and supervision in such situations.

BRAZILIAN CONGRESS REJECTS TORTURE INQUIRY

On 10 April the Brazilian Congress, by 192 votes to 136, defeated the proposal by the opposition party *Movimento Democrático Brasileiro* to initiate an inquiry into torture and disappearances (March *CAT Bulletin*). The issue of torture and the role of the armed forces and the police has reportedly created great tensions within the military establishment. Opposition from the military hard-liners against President ERNESTO GEISEL's cautious intentions towards gradual political liberalization (as shown for example by the relaxation of censorship earlier this year) appears to have grown very strong recently.

This would also partly account for the renewed and continuing wave of arrests and disappearances, accompanied by numerous allegations of torture. In many of these cases *AI* national sections are asked to participate in urgent actions on behalf of the detainees.

The report also points out that, although permission and cooperation was requested prior to the October visit, *AI* had not been given an opportunity to investigate properly allegations of ill-treatment and torture of civilian prisoners detained in both countries. Mr Ennals expressed the hope that the two governments might enable Amnesty International to investigate questions relating to the situation of civilian prisoners in either country in the near future:

"This would also demonstrate that their motivation for welcoming Amnesty International to investigate the complaints concerning the former prisoners of war was based on a genuine concern with regard to ill-treatment and torture under all circumstances."

Report of an Amnesty International Mission to Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic to Investigate Allegations of Ill-Treatment and Torture. 34 pages. Available from Amnesty International national sections or from Amnesty International Publications, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England. Price 50 pence (US \$ 1.25) plus 10 per cent postage and packing.

AI RECEIVES FRESH EVIDENCE PSYCHIATRIC ABUSES IN USSR

Because of their almost total isolation it is generally difficult to learn even from *samizdat* (unofficial publications) current details of the "treatment" of prisoners of conscience who are confined in Soviet special psychiatric hospitals. Despite delays, however, *AI* continues to receive documented information about cases of officially sanctioned medical ill-treatment and torture in the USSR.

One of the latest issues of *A Chronicle of Current Events* describes the suffering inflicted on the now released ANATOLY

FEDOROVICH CHINNOV. A graduate chemical engineer from Leningrad, Mr Chinnov tried to leave the country because of its religious restrictions after having adopted orthodox faith in 1968. He was arrested, and after a psychiatric commission had found him to be sane, he was re-diagnosed as mentally ill at the Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry. In 1969 he was sent to the Dnepropetrovsk special psychiatric hospital, where he was "treated" with electric shock therapy and insulin. During subsequent detention in the Leningrad special psychiatric hospital, this therapy was reduced and finally stopped, but in 1972 he was returned to Dnepropetrovsk, and treatment was resumed, this time with unidentified drugs.

As a consequence of his treatment, Mr Chinnov reportedly developed chronic gastritis, suffered substantial loss of weight, and lost "half his teeth". It was learned recently that he was released at the end of 1974.

This cannot be said of another prisoner in the Dnepropetrovsk special psychiatric hospital, the Ukrainian mathematician LEONID PLYUSHCH. He has been under compulsory treatment with drugs since 1973, and his health has deteriorated to the point where his wife fears for his sanity and for his very life (August and November 1974 *CAT Bulletin* and March 1975 *Newsletter*). Her appeals notwithstanding a psychiatric commission at the hospital ordered at the end of March again that the compulsory treatment be continued.

Another frequent occurrence is that detainees are medically ill-treated even before they are diagnosed. *AI* has just learned of the case of VLADIMIR BALAKHANOV, a translator who sought asylum in Switzerland in 1969 but who returned to the USSR in 1972, was arrested and sent for diagnosis to the Serbsky Institute. During his stay there "pain-inducing drugs" were reportedly injected into his spinal cord. Eventually he was certified "sane" and sentenced to a prison term which he is currently serving in a Perm Region corrective labour colony.

These and other examples give rise to deep concern about other prisoners who are confined in psychiatric hospitals in the USSR, but about whose treatment fewer or no details are available.

APPEALS

Reports Continue of Abuses in USSR

VLADIMIR OSIPOV, a 36-year old "Slavophile" writer, was arrested in November 1974 in Alexandrov, north of Moscow, and charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". In early 1975 he was moved to the Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry.

ANATOLY PONOMARYOV, an engineer from Leningrad, was arrested in October 1970 for "circulation of fabrications known to be false which defame the Soviet state and social system". He was diagnosed insane, sentenced to compulsory psychiatric treatment, and has been confined in several psychiatric hospitals in Leningrad. Since 1974 he has been detained in the "violent ward" of an ordinary psychiatric hospital, where he is reportedly being treated with the drug aminazin, and denied permission to receive visits from his mother.

AI has adopted both Vladimir Osipov and Anatoly Ponomaryov as prisoners of conscience.

Please send courteously worded appeals for the release of Vladimir Osipov to: USSR, RSFSR, g. Moskva, Kropotkinsky Passazh 23, Institut sudebnoi psikiatrii imeni Serbskogo, Direktor, Morozovu, G. (Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry); *and for the release of Anatoly Ponomaryov to:* USSR, RSFSR, g. Moskva, Rakhmanovsky Pereulok 3, Ministerstvo Zdravokhraneniya SSSR (Ministry of Health of the USSR).

Chilean Women in Danger of Torture

AI continues to receive reports from numerous sources of arrests, in most cases by DINA (*Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional*, a military security service directly responsible to the junta) which are almost invariably followed by torture, and sometimes death (*see below*).

Reliable sources have expressed fears for the lives of two young women journalists, GLADYS DIAZ ARMIJO and MARTA NEVA, both recently arrested by DINA. Gladys Diaz, mother of a six-year-old child, was a well-known political commentator for Radio Agricultura and won a prize as the best woman journalist in 1972. She was a leading member of the MIR (the banned movement of the Revolutionary Left). After having been in hiding since the September 1973 coup she was arrested mid-March 1975 and taken to the recently opened torture center at the Via Grimaldi, in the Peñalolén district of Santiago. She is reported to have been brutally tortured and to be consequently in poor health. She was transferred to the concentration camp Tres Alamos, and as far as known, no charges have been brought against her.

Marta Neva, who worked for a youth magazine, was arrested at the beginning of April 1975, and she has not been heard of since. The fears that these two women are in real danger are reinforced by the news of the death under torture of another woman journalist, DIANA AARON. Argentinian newspapers reported on 10 April that she died as a result of torture during interrogation, when her kidneys were punctured.

Please send courteously worded letters, appealing for humane treatment and observance of judicial procedures for Gladys Diaz and Marta Neva to: General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, Presidente de la República de Chile, Edificio Diego Portales; *and to:* General Manuel Contreras Sepúlveda, Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional, Ministerio del Interior, Edificio Diego Portales, both in Santiago de Chile.

TORTURE SUSPECTED IN IRANIAN DEATHS

Nine prisoners, of whom seven known by name who were *AI*-adopted prisoners of conscience, have died in Iran, perhaps under torture, although the government claims that they were "shot while trying to escape". *AI* made this accusation against the Iranian authorities in a news release on 22 April. The seven men, who were last heard of in Evin prison in Teheran, were sentenced in January 1969 to between 8 and 15 years' imprisonment for allegedly conspiring against the security of the state. An American observer who attended the trial for *AI*, BETTY ASSHETON, reported at the time that "the case presented by the military prosecutor was ludicrously inadequate".

The seven dead are AHMAD AFSAR, MOHAMMAD CHUPANZAD, BIDJAN JAZANI, MASHOUF KALANTARI, AZIZ SARMADI, ABASS SOORKY and HASSAN ZIA ZARIFI. Mr Zarifi was the subject of a *CAT* urgent action in January 1975. The victims' families have not been allowed to take away the bodies, and according to a report from a source *AI* regards as reliable, the men were in fact killed some time ago, perhaps as a result of torture.

AI has learned that early in March of this year 114 prisoners, including the seven, were transferred to Evin prison, where many of them underwent further torture. In the past imprisoned dissidents have been under harsh pressure to declare publicly, even on television, that they favour the regime, and the transfers to Evin prison and the subsequent torture may be related to the Shah's declaration of a one-party state on 2 March.

EGYPTIAN GETS DAMAGES FOR TORTURE

Cairo newspapers reported on 5 April 1975 that a civil court had ordered the Egyptian Minister of War to pay \$75,000 in damages to former prisoner and victim of torture ALI GREISHA for the "physical and moral harm" he had suffered in 1965 and 1966 in the military prison in Cairo. The court also recommended that four former ministers of justice be tried on charges of having condoned torture and the degradation of Egyptian justice in the 1960s. It asked President ANWAR SADAT to order the demolition of the Cairo military prison, "a monument to the humiliation of the Egyptian people". In a letter to President Sadat, *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS expressed the hope that the Egyptian government will continue its efforts for human rights.