



## AI Reports on Human Rights in Pakistan

A report, based on the findings of an AI mission to Pakistan 23 April-12 May 1976, and which details the human rights situation prevailing in Pakistan up to 31 January 1977 was published by AI on 16 May. The 92-page report expresses AI's deep concern at the detention, trial procedures and treatment of government opponents in Pakistan even before the 7 March general election.

AI stressed that its report was not a response to the post-election situation in the country, but said it sincerely hoped that the government of Pakistan will review the cases of all members of the opposition, whether in detention or on trial under special legislation, and will consider the early release, at least on bail, of all those against whom no charges under the ordinary procedure can be brought. Political prisoners, like all other prisoners, should be tried only before the fully independent courts in accordance with long standing legal procedures and with full constitutional guarantees.

The report includes the findings of mission delegates Professor Mumtaz SOYSAL, a Turkish constitutional lawyer and Vice-Chairman of AI's International Executive Committee, and Yvonne TERLINGEN, a Dutch lawyer from AI's International Secretariat, and covers the period up to 31 January 1977. The report was presented to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 31 March, with the request that any comments be made before 9 May. No comment was received, by 16 May.

Despite the statement by Pakistan's Attorney General on 28 October 1976 that there were only nine political prisoners in the country, AI estimated at that time that at least several thousand political prisoners were detained in various parts of Pakistan under different legal charges. Most of them were detained without trial.

The report:

- describes various constitutional and legal amendments passed since the emergency was declared on 23 November 1971 which "have deprived the higher judiciary of their principal means of effectively and speedily remedying violations of individual liberties";

- examines various legal procedures which allow for indefinite detention for political prisoners and their trial before special tribunals and courts, some of which may be held *in camera*, and where the ordinary rights of the accused are abridged. Such procedures "fall far short of internationally acceptable standards referred to in Article 10 of the Universal Declaration

of Human Rights";

- expresses concern about the protracted trial of members of the National Awami Party (NAP), the largest opposition party in Pakistan, until it was banned in 1975. Special attention is paid to the 1975 decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, in Reference Case No. 1, in which the government order banning the party was upheld as valid. The judgement formed the basis for the present trial of the NAP leaders.

Among recommendations made in the report, AI asks the government to introduce legislation to ensure that political prisoners are tried before the ordinary courts, to restore full powers to the high courts, to issue orders for bail and *habeas corpus* to political prisoners, and to restore constitutional guarantees. AI states that it is opposed to the use of preventive detention for political purposes and makes a number of specific proposals in line with the United Nations Declaration on Torture, submitting that prisoners who have made substantial allegations in special courts be retried by an ordinary criminal court. It also urges the government to institute a full scale inquiry into the allegations of disappearances of politicians.

The report concludes: "AI feels that the continuation of the state of emergency has largely been responsible for a serious erosion of fundamental freedoms in Pakistan, which has hindered the judiciary and the Bar from upholding the rule of law".

*Islamic Republic of Pakistan: An Amnesty International Report including the findings of a mission to Pakistan 23 April-12 May 1976: 92 pages. Price 75 pence. Published by Amnesty International Publications, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England, and available from AI's national sections.*

### AI PUBLISHES LISTS OF TRADE UNIONISTS AND JOURNALISTS IN PRISON

In the last week of April AI published two lists, of trade unionists and of journalists imprisoned throughout the world for their conscientiously-held beliefs.

The trade unionists' list, published on 24

April, contained the cases of 283 trade unionists imprisoned or disappeared in 21 countries—an increase of 72 per cent over a similar list issued six months earlier.

The journalists' list was published on 27 April. Detailing the cases of 104 journalists detained or disappeared in 25 countries, it showed an increase of more than 50 per cent over the list issued in April 1976.

In publishing both lists, AI appealed to international trade union and journalist organizations to intervene on behalf of their imprisoned colleagues. Both trade union and journalists international bodies have responded positively to AI's appeal.

### ROMANIAN WRITER FREED

On 8 May the release was announced of dissident Romanian writer Paul GOMA, although he was not officially serving a prison sentence. Mr Goma's novels *Ostinato* (relating his experiences of imprisonment in Gherla prison) and *The Door* are banned by the Romanian authorities. In February he and eight other human rights activists addressed an open letter to the 35 signatory states of the Helsinki Final Act, expressing support for the Czechoslovak Charter 77 movement and commenting upon human rights violations by the Romanian authorities. Soon afterwards Mr Goma was conditionally offered a certain degree of literary rehabilitation by the authorities, but he publicly announced his intention of compiling a report on psychiatric abuse in Romania, particularly in regard to dissidents.

AI initiated an urgent action campaign earlier in May on receiving reports that Mr Goma had disappeared from his Bucharest flat in mysterious circumstances between 5-7 April and that he had been severely beaten by the police. For some time the authorities neither reported publicly on Mr Goma's disappearance nor confirmed his arrest. AI urged an early public inquiry into individual cases of disappearance of human rights activists and said that the law should protect them from harassment and abduction.

Also on 8 May the Romanian government announced a widespread general amnesty to mark the centenary of Romanian independence from Turkish rule which is reported to affect up to 28,500 prisoners. Those serving terms of up to 3 years' imprisonment are to be released, while longer sentences will be reduced.

## AI CONCERNED AT LACK OF CAMBODIAN RESPONSE TO APPEALS

*AI* expressed concern on 8 May at the lack of response by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) to its past appeals and inquiries. In February this year it had appealed to President Khieu SAMPHAN to look into the fate of 26 Cambodian citizens forcibly returned to Cambodia by Thailand in November 1976. The 26 persons, mainly farmers but including an 11-year-old child, were later reported to have been executed shortly after their return to Cambodia.

*AI* had also made a separate appeal to the Prime Minister of Thailand urging that refugees should not be compelled to return to their country of origin when there were possibilities of reprisals.

The appeal to President Khieu Samphan was contained in a letter which also referred to reports alleging summary executions and maltreatment of civilians by local authorities in some areas of Cambodia. As with previous inquiries made by *AI* to the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, the letter has remained unanswered.

Commenting on past reports of executions in Cambodia, *AI* said: "Allegations of executions have been numerous. Many reports, especially of isolated killings, remain uncorroborated, but the number and gravity of allegations of summary executions cannot be ignored".

*AI* is particularly concerned at the following allegations made by refugees:

- Reported disappearances of officials of the former administration and other persons, and allegations that some of those who have disappeared have either been executed or displaced to special work camps either because of their position under the previous administration, or because of their political beliefs;

- Allegations that in some areas relatives of those who are considered as "traitors" or "enemies", or of those who have fled the country, have been maltreated or executed;

- Reports that in some areas acts considered "disobedient" or hostile to the new authorities are likely to be punished at the discretion of the local authorities, without any apparent legal process or safeguards.

Estimates of the number of executions and killings over the past two years have varied considerably. Because there has been no opportunity for independent observers to report from within Cambodia, precise estimates on executions are not available. Most of the information available concerns the western provinces, where fighting has been reported in some areas.

## AI URGES SOUTH AFRICA TO LET JOURNALISTS VISIT DETAINEES

*AI* urged South African Justice Minister James KRUGER on 25 April to allow journalists to inspect conditions of imprisonment for political detainees at detention centers such as John Vorster Square police station in Johannesburg. *AI*'s call followed

the government's decision earlier in April to allow a small number of foreign and South African journalists to visit Robben Island prison, where most of the country's convicted political prisoners are held.

*AI* expressed concern that the conditions under which the journalists were allowed to visit Robben Island would make it impossible for them to obtain a clear understanding of prisoners' grievances. The journalists would not be allowed to talk with prisoners of their own choice and would have to submit their reports to the Department of Justice on so-called "security grounds".

*AI* said that although prison conditions on Robben Island were harsh, it is uncharged political detainees who are particularly at risk in South Africa. Such detainees are held incommunicado at John Vorster Square police headquarters and other detention centers. They are frequently subjected to torture during interrogation by security police and are not allowed visits from the International Red Cross delegates who are allowed into Robben Island once a year.

Since March 1976, at least 14 political detainees have died in security police custody in South Africa.

## AI MISSION VISITS BANGLADESH

Sean MacBRIDE, former *AI* chairman, and Yvonne TERLINGEN a Dutch lawyer from *AI*'s International Secretariat, visited Bangladesh in April to discuss the human rights situation under martial law with the government. The delegation also examined the functioning of martial law courts as well as the position of political prisoners in Bangladesh, most of whom are held without trial.

The delegates had detailed discussions with the outgoing President, Mr Justice A M SAYEM, Chief Martial Law Administrator Major General Ziaur RAHMAN, (subsequently the country's new president), Home Secretary Salauddin AHMED, and Mr Justice SATTAR, special adviser to the president on legal affairs. Mr MacBride addressed members of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Bangladesh United Nations Association. The delegates also met lawyers, journalists and members of political parties.

Following his appointment as president, Major General Rahman announced on 22 April that 737 political prisoners would be released. *AI* welcomed this decision in a letter to the president of 27 April and asked for full details of those released.

Later in the month, *AI* cabled President Rahman to urge clemency in the case of five men, former supporters of the late ex-president Sheikh Mujibur RAHMAN, who had been sentenced to death on 29 April by martial law courts.

## TWO MISSIONS TO IRAN

Two *AI* missions to Iran have taken place in recent months, although in both cases the delegates were received by the Iranian authorities in their personal capacity, not as

official representatives of *AI*.

In March *AI* Secretary General Martin ENNALS received an audience with the Shah during which many matters of concern to *AI* were discussed. The audience ended with an agreement that the Shah would be willing to receive from Mr Ennals suggestions on how the procedures of justice in Iran could be improved. After this meeting the Secretary General talked with Iranian Prime Minister Amir Abbas HOVEYDA, and presented a list of prisoners about whom more information was sought. Mr Ennals also appealed to the Shah for the release of several named prisoners, including a Kurd, Aziz YOUSOUFI, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment in 1959. Mr Yousoufi was released in the amnesty declared for the Iranian New Year shortly after Mr Ennals' departure from Iran.

In April British barrister Brian WROBEL, attended a trial of 11 political prisoners in Tehran at *AI*'s request. These prisoners, who were charged with having been concerned with communist groups, received sentences of between 3 years and life imprisonment. Mr Wrobel will be reporting to *AI*'s International Executive Committee.

## AI CALLS FOR END TO EXECUTIONS IN RHODESIA

*AI* cabled Prime Minister Ian SMITH of Rhodesia on 21 April, calling for an end to the use of the death penalty in that country. At the same time, *AI* asked the United Kingdom government to make the halt of all executions a precondition for further Rhodesia settlement negotiations.

In a cable to UK Foreign Secretary David OWEN, *AI* said that more than 120 people have been hanged in Rhodesia since the Smith government's unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) from the UK on 11 November 1965. More than 100 hangings are believed to have taken place in the two years since 22 April 1975, when the Rhodesian Justice Ministry announced that all further executions would be carried out in secret because the issue of the death penalty had become "an emotive one".

The death penalty is imposed for a wide range of offences in Rhodesia, often after trials held *in camera* before specially constituted "mobile" courts. Relatives of prisoners under sentence of death are not informed in advance of the date of execution, nor are prisoners' bodies returned to their families for burial.

The Smith regime's right to carry out the death penalty since UDI has been repudiated on legal and constitutional grounds by the UK courts and government.

## YOUTHS MASSACRED BY ETHIOPIAN MILITARY REGIME

On 4 May *AI* cabled United Nations Secretary General Kurt WALDHEIM and Organization of African Unity Secretary General Eteki MBOUMOUA expressing shock at reports of a massacre of youths in Addis  
*Continued on page 4, column 1*



# 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. It is important for the prisoner that messages to the authorities are worded carefully and courteously and that they are never sectarian.

## Dusan BRKIC, Yugoslavia

Dusan BRKIC was arrested on 16 July 1975 during a wave of arrests of alleged "Cominformists" or "pro-Soviet" dissidents in many parts of Yugoslavia. He was formally charged with counter-revolutionary attacks against the State and social organization, with propaganda inciting hatred or discord and with association against the people and the State.

Charges included allegations that Mr Brkić and his three co-defendants had written a "declaration" expressing themselves to be communist internationalists who did not acknowledge national concepts of socialism and complaining of police persecution because of their political opinions. It was also alleged that two defendants had asked Yugoslav "stalinist" emigrés in Hungary and the Soviet Union if the Soviet Red Army would enter Yugoslavia after the death of President Tito if requested to do so by citizens within Yugoslavia.

Three of the four defendants denied the allegations, saying they were loyal Yugoslavs and communists who believed in "proletarian internationalism". The fourth is understood to have pleaded "partially guilty". The charges against Brkić seem to be based on insubstantial evidence and largely on rumour and speculation.

At his trial, held *in camera* in Belgrade on 9 February 1976, Dusan Brkić was sentenced to 8 years' rigorous imprisonment. A reliable report received by *AI* states that he is held under particularly severe conditions in the Serbian prison of Niš. He is said to be in rigorous solitary confinement and to be deprived of papers and books.

Now aged 64, Dusan Brkić was a Partisan leader in Croatia and Slovenia during World War II. He was Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia until 1950, when he was accused of involvement in a Serbian peasant rebellion in Croatia against enforced collectivization, and of being a "Cominformist". Interned on the prison island of Goli Otok until 1956, he has since lived in Belgrade studying literature and English.

*Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for the immediate release of Dusan Brkić, to: President Josip Broz Tito, Beograd, SFR Yugoslavia.*

## Mohamed Salah FLISS, Tunisia

Mohamed Salah FLISS was a student at Tunis University and an active member of the Tunisian Students Union until his first arrest and trial in 1968. He was among 134 students and intellectuals charged with subversion against the state because of their leftwing views and open criticism of government repression. Torture was reportedly

practised during the police interrogation and lawyers were not allowed to produce a proper defence. Mr Fliss received a 2-year sentence and was released in 1970 under surveillance.

During 1972 he spent several months in police custody following a wave of arrests during public demonstrations and strikes, and was then released on provisional liberty.

At a large political trial involving 202 defendants in August 1974, Mohamed Salah Fliss was tried in his absence and sentenced to a further 2 years' imprisonment.

He was finally re-arrested in March 1975 and *AI* received several accounts of the brutal torture he received.

After trials in July and September, Mr Fliss received a total sentence of 8 years' imprisonment. No charge of violence was brought against the defendants but the prosecution alleged that the result of allowing their radical socialist ideas to spread would be the overthrow of the government of President Habib Bourguiba, whose policies are orientated towards the rapid development of trade with the west.

Mohamed Salah Fliss was unable to appear at his July trial as he was still suffering from the effects of torture. There were rumours that he was still in hospital in September, but he did appear in court to present his defence, explaining calmly and clearly the objectives of his group.

Now aged 29, he is imprisoned at the Prison de Nador, Bizerte. He receives no specialist medical treatment although he is known to have a kidney disease and impaired eyesight.

*Please send courteously-worded letters (in French, if possible) appealing for the release of Mohamed Salah Fliss, to: Son Excellence Habib Bourguiba, Président de la République, Tunis, Tunisia; and to: M. Tahar Belkhdja, Ministre de l'Intérieur, Tunis, Tunisia.*

## Doroteo GRANDEL, Paraguay

Paraguayan peasant farmer Doroteo GRANDEL was arrested at his home in Tobatí on 21 May 1976 in front of witnesses by soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division of the army. His subsequent detention in Caaguazu Military Detachment was also witnessed.

On 27 May 1976 a writ of *habeas corpus* was issued on Señor Grandel's behalf and the Paraguayan Supreme Court asked the commander-in-chief of the National Armed Forces for information about Señor Grandel's arrest and detention. Responding to the commander-in-chief's inquiry, commander of the 2nd Infantry Division General Otello Carpinelli Yegros stated that the case of

Doroteo Grandel was "unknown".

The arrest of Señor Grandel is linked with a military operation carried out in the District of Yhú, where his village of Tobatí is situated, by the 2nd Infantry Division. During the attack, Señor Grandel and about 30 other peasants and their families were maltreated and their homes burned. The attack was allegedly connected with the sale of land in the area—the company organizing the sale had reportedly undertaken to ensure that the land was free of occupants when handed over to the purchasers.

Publication in the Paraguayan newspaper *El Radical* of a report of the incident, substantiated with documents, photographs and the testimony of 200 witnesses, was followed by libel action brought by General Carpinelli Yegros against the newspaper's director, which led to the latter's immediate arrest and detention. The judge handling the case ordered an inspection of the area where the reported attack occurred but this concluded that "no farms or peasants' homes had been burned down". However, there is no indication of which area of Yhú, a large territory, had been visited.

On hearing of the libel action Doroteo Grandel travelled to the capital to offer himself as a witness to the events which had occurred in his village.

On 10 May, 11 days before his arrest and subsequent "disappearance", he presented a signed statement to the legal authorities.

Despite continuous efforts within Paraguay to obtain information about Señor Grandel, his arrest and detention have not been officially recognized. However, *AI* recently received a reliable eye-witness account from a former prisoner who states that, in December 1976, he was held in the military barracks of the 2nd Infantry Division in Villarrica with Señor Grandel.

*Please send courteously-worded letters appealing for the release of Doroteo Grandel to: Exmo. Señor Ministro del Interior, Dr. Sabino Montanaro, Ministerio del Interior, Estrella y Montevideo, Asunción, Paraguay; and to: Exmo. Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería, Señor Hernando Bertoni, Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Pte. Franco Calle 14 de Mayo, Asunción, Paraguay.*

## News of Past Campaigns

Andreas DEDOTSIS, a Greek Jehovah's Witness, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for his refusal to perform military service (January *Prisoners of the Month Campaign*) has had his sentence reduced to 20 months on appeal.

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## Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in April of the release of 215 prisoners and took up 144 new cases.

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## Youths Massacred by Ethiopian Military Regime

*Continued from page 2, column 3*

Ababa and other Ethiopian towns over the May Day weekend. *AI* urged their intervention to end these "large-scale and continuing extra-judicial political killings" by the military regime. Some hundreds of alleged Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party sympathizers were reportedly killed by soldiers and militia for distributing anti-government leaflets •

## NEW ARRESTS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES ACTIVISTS IN SOUTH KOREA

At least 40 men and women were arrested and interrogated in the Republic of Korea (South Korea) in April in connection with civil liberties activities.

The arrests began on 14 April, immediately after the departure of a United States congressional delegation which had visited South Korea to investigate the human rights situation there.

The latest arrests follow particularly outspoken protests by civil liberties campaigners and opponents of the government against the repressive policies of the administration of President PARK Chung-hee.

On 22 March, ten prominent men and women—including former President YUN Po Sun, Quaker leader HAHM Suk Hon, former foreign minister CHUNG Il Hyung and Roman Catholic Bishop TJI Hak-son (former honorary president of *AI*'s South Korea Section)—issued a declaration calling for the repeal of the 1972 constitution which empowers President Park to rule by emergency decree. The declaration also called for the release of all political prisoners, the ending of torture and harassment by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, and the restoration of press freedom and independence of the judiciary. All such criticisms of the government are illegal under the provisions of Emergency Regulation number 9, a presidential decree promulgated by President Park in May 1975.

Yun Po Sun, Hahm Suk Hon and Chung Il Hyung were among 18 prominent men and women arrested and convicted of violating the same regulation after they had endorsed a similar declaration in March 1976 (April 1976 *Newsletter*). The three men, all aged more than 70 years, received heavy prison sentences. They were not actually imprisoned but kept under close police surveillance at all times. Nine other prominent dissidents arrested at the same time remain in prison serving their sentences and have been adopted by *AI*.

Those reported to have been arrested since 14 April include: CHONG Kum Song (mother of imprisoned poet and writer KIM Chi Ha); KIM Sang Hyon (member of the opposition New Democratic Party and former member of the National Assembly); LEE Jik Hyong (secretary of the Human Rights Committee of the Korean National Council of Churches) and his assistant, KIM

Kyong In; and KIM Ok Shil (whose husband, KIM Kwan Suk, is secretary general of the Korean National Council of Churches).

Also arrested were several former journalists dismissed from their jobs on the daily newspaper *Dong-A Ilbo*, allegedly after government pressure, for their outspoken reporting.

*AI* appealed to President Park on 25 April to order the immediate and unconditional release of all those arrested •

## AI LAUNCHES TUNISIA CAMPAIGN

A campaign launched by *AI* groups in May on behalf of Tunisian political prisoners, has called on the Tunisian authorities to improve medical facilities for prisoners at Bizerte prison. At least 15 political prisoners held at Bizerte, Tunisia's main political prison, are known to be in urgent need of specialist medical attention for illnesses contracted while in custody.

*AI*'s campaign comes two months after the arrest of 23 leading members of the opposition *Mouvement d'Unité Populaire* (MUP), including Tahar KACEM, former President of the *Union des Cooperatives*, and Mohamed Bel Hadj AMOR, Secretary General of the National Union of Engineers. Reports reaching *AI* suggest that several of the detained MUP supporters have been subjected to torture while in the custody of Tunisian security police.

*AI* groups are also appealing to Tunisian President Habib BOURGUIBA to grant an amnesty for all prisoners of conscience on 1 June—Victory Day in Tunisia •

## AI's INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT MOVES

*AI*'s International Secretariat moved offices on 30 May. The new address is:

10 Southampton Street  
London WC2E 7HF  
England

Telephone: 01-836-7788

Telex: 28502

Telegrams: Amnesty London

## AI MEMBER ARRESTED IN NEPAL

Former Nepalese Foreign Minister Rishikesh SHAHA was reportedly arrested on 1 May for publishing "undesirable and illegal articles" while abroad. Mr Shaha, who is a board member of *AI*'s Nepalese Section, has recently returned to Nepal after spending a year in the United States. It is reported that he has recently published articles and a book in India dealing with recent Nepalese politics.

*AI* cabled King BIRENDRA of Nepal on 5 May, asking for details of the charges against Mr Shaha and appealing for his immediate release •

## ANOTHER PARLIAMENTARIAN DETAINED IN KENYA

On 4 May George ANYONA, member of parliament for Kitutu East, was detained under Kenya's Preservation of Public Security Regulations. He was arrested inside the parliament building, like two other members of parliament John Marie SERONEY and Martin SHIKUKU, detained in October 1975.

Shortly before his arrest Mr Anyona asked questions in parliament about corruption by senior government officials, and about reports that Mr Shikuku was "hopelessly ill" in detention, a charge which the government denied. *AI* has been deeply concerned about recurrent reports of Mr Shikuku's ill-health in detention.

On 6 May *AI* cabled President Jomo KENYATTA expressing concern at the detention of Mr Anyona. *AI* requested an immediate review of the circumstances surrounding his arrest with a view to an early release. There are now six prominent parliamentary critics of the government in detention or serving prison terms •

## TWO EXECUTED WITHOUT TRIAL IN THAILAND

Two death sentences pronounced by Prime Minister THANIN Kraivichien of Thailand were carried out in April without any trial of the defendants.

THAVORN Udomnueduj, a Lao-Chinese, was executed on 15 April. He had been arrested on 25 March, after narcotics agents found 14 kilograms of heroin in the car he was driving. The prime minister cited the execution as an example of the harsher punishment his government was planning for drug smugglers.

A senior Thai general, 54-year-old CHALARD Hiranyasiri, was executed on 21 April for his part in an abortive coup in late March. Eleven policemen and civilians—including two senior government officials and four journalists—were held for questioning in connection with the coup attempt. In addition, General Chalard's son and three middle-ranking army officers have been sentenced, without a trial, to life imprisonment.

The death sentence for General Chalard and the other sentences of life imprisonment were issued under special powers granted to the prime minister by the constitution to deal with cases affecting national security.

In a letter on 2 May, *AI* urged the prime minister to abandon the use of the death sentence and the practice of sentencing without trial •

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER is published monthly by: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England. Printed in Great Britain by Hill and Garwood Ltd, Fourth Way, Wembley, Middlesex. Available on subscription at £6 (US \$15) per calendar year.





amnesty international

## campaign for the abolition of torture

June 1977 Volume IV Number 6

MONTHLY BULLETIN

# AI Publishes Medical Studies of Torture

The results of three research studies concerning torture were published by AI on 3 June. The studies were undertaken by AI's Danish Medical Group, which is believed to be the first medical team in the world to study systematically the symptoms and effects (sequelae) of torture.

Published in a 40-page booklet, the results of the group's research are intended to lead towards better documentation of torture allegations. New, sophisticated techniques used by torturers worldwide often leave few, if any, visible traces. In some cases, the only way to detect and document a torture victim's allegations against skilled interrogators is to use modern scientific techniques.

The booklet says, "A doctor's ability to diagnose torture sequelae clearly depends on a knowledge of the incidence and clinical pattern of torture. Improved diagnosis of torture requires research concerning, for example, the stigmata after electrical stimulation of the skin, and of the whole spectrum of sequelae associated with different forms of torture."

The first of the booklet's three articles reports the findings of a study of 32 Chilean refugees in Denmark and 35 Greek political prisoners formerly held by the Greek junta's security forces. Conventional clinical study included clinical neurology. In some cases the researchers were able to see skeletal X-rays that had already been taken.

"Undoubtedly the worst sequelae of torture were psychological and neurological", the Danish doctors say. Mental disturbance was displayed by 60 per cent of the combined groups (17 Chileans and 23 Greeks). "Symptoms of anxiety, irritability and, to a lesser extent, depression were common. Anxiety was particularly marked among the Greeks. Loss of memory, impaired powers of concentration, sleep disturbance and headaches were frequent, and were nearly always experienced only by those who had been subjected to direct cranial trauma."

*Falanga* (beating on the soles of the feet) was inflicted only on the Greek prisoners—29 of the 35 (83 per cent). Electrical torture, suffered by 84 per cent of the Chileans but seldom inflicted on the Greeks, was particularly directed at the head (ears, nose and mouth) and the genitals. Beating of the genitals was common in both groups, but sexual violation rare.

Other torture methods included threats of execution, cigarette burns, deprivation of sleep, prolonged standing, tearing out of nails, submersion in excrement and burial alive.

Objective signs which the medical group felt could be related to torture were seen in the cases of 21 Chileans and 24 Greeks, and they have been tabulated in the book-

let. Neurological abnormality was found in 13 ex-prisoners, the most severe cases being "four Greeks, two with paresis [temporary paralysis] of, respectively, the hip and foot, who had suffered *falanga*, one with signs of neuropathy, and one with bilateral papillary atrophy, possibly the consequence of severe cranial trauma. The neurological findings in the remainder was of loss of local sensibility at particularly torture-damaged parts of the body".

Citing one of their ultimate aims as better medical treatment for torture victims, the doctors explain that "Of the utmost importance is effective treatment of torture victims to prevent pathological change from becoming permanent and, as far as possible, to reverse such change".

The second article concerns three Uruguayans—one woman and two men—who had been tortured as exiles in Argentina before expulsion last July to Paris, where two of the AI Danish Medical Group examined them. The victims' seven days of torture had occurred only four weeks before the first examinations, and it was possible to conduct follow-up examinations eight weeks later.

All three had marks on their skin corresponding to burns with cigarettes and electrical equipment. Scars from cigarette burns were evident on all three, on the back of the hands, on the forearms, the abdomen and thighs. As many as 40 burns on the hand alone were counted on one of the male patients.

The follow-up study eight weeks later showed some improvement. However, subjectively, the victims' anxiety and depression persisted. Objectively, although as many as one-third of the cigarette burn scars had completely disappeared, the other two-thirds still clearly showed.

The doctors draw the conclusion that "the period between postulated torture and clinical examination can be very important. The more thorough and refined the medical investigation, the less critical the time factor.

X-ray, biopsy and hormone studies, for example, might be added to this simple basic investigation in order to accumulate irrefutable evidence that torture had in fact been inflicted".

The third research project measured the pain caused by a minor electrical instrument, a "shock baton" made in the United States. This is a battery-operated police truncheon modelled on cattle-prods. "Shock batons" of this type were reportedly used for torture in Cyprus during and before 1974.

Members of the medical group were among six Danish volunteers given controlled electric shocks and asked to compare the intensity of the pain with a standard recognized pain—that of *ischaemia* (local obstruction of the blood circulation to a part of the body).

The volunteers' emotional reactions were negligible, when evaluated by measures of galvanic skin conductance and pulse frequency, but the doctors point out that their experiments were carried out in a friendly and comfortable atmosphere. The medical group did not draw any conclusions from this study about the pain experienced by captives subjected to electrical torture in an actual torture situation.

In presenting these research findings, AI called on the medical profession as a whole to meet the responsibility of continuing this research on a much larger scale. AI pointed out the need for sponsored research into the whole field of torture, including forensic study, the training of torturers, the detection of torture sequelae, and, ultimately, the provision of improved medical care for torture victims.

It will probably be necessary for universities and medical foundations to sponsor such research. Governments that oppose torture should also lend moral and financial support. This field of medical research can and should be international, with shared resources and results. AI feels that, because torture is an international problem, and also because research could be used to benefit torturers, intergovernmental agencies such as the World Health Organization have a special obligation to support medical research against torture and to provide guidelines and safeguards against the abuse of such research.

*Evidence of Torture: Studies by the Amnesty International Danish Medical Group*: 39 pages, illustrated. Price 50 pence. Published by Amnesty International Publications, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England, and available from AI national sections.

# appeals

## Denise PROPHETE, Haiti

Denise PROPHETE is one of many political prisoners known to be detained in jails in Haiti without charge or trial, suffering from maltreatment and sub-human prison conditions. She was 24 years old when she was arrested in 1973, and worked as a radio broadcaster to earn her living while studying economics.

Following her detention she was beaten and, on at least one occasion, forced to stand, without food or drink, for three days and three nights. Her legs became so swollen that she was unable to walk.

During the past two years she has been held in the State Prison (*Pénitencier National*) in a humid cell with no window, unable to see the sunlight. Her health has gradually deteriorated, until she is now reported to be in a weakened condition.

Please write courteously-worded letters requesting immediate medical attention for Denise Prophete and, if there are no charges against her, immediate release. Write to: Son Excellence Jean-Claude Duvalier, Président à Vie, Palais National, Port-au-Prince, Haiti; and to: Son Excellence Edner Brutus, Secrétaire d'Etat, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

## TORTURE CONTINUES IN THE PHILIPPINES

An association of Roman Catholic church leaders in The Philippines published evidence in April that torture by military investigators has not stopped in that country since an *AI* mission reported a year ago its findings of torture of political prisoners. A document produced by the Association of Major Religious Superiors listed more than 20 people, including women, who have been tortured in the past year.

The martial law government of President Ferdinand E. MARCOS has denied that torture is officially condoned. Since the *AI* report, four military men have been tried on charges of torturing political prisoners. *AI* had submitted to the government the names of 88 military men who were identified by prisoners as having used torture (May *CAT Bulletin*).

• **Community leader tortured:** Mrs Trinidad HERRERA, a well-known community leader from the slum area of Tondo, Manila, was arrested on 26 April and severely tortured. She reportedly suffered a temporary mental collapse as a result of treatment she received. After her arrest, Mrs Herrera was taken to Camp Crame in Manila—the headquarters camp of the Philippines Constabulary. Cases of torture by Philippines Constabulary officers were documented in the *AI Report on a Mission to The Philippines 22*

November-5 December 1975.

Mrs Herrera was transferred to Bicutan prison near Manila. *AI* cabled President Marcos and issued an urgent action appeal among the membership on her behalf. She has since been released into the custody of her lawyer.

## INDIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES INQUIRY INTO "EXCESSES"

The new Indian Government has announced its intention to appoint a Commission of Inquiry "to look into all complaints of excesses, malpractices, abuse of authority during the emergency". The commission will investigate four main areas of abuse: "gross abuse of the powers of arrest and detention", "maltreatment and atrocities of detainees and political prisoners", the use of force to implement the national family planning program, and the demolition of homes.

*AI* protested to the former government of Prime Minister Indira GANDHI on several occasions about the large numbers of political detainees, their lack of legal safeguards and the alleged use of torture in Indian interrogation centers. In October 1975 and again in April 1976 *AI* called for inquiries into reports of ill-treatment.

Indian journalist and lawyer A.G. NOORANI, writing in the *Indian Express* on 29 April, drew attention to the recently published *AI* report *Torture in Greece: The First Torturers' Trial 1975* as a guide for part of the forthcoming Indian inquiry. The first Greek torture trial showed that it is possible to convict torturers of their crimes by due process of law. Mr Noorani called for a "thorough job of investigation" that would also recommend safeguards against the future practice of torture.

## SOUTH AFRICAN CHRISTIANS PUBLISH TORTURE DOSSIER

The Christian Institute of South Africa published a 76-page dossier entitled *Torture in South Africa* on 7 April. The document gives details of 115 prisoners tortured by the South African police and of 49 deaths in custody. Although the dossier surveys the period back to 1963, much of the information is recent. For example, 13 political and 14 non-political detainees reportedly died in prison or in police custody between March 1976 and February 1977.

The documented methods of torture include electric shock, suspension by the neck, treading on the feet of a detainee who had stones in his shoes, forced standing, whipping, beatings, bright lights 24 hours a day, near suffocation in a canvas hood, deprivation of sleep, weights tied to the genitals and forced prolonged crouching in an imaginary chair until collapse.

Further confirmation of South African torture comes from two prominent blacks who have recently fled their country. Mrs Oshadi PHAKATHI, a leader of the Black Parents' Association, which represented

students after last year's black township rebellions, arrived in London in April. Mrs Phakathi said that following her arrest last June when she went to a police station to make a statement on behalf of a Soweto teacher, she heard the screams of blacks during the two nights she was held in that station before transfer. The police station was filled with the bodies of wounded and dead young people who had been shot on the streets or beaten to death in custody.

Nat SERACHE, the black journalist who became known internationally for his coverage of last year's Soweto disturbances, jumped bail and fled to Botswana in late April. Mr Serache alleges that the South African security police tortured him for 11 successive days after his arrest in March in order to get his signature on incriminating documents. He signed the papers after receiving electric shocks to the ears, chest and testicles. His prostate gland has reportedly been ruptured by the squeezing of his testicles with pliers.

## EVANGELICAL CLERGYMEN BEATEN IN ROMANIA

Several Baptists, Adventists and Pentecostal pastors who had jointly compiled a detailed report on the persecution and prosecution of Romanian believers during recent years were arrested and interrogated by the Romanian police in early April. Josef TON, Pavel NICULESCU, Radu DUMITRESCU, Aurel POPESCU, Constantin CARAMAN and Dr Silviu CIOATA were reportedly subjected to prolonged beatings during several days of interrogation. A few of the pastors reportedly suffered grave injuries, including a broken jaw and broken ribs.

Following their interrogation, they were held under a form of house arrest. *AI* believes that they may have benefitted from the recent amnesty (see *Newsletter*, page 1) and is seeking further information about their present situation.

## ARGENTINIAN TORTURERS AND TORTURE CENTERS NAMED IN CHURCH REPORT

A report recently compiled by church sources in Argentina names 47 torture centers in rural areas and 60 men allegedly involved in the administration of torture. These include police officers, a police doctor and two former judges.

The report, released in England during April, also claims that on 13 December 1976 29 prisoners were massacred during an alleged "prison transfer". Official sources said the prisoners had been shot "while trying to escape". *AI's Report of a Mission to Argentina*, published on 24 March this year, documents several other cases of prisoners summarily executed under the "law of escape".

*AI* has also recently released an additional list of 142 disappearances since the military coup of March 1976, apart from the 487 cases listed in its mission report.