



Killings, torture by army reported from Uganda

Widespread killings and torture of civilians by the army have been reported from Uganda. The extensive violations of human rights reported from the country include extra-legal executions, torture and killings of people in detention, and abductions.

AI has made a series of appeals to President Milton Obote of Uganda calling for immediate government action to halt abuses of human rights by the army and security forces.

In a news release of 15 April 1982, *AI* said its latest appeal, on 7 April, was made after it had received detailed accounts of the murders in recent weeks of people arrested and taken by soldiers to Makindye military barracks in Kampala, and to prisons and police stations in the Kampala and Entebbe areas.

One report, which *AI* was unable to confirm at first hand by mid-April, said that more than 70 people were killed at Katabi barracks, Entebbe, at the end of March shortly after they were rounded up. They were said to have been buried in a mass grave near the barracks.

AI has urged President Obote to set up an independent commission of inquiry into human rights abuses. It has offered to provide information it has collected on killings and torture of people held in custody. It also asked the authorities what action they were

prepared to take to stop such abuses.

AI has received detailed accounts of more than 100 killings by the military over the past year—but it believes the actual total to be much higher.

There has been a series of contacts between *AI* and the Ugandan Government, including a visit to Kampala by an *AI* mission in January. Despite this *AI* has been receiving more and more reports of people being killed, and of starvation and overcrowding of prisoners. That is why *AI* felt bound to make its appeal public.

The movement has called on the government to disclose the number and names of all those held without charge or trial, as well as the legal basis for their arrest, and to release anyone who is not to be prosecuted within a reasonable period.

Among the reports which *AI* has received and has called to the attention of the government are the cases of: J. MAWANGE, a laboratory technician at Mulago Hospital, said to have been arrested last month and beaten to death at Kigo Prison, south of Kampala; Dr IBANDA, from Jinja, reported to have been seized by soldiers in Kampala on 27 March and tortured to death the next day; and Ssalongo MULINDWA, from Natete, arrested by soldiers in Kampala on 22 March and reported to have been killed in Katabi barracks, Entebbe.

AI has called President Obote's attention to reports of overcrowding of prisoners in prisons and makeshift detention centres, particularly in the Kampala and Entebbe areas. It has told him of reports of deaths by starvation among prisoners at Makindye barracks, and of the danger of more such deaths at Katabi barracks, where between 700 and 800 people were reported held.

AI said the government had failed to ensure respect for constitutional safeguards providing for detainees to be named, to have access to lawyers and relatives, for review of detentions by an independent tribunal and for trial or release within a reasonable period□

USSR: Helsinki monitor gets 10-year sentence

A member of the unofficial Moscow Helsinki monitoring group was sentenced on 2 April 1982 to 10 years' imprisonment and internal exile for his activities in documenting and publicizing human rights violations in the USSR.

Ivan KOVALYOV, aged 27, was convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" just one year after his wife and fellow Helsinki monitor, Tatyana OSIPOVA, had been tried on the same charge and also sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and internal exile.

At his trial, Ivan Kovalyov was accused of preparing materials that slandered the Soviet state and sending them



Ivan Kovalyov with his wife, Tatyana Osipova . . . now both are imprisoned.

abroad. Prosecution witnesses reportedly described him as manifesting "conceit, excessive self-confidence, desire to become popular at all costs and lack of moral scruples". Only four of his closest relatives were allowed to attend the trial, which was closed to the public.

AI believes that he has been imprisoned for peacefully exercising his right

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Bangladesh Hundreds held after coup

The civilian government headed by President Abdus Sattar was overthrown in an apparently bloodless military coup on 24 March 1982.

The Army Chief of Staff, General Hossain Mohammad Ershad, proclaimed himself Chief Martial Law Administrator, suspended the constitution and dissolved the national assembly. In a broadcast on 25 March, he said the deposed President had failed to cleanse his administration of corruption and that, as a result, Bangladesh was "facing a crisis on every front—economic, political, social and law and order".

Latest reports indicate that up to 300 people have been arrested since the coup, including some ministers of the previous government, the former Deputy Prime Minister and the Mayor of Dacca.

On 27 March Ahsanuddin Chowdhury, a retired Supreme Court judge, was sworn in as ceremonial President.

The military authorities have announced martial law regulations introducing three different types of martial law court: special martial law tribunals, special martial law courts and summary martial law courts.

They have introduced the death penalty as a maximum punishment for offences such as "corruption", "acquisition of movable or immovable property through the abuse of power" and "causing prejudice to the economic or financial security of the country".

All political activity is banned; this was later specified to include all political activity by student unions, dissolved under martial law regulations. The maximum punishment for political activity is five years' imprisonment; for criticizing martial law, seven years'; for "publishing prejudicial news", 10 years'; and

for illegal possession of arms, death.

These provisions are retroactive and normal rules of evidence in cases of people accused of illegal possession of arms have been changed.

Although General Ershad is reported to have stated that trials would be open, there are provisions for special martial law tribunals and courts to sit *in camera* if they wish; no lawyer is allowed to appear for the defence before a summary martial law court and there is no right of appeal against any sentence passed by martial law courts. No court of law, including the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, may question proceedings, judgments or sentences by martial law courts.

On 3 April the government announced the establishment of a special martial law tribunal and of five special martial law courts with jurisdiction throughout the country and power to impose the death penalty; on 4 April it announced the setting up of 23 summary martial law courts for different areas of the country.

The first trial before the special martial law tribunal, that of the former Deputy Prime Minister, Jamal Uddin AHMED, began on 8 April. He was charged under martial law regulations with corruption and criminal misconduct, the maximum penalty for which is death.

On 26 March *AI* cabled General Ershad expressing concern about the introduction of the death penalty for offences tried by the martial law courts. It asked the government to publish details of political arrests and the charges against political prisoners, and urged that the latter be tried in accordance with international human rights standards or released at an early date □

Trinidad and Tobago Death sentences on three are commuted

Death sentences on three convicted prisoners in Trinidad and Tobago have been commuted to life imprisonment by President Ellis Clarke.

Harry SINGH, aged 33, and David ANDREWS, 25, had been under sentence of death since 1975 and Oscar SMITH, 25, since 1978. *AI* had appealed for the sentences to be commuted.

Twenty-four prisoners are believed to be under sentence of death in Trinidad and Tobago. The last executions are reported to have been in 1979. In early

1980 an official commission on prison reform recommended restriction of the death penalty □

International Secretariat appointments

Maggie Beirne, formerly Membership Coordinator at *AI*'s International Secretariat (IS), has been appointed Head of the Campaign and Membership Department. Clayton Yeo has been appointed Head of the Research Department; he was formerly Deputy Head of the department and succeeds Derek Roebuck, who has left the IS to teach law at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby □

Sri Lanka Govt. officials 'unable' to see *AI* mission

An *AI* mission visited Sri Lanka from 31 January to 9 February 1982. Its purpose was to discuss with government officials and others the implementation of recommendations *AI* had submitted to the government in 1980, and to obtain first-hand information about human rights violations reported during 1981 (see July and November 1981 *Newsletters*).

The delegates were Orville Schell, former President of the Association of the New York Bar and the American Bar Association's observer to the United Nations; and a member of *AI*'s Research Department.

Although *AI* had previously received written assurances from the Sri Lankan London Embassy that the delegates would meet all government ministers and officials *AI* had asked to see (except President Jayewardene, who was receiving the Indian President), the delegates were told on arrival that government officials were unable to meet them.

The mission spent three days in Colombo and met judges of the Supreme Court, members of opposition parties (including the leaders) and President Jayewardene's brother, who is director of a government-sponsored foundation that includes the Human Rights Centre. The delegates also met lawyers and representatives of civil liberties organizations directly involved with the protection of human rights in Sri Lanka.

In Jaffna the delegates obtained detailed first-hand information about arrest and detention practices in the north.

On 1 March *AI* wrote to President Jayewardene, saying that the government's refusal to meet its delegation could only increase *AI*'s concern about the serious human rights violations which occurred during 1981 and continued during *AI*'s visit □

South Korean releases: Eight people adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience—all arrested in 1974 in connection with the "People's Revolutionary Party" case—were released from prison under the presidential amnesty of 3 March 1982. They are: CHONG Man-jin, LEE Jae-hyong, HWANG Hyong-sung, LEE Chang-bok, CHO Man-ho, CHUN Chae-gwon, IM Koo-ho and KIM Chong-dae □

Campaign for Prisoners of the Month



Each of the people whose story is told below is a prisoner of conscience. Each has been arrested because of his or her religious or political beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin or language. None has used or advocated violence. Their continuing detention is a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. International appeals can help to secure the release of these prisoners or to improve their detention conditions. In the interest of the prisoners, letters to the authorities should be worded carefully and courteously. You should stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. In *no* circumstances should communications be sent to the prisoner.

CHO Sung-oo, Republic of Korea

A law student in his early thirties, he is serving nine years' imprisonment following student demonstrations in May 1980. He is reported to be partly paralysed and in severe pain from a spinal injury allegedly inflicted during interrogation.

Cho Sung-oo, a student at Korea University, Seoul, was arrested in June 1980. He was accused of organizing student demonstrations in the capital the previous month in an attempt to overthrow the government, under directions from the opposition politician KIM Dae-jung.

Student demonstrations began in March 1980 with protests at plans to intensify military training for students. By May they had spread throughout the country and the students' demands included the end of martial law (imposed on most of the country in October 1979), democratic elections and an end to press censorship. On 17 May 1980 full martial law was declared and all political activity banned. Several hundred students were arrested.

Cho Sung-oo was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in September 1980, reduced in January 1981 to 10 years' and then to nine years' in the presidential amnesty of 3 March 1982.

He is reported to be half-paralysed and in severe pain as the result of an injury to his lower spine, allegedly inflicted under interrogation in June and July 1980. He is currently being held in Mokpo prison.

AI knows of no evidence that he used or advocated the use of violence. It previously adopted him as a prisoner of conscience when he was detained from 1975 to 1978 for participating in student demonstrations.

Please send courteous letters welcoming the reduction of his sentence in the March 1982 amnesty and appealing for his immediate release to: President Chun Doo-hwan/The Blue House/Chongno-gu/Seoul/Republic of Korea.

Adrien Ahanhanzo GLELE, Benin

A former minister of agriculture, he has been under sentence of death since 1975, after the "discovery" of an alleged plot to overthrow the government.

Adrien Ahanhanzo Glele, Minister of Agriculture under former President Zinsou, was arrested on 30 January 1975 after the authorities said they had discovered a plot to overthrow the government of President Mathieu Kerekou, who has been in power since 1972. A total of 14 people were charged at the time with having participated in the "plot".

Their trial in March 1975 had serious shortcomings, including the absence of defence counsel and denial of the right to appeal. Adrien Glele and six others were sentenced to death (three *in absentia*); the others received sentences of life imprisonment. None of the death sentences is known to have been carried out.

No evidence of Adrien Glele's involvement in the alleged plot was given at the trial—he is believed to have been arrested because of criticisms he made of the government in letters to friends.

He is being detained in Porto-Novo Prison, where inmates are held in insanitary and overcrowded conditions with inadequate medical facilities.

Adrien Glele is 46 and married.

Please send courteous letters appealing for his immediate release to: Son Excellence le Colonel Mathieu Kerekou/Président de la République Populaire du Bénin/Cotonou/Bénin.

Antonio HUSMAN, El Salvador

A Salvadorian national who had been living in the USA for 10 years, he was arrested by the army in April 1981, shortly after returning to El Salvador, and has "disappeared".

Antonio Husman was detained on 24 April 1981 by the local army com-

mander of Juayua in the department of Sonsonate. He is believed to have been taken to the *Centro de Instrucción de Reclutas de la Fuerza Armada*, Instruction Centre for Army Recruits, at the army barracks in Sonsonate—although the barracks commander has denied that he is being held there.

One source has told *AI* that he was shown a record book of detentions at the barracks which did not include Antonio Husman's name; but another source has said he was shown a different book where the "disappeared" man was listed as having been detained on 25 April, with the word "incomunicado" beside his name.

Antonio Husman had returned to El Salvador to obtain an immigration visa from the US Embassy in San Salvador.

AI has received reports that he was seen alive at the headquarters of the *Policía de Hacienda*, Treasury Police, in San Salvador at the beginning of August 1981. The Salvadorian authorities continue to deny that he is being detained.

Two men reported to have been arrested with him—Eugenio Mejía Bonilla, aged 26, and Jorge Alberto Rodríguez, 17—have also "disappeared".

Please send courteous letters appealing for Antonio Husman's release to the Minister of Justice: Ministerio de Justicia/Ministerio de Justicia/San Salvador/El Salvador.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in March of the release of 98 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 64 cases.

Meraj Mohammad KHAN (prisoner of the month in February 1982), who was freed on 11 March (see April Newsletter), was re-arrested on 22 March together with a number of other politicians in a government move to prevent political activity on Pakistan's National Day, 23 March. He was detained briefly and released on bail.

In many parts of the world—in countries of differing ideologies—trade unionists are imprisoned for exercising their rights to freedom of conscience, expression and association. This is in spite of numerous guarantees relating specifically to the rights of people to work through trade unions. For instance, according to Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to work and fair wages, and to form and join trade unions. Article 8 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights specifies the right to form trade unions and join them freely; to establish national federations and form or join international trade union organizations; to strike, in conformity with national laws. The article below focuses on seven trade unionists whom AI has adopted as prisoners of conscience.

International Labour Day

Trade unionists: targets of repression

AI announced a day of special action on International Labour Day—1 May 1982—to seek freedom for trade unionists imprisoned in many countries for organizing to protect the rights of working people.

A number of national sections marked the day by stepping up initiatives to free imprisoned trade unionists. AI urged trade unions and other groups as well as individuals to apply pressure through resolutions, appeals, approaches to government representatives, other forms of publicity, and streams of letters and telegrams to the authorities who have imprisoned such people.

AI has released a list of 85 trade unionists and working people in 24 countries whose cases it has taken up and who are among those expected to spend May 1982 in prison or other forms of detention.

It is putting forward eight cases for special appeals, intended to symbolize international support for all such prisoners as well as to press for the freedom and safety of the individuals.

These eight—and many others—were imprisoned because of attempts to organize working people in non-violent union activities.

In some cases they face torture, in others long prison sentences, and in some there are fears that those seized may have been summarily killed.

Seven of the eight prisoners are featured in this article (the eighth case—that of the South Korean publisher LEE Tae-bok—appears on page 7). The seven are:

Phil MTHIMKULU, *South Africa*

Phil Mthimkulu, aged 32, a journalist on the Johannesburg *Post* newspaper, was restricted under a three-year banning order on 28 January 1981. At the time he was Acting President of the Media Workers' Association (MWASA),



Florencia XOCOP Chávez, a leader of the trade union at the ACRICASA

which represents about 90 per cent of the country's black journalists and media workers.

Four other MWASA leaders, including the President, Zwelakhe SISULU, also received three-year banning orders in late 1980 or at the beginning of 1981, shortly after a two-month strike over pay and conditions. The strike ended on 23 December 1980 after an agreement between MWASA and newspaper owners. The government then temporarily prevented re-publication of the newspapers involved by forcing them to re-apply for registration to publish. Later two of the newspapers were effectively banned permanently by government action, including the *Post*.

Under the terms of their banning orders, imposed under the Internal Security Act of 1950, the MWASA leaders are placed under partial house-arrest and are not allowed to work as journalists or prepare material for publication. Like all banned people in South Africa, they may not be quoted in public or private and are forbidden to communicate with each other.

textile plant in Guatemala City, affiliated to the trade union federation *Central Nacional de Trabajadores* (CNT). She was detained with 26 other CNT leaders on 21 June 1980 during a meeting at the CNT headquarters, one block from Guatemala's National Palace and the Presidential Guard barracks. The street was closed to traffic by uniformed National Police officers and an estimated 60 plainclothes police entered the CNT headquarters. Some of the leaders were taken away in their own cars, a number of which were later recovered from the police garage.

In reply to queries from AI groups, Guatemala's former Minister of Labour, Carlos Alarcón Monsanto, said the detained trade unionists had been released—but other authorities have continued to deny that they were ever arrested. They are still missing and have been adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience.

Norma Luján VERA, *Argentina*

A former factory worker and member of the *Unión Obrera Metalúrgica*, metalworkers' union, she was 20 years old when she and three young friends were arrested in Buenos Aires more than six and a half years ago in October 1975. There was an internal union election on at the time and she is believed to have been held for her trade union activities.

Since then she has served out a three-year jail term for "subversive activities"—but continues to be held "at the disposal of the National Executive Power" (PEN), in Villa Devoto Prison, Buenos Aires.

All four friends were sentenced to imprisonment by the Federal Court in San Martín in September 1977. Two of the other prisoners have since been freed conditionally and the third left the country under the *derecho de opción*, right of option, a constitutional right to exile for prisoners held under PEN.

Although Norma Vera has also

applied for this right—she has visas for Sweden and the United Kingdom—her applications have been turned down by the Argentine authorities.

Mirosław KRUPINSKI, Poland

An architect aged 42 from Olsztyn in northern Poland and deputy head of the independent trade union *Solidarnosc* (Solidarity), he was one of four members of the Presidium of Solidarity who



on 14 December 1981 issued a statement calling for a general strike in protest against the imposition of martial law the day before and the detention of trade union leaders, advisers and supporters. He escaped an initial security round-up but was subsequently arrested and military prosecutors have initiated summary proceedings against him on charges of having attempted to organize a strike. His trial has been postponed because of his serious heart condition: after his arrest he was treated in the Gdansk Medical Academy hospital for severe coronary heart disease and is reported to have been transferred to a prison hospital in Eydoszcz.

CAMARA Senni "La Presse", Guinea

Camara Senni "La Presse", a former general secretary of Guinea's transport union, has spent the past four and a half years in Camp Boiro, the country's main prison for political detainees—reportedly accused of helping market women travel to a demonstration in the capital, Conakry.

A bus driver and newsagent in the city, he was arrested in late 1977, after a demonstration in August that year, when large numbers of market women protested about government action against private trading. The demonstrators complained especially of restrictive



Abdullah BASTURK, President of the Turkish Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DISK), has been in prison since 12 September 1980, when Turkey's military leaders abolished parliament after a coup and imposed martial law on the whole country. He is shown here (far left) with some of the 51 other DISK members on trial in Istanbul on charges of having intended to change the order of the state by force. The Military Prosecutor demanded the death penalty for all 52 defendants. The trial started on 24 December 1981—but seven weeks later the 817-page indictment was still being read. Observers from several non-governmental organizations, including *AI*, attended the hearings. Abdullah Basturk and other defendants had submitted allegations of torture in writing to an Istanbul court in December 1980 but these are said to have been removed from the official records of the case. He informed reporters via his lawyer that he had been hit on the head repeatedly while being interrogated. At the time of writing the trial was still in progress.

and corrupt practices by the Economic Police, a body established to enforce price control and prevent black marketing.

Army and police units are reported to have opened fire. The disturbances spread to provincial centres and continued for several days; hundreds of people are believed to have been arrested.

A Revolutionary Tribunal was formed to try them but the names of the defendants were never made public, nor were any verdicts or sentences.

Camara Senni is one of several thousand people reported to have been detained without charge or trial since 1971, most of them accused of involvement in "plots" against the government. Several hundred have been released but *AI* fears that the remainder may have died in prison through torture, starvation or disease.

Abdellah ZAAZAA, Morocco

A former trade union activist, he is serving a sentence of life imprisonment imposed in 1977, after his conviction on a charge of plotting against the security of the state.

He was arrested in January 1975 and spent a year in the Derb Moulay Cherif detention centre, where he has said he was tortured. During his trial with 177 others in Casablanca, when the

court refused to hear statements by defendants that they had been tortured in detention, he pulled off one of his shoes to reveal a foot mutilated by torture. His feet remain severely damaged after his experiences in detention.

The Casablanca trial of 1977 involved 178 radical socialists, mostly arrested in November 1974. After an 18-day hunger-strike in November 1976, 104 detainees were released and 139 brought to trial the following January. Thirty-nine others were tried *in absentia*, bringing the total to 178.

On the common basis of their opposition to the policies of King Hassan II's government, they were accused of aiming to bring about the overthrow of the government. The evidence produced in court consisted of Marxist literature and duplicating materials. Although the prosecution accepted that the defendants had only been propagating their ideas, they were nevertheless found guilty of plotting the violent overthrow of the government. The trial was marked by a number of irregularities, one of which was that the defendants were not allowed the right to speak in their own defence.

Abdellah Zaazaa and 43 others were sentenced to life imprisonment (39 of them *in absentia*); 129 other defendants received sentences of between five and 30 years' imprisonment □

Israel Palestinian mayors restricted

The movements of three Palestinian mayors of West Bank towns have been restricted by the Israeli authorities, who dismissed them from their posts in March 1982.

Ibrahim al-TAWIL, Mayor of al-Bireh, was dismissed by the head of the civilian administration in the West Bank, Professor Menachem Milson, and placed under house-arrest on 18 March. The eight-member town council was also dissolved after its decision on 18 March to boycott the civilian administration and the mayor's refusal to meet Professor Milson.

On 25 March Karim KHALAF, Mayor of Ramallah, and Bassam al-SHAK'A, Mayor of Nablus, were dismissed by the Military Commander for the Central Region. Karim Khalaf has

been confined to the town of Jericho. Bassam al-Shak'a has reportedly been told to remain at home until further notice—but the Israeli authorities have denied that this constitutes house-arrest.

The action against the mayors followed their refusal to cooperate with the civilian administration in the West Bank, introduced by the Israeli Government in October 1981. Israeli officials have been appointed to administer the three towns.

On 30 March *AI* appealed to the Israeli authorities on behalf of the dismissed mayors. It asked for further clarification of their situation and either that they be formally charged and tried, with full opportunity to defend themselves, or that their restriction orders be cancelled □

Zaire Students held after strike

At least 15 students were arrested by security police in early February 1982, after a strike by students at several institutions of higher education in Kinshasa. They were reported to be still detained incommunicado without trial at the end of March.

Some 85 students are believed to have been arrested and officially branded as "subversives" after the two-day strike for higher student grants. On 4 February the government announced that all were immediately being conscripted into the armed forces for two years. They were sent to a special military camp at Kota-Koli, in Zaire's northern Equateur region, and held incommunicado by the army's Special Presidential Brigade. Some of the students are known to have been beaten up at the time of their arrest and one, ODIMBA, had his arm broken.

More arrests followed between 10 and 15 March, when four former People's Commissioners, TSHISEKEDI, KYUNGU, LUMBU and LUSANGA, were detained along with KIBASSA, a former member of the Central Committee of the ruling party, the *Mouvement populaire de la révolution*. They were accused of trying to set up a new political party and of organizing illegal political meetings in its support. Several of the detainees' supporters are also reported to have been arrested. Zaire has been a one-party state since 1967; all other political parties are illegal and membership or support of them is regarded as a criminal offence.

After the February and March arrests, *AI* appealed to the Zairian authorities to release the detainees who, it believes, are being held for the non-violent expression of their political views.

El Salvador Appeal on safety for journalists

Citing a long series of killings, abductions and arrests, *AI* has called on the Salvadorian Government to take all possible steps to ensure the safety of Salvadorian and foreign journalists working in the country.

It has also urged the government to permit independent investigations of the killings and kidnappings including the deaths of four Dutch journalists in March 1982.

In a telex message to President Napoleón José Duarte on 26 March, *AI* cited deaths and "disappearances" of journalists over the past two years, as well as reports of arrests, harassment and death threats. *AI* said there was strong evidence of government responsibility for many of these abuses.

The four Dutch television journalists, Koos KOSTER, Jan KUIPER, Joop WILLEMSSEN and Hans TER LAAG, were shot dead under disputed circumstances on 18 March. *AI*'s message also cited the killings of a Mexican journalist, Ignacio RODRIGUEZ Terrazas (August 1980), and Salvadorians Jaime SUAREZ Quemain, César NAJARRO (found disembowelled the day after their abduction in July 1980), José OTILOP Carillo and Amadeo MENDIZABAL (April 1981), and the "disappearances" of two US journalists, René TAMSEN (April 1980) and John SULLIVAN (December 1980), and of a Salvadorian writer, Edgar Mauricio VALLEJO (July 1981).

The message called attention to the case of Francisco RAMIREZ Avelar, held without trial since January 1981, and sought information on the whereabouts of other members of the staff of his newspaper, *El Independiente*, who were arrested at the same time.

AI called on the government to cooperate with the special representative assigned by the United Nations Human Rights Commission to investigate the human rights situation in El Salvador □

South Yemen: Death sentences passed on 12

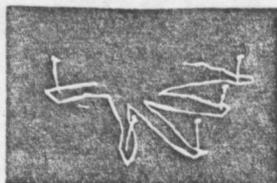
Twelve Yemenis were sentenced to death by the High Court in Aden on 7 April 1982, after they had been convicted of planning to sabotage economic installations and of illegally bringing explosives into the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY). A thirteenth was jailed for 15 years. The sentences against 10

have been confirmed by President Ali Nasir Muhammad and two have been commuted.

Earlier, on 4 April, *AI* had cabled the President expressing concern at the prosecution's demand for the death penalty, reiterating its opposition to capital punishment in all cases

and urging the commutation of such sentences on humanitarian grounds.

The trial of the group, which is alleged to have infiltrated into the PDRY from Saudi Arabia, began at the High Court Hall, Aden, on 15 February 1982. The trial was open and attended by members of the public and journalists □



amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture

Republic of Korea

Torture alleged by 'plot' prisoners

South Korean church leaders and relatives of defendants imprisoned after a "revolutionary plot" trial in late 1981 have called on the authorities to investigate reports that several—and possibly all—of the defendants were tortured in custody.

The torture allegations include beatings of prisoners by groups of attackers specially called in for the purpose, beatings of prisoners who had been tied up inside coffins, electric shocks, prolonged immersion in water and threats of execution.

The allegations were first made at the trial of a publisher, LEE Tae-bok, and 25 co-defendants, (see December 1981, February 1982 *Newsletters*). He was charged with trying to incite a revolution and accused of organizing two groups—the Democratic Workers' League and the Democratic Students' League—and of publishing "pro-communist" books for this purpose. Twenty-five students and workers were accused of helping him.

The 26 accused were arrested in two groups, in June 1981 and August 1981, and are reported to have been interrogated in the Anti-Communist Security Department of the National Police Headquarters in Namyong-dong, Seoul. After formal indictment (in early August for one group and early September for the other) they were transferred to Sebul Detention Centre in Sudaemoon.

In court the defendants stated that they had been tortured before and after indictment and warned that the prosecution would ask for the death penalty against them if they did not show a "proper attitude" at the trial.

On 22 January 1982 Lee Tae-bok was sentenced to life imprisonment, although the prosecution had called for the death penalty; 23 co-defendants received prison terms of from one to 10 years. All are believed to have appealed against conviction.

In early January 1982 relatives of the defendants circulated an appeal to South Korean churches calling for their support in protesting against the alleged torture.

Police later interrogated some of the relatives about the appeal and detained

a number for a few days.

On 20 January 1982 several South Korean church leaders signed a petition to President Chun Doo-hwan asking him personally to see that those responsible for the alleged torture be prosecuted and to ensure that such cases did not recur. In mid-March 1982 the leading opposition party, the Democratic Korea Party, is reported to have called for an urgent meeting of the National Assembly's Home Affairs Committee to demand an end to the use of torture during interrogation.

AI has adopted Lee Tae-bok and his co-defendants as prisoners of conscience and has expressed concern at reports of their ill-treatment. In a letter to President Chun Doo-hwan, in early November 1981, AI drew attention to several instances of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, including those detained in Lee Tae-bok's case, and asked for the reports to be investigated and the results of the investigation made public.

In early December 1981 it wrote to the Minister of Home Affairs, Suh Chung-hwa, listing several reported instances of prisoners being tortured and ill-treated by police, requesting

an investigation into these cases and recommending measures for establishing the "mechanism to protect the human rights of suspects" announced at the end of October 1981 by the Director of the National Police. (His announcement followed a public outcry over the reported torture of two murder suspects.) No reply was received to either letter.

Torture and the use of confessions extracted under duress as evidence in court are banned under the South Korean constitution of October 1980.

Please write courteous letters expressing concern at reports that Lee Tae-bok and his co-defendants were tortured, calling for an independent investigation into their allegations of torture and requesting that, as guaranteed by the country's constitution, no evidence extracted under torture be admitted by the courts. Address your appeals to: His Excellency President Chun Doo-hwan/The Blue House/1 Sejong-no/Chongno-gu/Seoul/Republic of Korea; and to: His Excellency Mr Suh Chung-hwa/Minister of Home Affairs/and to: His Excellency Mr Lee Jong-wu, Minister of Justice/ both at: 77 Sejong-no/Chongno-gu/Seoul/Republic of Korea □

Central African Republic

Leading party banned after 'coup bid'

A leading political party was banned on 4 March 1982 after the authorities had blamed it for an alleged attempt to overthrow the government of General André Kolingba. Membership of the *Mouvement de libération du peuple centrafricain* (MLPC), was made a criminal offence and leading members of the party were arrested, including several who had only just been released from two months' detention without trial.

At least 60 people are believed to have been arrested in connection with the alleged coup attempt. However, Ange PATASSE, leader of the MLPC, evaded arrest and was granted political asylum in the French Embassy. He had returned from

exile in France only a few days before the alleged coup attempt.

It is not yet clear whether MLPC leaders and officials were in fact involved in the alleged coup attempt and it appears that many of those detained — including Dr Simon BEDAYA NGARO, a former minister of health — have been charged with endangering the security of the state simply because they were members of the party.

At the end of March the detainees were being held at Kassai military camp in Bangui, where serious overcrowding was reported. Several detainees were also said to have been refused urgently needed medical attention □

Political killings, abductions in Colombia

Army links with 'death squads' alleged

One of the principal lawyers defending political prisoners in Colombia was shot dead in the capital, Bogota, on 9 March 1982, some days after receiving telephoned death threats. Jorge Enrique CIPAGAUTA Galvis was killed in the street by two men firing from a passing motorcycle.

His murder was the most recent in a series of killings and abductions of political opposition figures and trade unionists which Colombian security officials have attributed to "death squads".

After the murder, some of the principal critics of human rights abuses by the Colombian army received similar death threats from purportedly independent "death squads"; among them are Dr Alfredo VASQUEZ Carrizosa, President of the private Permanent Committee on Human Rights and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and a lawyer, Humberto CRIALES de la Rosa,

Imprisonment for USSR Helsinki monitor

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to freedom of expression and has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience.

A total of 33 members of unofficial Helsinki monitoring groups are currently imprisoned or serving terms of internal exile in the USSR because of their human rights activities. Another is being forcibly confined in a special psychiatric hospital.

Ivan Kovalyov, who joined the Moscow group in 1980, graduated as an engineer but was working as a caretaker in a Moscow theatre before his arrest. He is the son of Sergei Kovalyov, a biologist adopted by *AI* as a prisoner of conscience who is serving a 10-year term of imprisonment and internal exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".

- *Sergei Kovalyov, who was a founding member of the Moscow group of AI (established in 1974), has been imprisoned since December 1974, also for his activities in publicizing the cases of prisoners of conscience in the USSR. He is currently serving his term of exile in Magadan region of the Soviet Far East. (Tatyana Osipova is serving her sentence in a corrective labour colony for women political prisoners in the Mordovian complex. Her husband's whereabouts are not known.)* □

a long-time defender of political prisoners tried by the military courts.

AI cabled President Julio César Turbay Ayala of Colombia on 9 March to express concern about the killing. The message called for an immediate inquiry into the killing and urged that lawyers defending political prisoners be guaranteed protection to enable them to exercise their profession.

The authorities have cabled a reply to *AI*, saying that a special investigator for the case has been named by the Minister of Justice.

Colombian security officials have said that the "death squad" to which they have attributed the series of killings and abductions was created by the country's criminal underworld. The incidents were described by the Minister of Defence, General Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, on 12 January as the fighting of "criminals against criminals".

In December 1981 death threats were received by at least 20 trade union leaders in letters attacking their support of a 21 October 1981 general strike, outlawed under state of siege powers.

Trade unionist murdered

On 31 December 1981, one of those threatened, Javier CIFUENTES, trade union leader at the Colombian Tobacco Company COLTABACO, was detained by unidentified people in the city of Medellín. He was found dead on 6 January, shot three times through the head, his body burned with acid and his finger-nails pulled out. His murder was attributed by authorities to a "death squad".

On 19 January two trade unionists, José Domingo GOMEZ and Carlos Alberto GOMEZ, were seized at the Grulla factory in Medellín by heavily armed men who had gained access to the factory by identifying themselves as members of the army's intelligence division. The two men were released after being interrogated at an unidentified site. The army said an independent "death squad" was responsible.

In a similar case, Ricardo SANCHEZ, a university lecturer on constitutional law and a member of the *Partido Socialista Revolucionario*, Revolutionary Socialist Party, was detained on 7 January by 15 plainclothes agents at his home in Bogota in an elaborate raid in which men were posted on rooftops and the street was closed to

traffic. He was released on 18 January and warned by his captors not to speak of his experiences. The authorities have denied that he was detained. The army said a "death squad" was responsible.

Wilder ORTIZ, a lecturer at the University of Antioquia in Medellín, was seized in a similar operation on 27 December 1981. At first the army said a "death squad" was responsible—but now they have confirmed that he is being held on unspecified charges at the Fourth Army Brigade headquarters in Medellín and that his captors belonged to army intelligence.

Military units blamed

In a letter to the Colombian press and to *AI* in January 1980, a group of former army officers said a "death squad" known as the "American Anti-communist Alliance" or the "Triple A" (*Alianza Anticomunista Americana*) that had carried out several killings in 1978 and 1979 was an active unit of the army's chief intelligence group, the Counter-Intelligence and Intelligence Battalion "Charry Solano". No public response to the charges was made by the Colombian authorities.

Colombian news media in January 1982 cited confidential sources within the Ministry of Defence as claiming that the "death squad" activity launched in December 1981 against trade unionists and political figures had also been organized by a section of the army's Service of Military Intelligence.

A document issued by the *Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores de Colombia*, Trade Union Federation of Colombian Workers, in February 1982 identified the "death squad" as a unit of the Fourth Army Brigade based in Medellín, commanded by a "Lt Franco" □

DEATH PENALTY

AI has learned of 78 people being sentenced to death in 13 countries and of 49 executions in five countries during March 1982.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England. Printed in Great Britain by Shadowcan Limited, Unit 2, 37 Briscoe Road, Colliers Wood, SW19. Available on subscription at £5 (US \$12.50) per calendar year.