

# amnesty international newsletter

Vol. III No. 7

July 1973

Founded 1961

## OFFICERS IN GREEK MUTINY TORTURED - 'A SLAP AT HUMANITY'

At least nine of the 30-40 naval officers arrested after the recent mutiny plot in the Greek navy have been tortured repeatedly, *AI* said in a statement June 7. The information came from reliable sources in Athens.

*AI* also sent National Sections a copy of a letter from a relative of one of the tortured officers, begging that something be done quickly to help him. The letter said in part:

"I saw a girl that was eleven days in their hands and Oh God...you can't believe this, no toes, only three fingers, all her back burned and half her size. If they can do that to a woman can you imagine what a man will suffer. My God, he is the only person in the world I love, but I wish him dead so he won't suffer any more...How can those things happen in our day?...It is a slap at humanity what they are doing here."

## SOUTH VIETNAM

### MAJOR *AI* REPORT DOCUMENTS PLIGHT OF 100,000 CIVILIAN PRISONERS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has appealed for urgent and concerted international pressure to secure the release of some 100,000 civilians still detained in South Vietnam more than five months after the ceasefire.

The appeal coincided with the publication on July 1 of a major *AI* report, *Political Prisoners in South Vietnam*. The 40-page report documents the circumstances that led to the detention of the civilians, the crippling torture and other ill-treatment many of them have endured, and the failure of the Paris Peace Agreement to deal with the problem. It is illustrated with photographs and a map of Chi Hoa prison.

The report is based on detailed research into one of the most serious cases of political repression in the world today. It cites *AI*'s own sources, official statements and statistics by both South Vietnamese parties, U.S. officials, and independent newsmen and observers.

It identifies the men and women detained; gives detailed proof of their numbers and the fact that they are political and not criminal prisoners, despite official efforts to reclassify them; contains substantial documentation of torture; and describes the prisons in which the civilians are held. Included is an appendix of individual case histories.

Copies of the report were sent to President NGUYEN VAN THIEU of the Republic of Vietnam and to Prime Minister HUYNH TAN PHAT of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, with a covering

letter from *AI* Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS. The letter drew their attention to the joint communique signed in Paris June 13 by the United States, North and South Vietnam and the PRG which stated that both South Vietnamese parties should, within 15 days agree to allow mutually acceptable national Red Cross societies to visit all places where civilians are detained.

Point 8 of the communique also states that all civilian prisoners in South Vietnam held by either party as a result of the conflict will be exchanged within 45 days. But most observers feel that the provision has as little chance of being fulfilled as a similar clause in the January ceasefire agreement.

*AI*'s statement said the organization was anxious to see the whole prisoner question receive immediate world attention.

"We appeal to the International Commission for Control and Supervision of the ceasefire in Vietnam, to the participants of the Paris Conference on Vietnam last February, and to all interested governments and parties, to take urgent and concerted action to prevail upon the Government of the Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government to free all civilian detainees in South Vietnam without further delay," the statement said.

*Political Prisoners in South Vietnam* is available from Amnesty International Publications, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England, price 35 pence or \$1 (U.S.), plus postage.

### URUGUAY ACCUSED OF REGULARLY TORTURING PEOPLE IN CUSTODY

Torture has become "a common method of interrogation" of political prisoners in Uruguay, *AI* said in a statement June 25. *AI* asked the Uruguayan government for an immediate investigation into a number of recent cases of maltreatment of detainees, including one in which a man died after torture, and another involving a boy of 13 who allegedly was held and interrogated by security forces for three days.

The latest upsurge in torture allegations coincided with reports of a new wave of arrests in Uruguay. The arrests reportedly were linked with President JUAN MARIA BORDABERRY'S visit in May to Buenos Aires where he attended the inauguration ceremonies of the new Argentine President, HECTOR CAMPORA (June *Newsletter*).

In a letter to President Bordaberry, Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS expressed grave concern at the death in May of a rural worker named OSCAR FERNANDEZ MENDIETA, 26, shortly after his arrest by security forces. Although the official cause of death was given as a heart attack, a subsequent medical examination revealed severe bruising on the body.

*AI* said it was also seeking an inquiry into the cases of FERNANDO ALVARO MEJIAS, 13, who was arrested at 4.30 am May 24 and interrogated

- at times blindfolded - for three days at military headquarters about a visit to his mother in Chile; and of RUBEN SASSANO, who was repeatedly tortured over a period of 10 months, set free by a judge, but detained and tortured again.

### Ben Salah's brother sentenced

Dr MOHAMED BEN SALAH, brother of former AI adoptee AHMED BEN SALAH, who in February escaped from prison where he was serving a 10-year sentence for treason (March *Newsletter*), was himself sentenced to three years' imprisonment in June. He was charged with aiding his brother's escape.

The trial in Tunis was observed by the new Chairman of AI's Austrian Section, Dr WOLFGANG AIGNER, who was arrested and expelled from the country June 27 as this *Newsletter* was going to press. Further details will appear in the August *Newsletter*.

FRANCIS LAVAUX, the Belgian student sentenced in Tunis last March to one year's imprisonment on charges of illegal association, spreading false rumours and insulting members of the government, was released on May 29 and deported to Belgium. Like four Tunisians who were sentenced at the same trial but who remain in prison, Mr Levaux was adopted by AI. The sentence of two of the Tunisians has been reduced from three years' imprisonment to one.

### Swiss doctors appeal to USSR

Forty-nine Swiss neurologists and psychiatrists have signed an appeal asking Soviet Minister of Health BORIS V. PETROVSKY to help secure the release of prisoners of conscience detained in Soviet psychiatric hospitals. The appeal was sent to the minister June 1 through AI Swiss Section's Geneva Groups, whose chairman, M.A. de PREUX, added a covering letter.

Other National Sections are encouraged, as a part of AI's Campaign for the Abolition of Torture, to ask their medical associations to send similar appeals to the Soviet Union.

### Spain asked for brutality probe

AI asked Spain on June 14 for an urgent inquiry into the alleged beating of three political prisoners and the imposition of solitary confinement on four others over a document smuggled out of Soria Prison protesting against ill-treatment.

Twenty-one political prisoners went on hunger strike June 10 in protest against conditions in the prison. According to a letter received by AI from reliable sources in Spain, seven prisoners were punished for smuggling out the document in the binding of a book.

AI said it had been receiving allegations of brutality by Spanish prison authorities for some time. In a letter to the new Spanish Minister of Justice, FRANCISCO RUIZ JARABO, Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS urged the government to hold an immediate inquiry into the prisoners' complaints.

### More death sentences in Iran

AI cabled Prime Minister AMIR ABBAS Hoveida of Iran asking urgently for a review of the death sentences passed on six people June 11 by a military tribunal. The cable said Iran's po-

licy of judicial execution is "contrary to all accepted principles of human rights". AI, which opposes the death penalty in all cases, said at least 167 persons have been executed in Iran in the past two years.

### SOUTH KOREA DETAINS ANOTHER AI SECTION OFFICIAL

BOO WAN-HYUK, a journalist who is one of the 14 directors of AI's Korean Section, was sentenced to 10 days' detention May 15 by the Seoul District Court for "spreading a groundless rumour". AI learned of the summary decision in June.

The charge was the same levelled against the Reverend UN MUNG-KI, a member of the Section Committee, who was arrested last December and whose trial has been postponed indefinitely (May *Newsletter*).

Mr Boo was the sixth prominent member of the Korean Section arrested since late last autumn. The other five, including the Reverend Un, have all been released.

### Egypt asked to halt executions

AI cabled President ANWAR SADAT of Egypt on June 13 asking him to intervene and commute the death sentences passed on two men found guilty by a military tribunal on charges of spying for Israel. SULEIMAN SULEIMAN, a Sinai camel driver, and his brother-in-law FAWWAZ HUSSEIN, an army private, were arrested on the charges last November.

### Mexico releases 6 after AI plea

Six Mexican political prisoners who were the subject of an AI appeal in April were released from custody June 14. The six had been detained since 1967 on charges of placing a small bomb near the Bolivian Embassy as a gesture of protest against the death of CHE GUEVARA. They were sentenced in 1970 to prison terms ranging from 15 to 25 years, although these were reduced slightly on appeal later.

On April 4 this year, Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS wrote to President JUAN ECHEVARRIA, who was then on a state visit to London, pleading for clemency for the six and pointing out that students detained on far more serious charges in 1968 had already been released in a general amnesty in 1970.

### AI approaches EEC over Turkey

AI asked the member countries of the European Economic Community (EEC) in June to take up the issue of torture in Turkey during the meeting of the Association Council of the EEC in Ankara June 29-30. The meeting was to discuss the future of Turkey's association with the EEC.

In a letter to SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner Responsible for External Relations, Secretary General Martin Ennals voiced AI's concern at the large number of people who have been imprisoned for political reasons in Turkey and, in many cases, tortured.

### Anxiety about Bolivian prisoner

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS cabled Bolivian Minister of the Interior WALTER CASTRO AVENDAÑO on June 20 urgently requesting infor-



mation on the whereabouts of EMILIO ALE MALDONADO, who had been detained since 1971 on charges of belonging to the National Liberation Army and who has now apparently disappeared without trace. He is the latest in a series of political prisoners whose disappearance has caused anxiety inside and outside Bolivia.

Following the announcement of an official inquiry into the death in May of former Interior Minister ANDRES SELICH during interrogation, several prominent Bolivians have asked the government for similar probes into the alleged deaths of many prisoners under torture.

### 10 acquitted in Switzerland

Four soldiers and six civilians charged with fomenting a breach of military discipline, or complicity therein, were acquitted June 18 by a military court in Yverdon, Switzerland. AI Legal Officer NIGEL RODLEY attended the trial as an official observer because of the unusual situation of civilians being tried under military law by a military court and because of the implications for freedom of expression, guaranteed by the Swiss constitution.

The 10 were arrested after distributing various pamphlets calling for, among other things, the right of soldiers to organize. The prosecution has appealed against their acquittal.

A Swiss committee which campaigned on behalf of the 10 said in a letter to the International Secretariat that "the presence of an observer from Amnesty International has been a decisive factor in the general acquittal of all the accused." A letter from one of the 10, speaking for all of them, expressed the same view.

### AI sends observer to Morocco

Dr HORST WOESNER, a judge of the West German Federal Court, arrived in Morocco in June on a mission for AI. He was inquiring into the recent large-scale arrests of members of the Rabat wing of the opposition party Union Nationale des Forces Populaires, including the prominent UNFP lawyer OMAR BENJELLOUN. Dr Woesner also hoped to attend at least one of three political trials likely to open in Morocco shortly.

## ORGANIZATION

### AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT, SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER SIGN ANTI-TORTURE APPEAL

President BRUNO KREISKY of Austria and Prime Minister OLOF PALME of Sweden are among the prominent world figures who have already signed AI's International Appeal to Outlaw Torture.

Other well-known signatories include Chief S. O. ADEBO, Nigeria; SALVADOR de MADARIAGA, Spain; PIERRE EMMANUEL, France; HERNAN MALO GONZALEZ, S.J., Ecuador; Arthur Miller, Leonard Bernstein, U.S.; Mrs K. LAKSHMI RAGHURAMAIAH, India; Lord CARADON, Bishop TREVOR HUDDLESTON, Canon L. JOHN COLLINS, Britain; GUNNAR MYRDAL, Sweden; and GERHART M. RIEGNER, Switzerland.

In addition to the many signatures from all over the world, the Secretariat has been receiving a steady stream of acceptances of invitations to the Paris Conference in December.

### Canadians form National Section

AI groups in Canada have formed a new National

Section. President of the Canadian Section is Professor JOHN P. HUMPHREY, Director of the UN Human Rights Commission from 1946-1966. The National Director is Dr R.B. INCH, 1739 Lorne Avenue, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. The new Section has launched a major fundraising programme and is actively engaged in a national drive to promote the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture.

### IEC MEETS IN LONDON

AI's International Executive Committee on June 29 began a three-day meeting in London. Agenda items included the International Council Meeting in Vienna, the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture, and development of AI and new national sections. A report of the meeting will appear in the August Newsletter.

### Section and Group notes

The Brazilian Minister of Justice, ALFREDO BUZAI, is of Arab descent. Arab AI members or members of sympathetic societies such as Arab friendship associations in various countries may like to note this fact when writing to him about adopted prisoners in Brazil. . . Groups with information about their prisoner's profession should approach the same professional organizations in their own country asking them to appeal on the prisoner's behalf and to publicize his case in their periodicals. Past experience shows that this approach often gives a case widespread publicity. . . Sections are reminded that resolutions for the International Council Meeting in Vienna must reach the Secretariat not later than August 9.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: The Israeli Section's address is now Amnesty International, Israeli National Section, P.O. Box 3260, Tel-Aviv, Israel. The South Australia Section's new address is Amnesty International, South Australian Section, P.O. Box 779, G.P.O., Adelaide, South Australia 5001.

### Vacancies at IS in London

The International Secretariat is seeking applicants for the following posts in London:

RESEARCHER FOR EAST ASIA, who would be responsible for constructing biographies of prisoners and drafting papers on legal, political, social and economic situations in which political imprisonment occurs. Knowledge of the area, which includes Vietnam, China and Korea, and of Vietnamese or Chinese, is essential. Salary: around £2,000 per annum according to age, experience and qualifications.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FOR AFRICA, who would be responsible for the work of groups whose adopted prisoners are in Africa, and who would work closely with the researcher. Good typing is essential and French and German useful. Salary: around £1,600.

Both posts require fluency in English. Write for full job description and application form to the Administrative Manager, International Secretariat, 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP. There are also several vacancies for secretaries. English mother tongue and shorthand or audio typing are essential.

## POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS

### FROM PAST CAMPAIGNS

#### DOMINGOS AROUCA DETAINED AGAIN AFTER HIS SENTENCE EXPIRES

Dr Domingos AROUCA, the well-known Mozambique lawyer who was on the *Postcards for Prisoners Campaign* in July 1971, was not released by Portuguese authorities when his detention under security measures expired on June 18. Instead he was forcibly removed from a prison hospital in Lisbon to an unknown destination in the province of Inhambane in Mozambique. Here he is reported to have been assigned to a "fixed residence". It is not clear if this means a private residence or a prison. Either is possible under the administrative "fixation of residence orders" as applied in Mozambique.

*Courteously-worded appeals for his immediate release should be sent to:* The Prime Minister, Dr Marcelo Caetano, Presidente do Concelho, Largo das Cortes, Lisboa 2; *and to:* The President of Portugal, Sua Excelencia o Presidente da Republica, Almirante Americo Deus Rodrigues Tomaz, Presidencia da Republica, Praca Afonso de Albuquerque, Lisboa 3, Portugal; *and to:* The Minister for Overseas Provinces, Sua Excelencia o Ministro do Ultramar, Dr Joaquim da Silva Cunha, Ministerio do Ultramar, Avenida Ilha da Madeira, Lisboa 3, Portugal.

Andrei AMALRIK, USSR (August 1972), whose 3-year sentence ended in May, has not been released. A new case reportedly is being prepared against him and he may have to stand trial again on further charges of defaming the Soviet Union.

Pyotr GRIGORENKO, USSR (June 1972): His wife was not informed until the end of April that on January 29 the court refused the recommendation of the psychiatric commission that he should be transferred to an ordinary psychiatric hospital from the prison mental hospital at Chernyakhovsk where he is presently being held. The next meeting of the commission is on July 19. He is now in very poor health and completely blind in one eye. His wife's health is also suffering from the strain of his prolonged imprisonment.

Councillor Abu KANU, Sierra Leone (October 1971), who was imprisoned during a series of arrests early in October 1970, was released from Pademba Road Prison, Freetown, on May 29, together with some 30 other detainees. Councillor Kanu wrote to his adopting group to express his deep gratitude for their assistance and encouragement to his family during his detention.

### THIS MONTH'S CAMPAIGN

#### Hubert LEGROS, *Haiti*

Hubert Legros, a prominent lawyer, appeared on a list of prisoners for whom the Haitian Government decreed an amnesty at the end of 1972. He had been detained for 2½ years and left prison on December 23 nearly blind as a result of illness and imprisonment. Like most Haitian prisoners he had never been brought to trial.

Maitre Legros reportedly was the only prison-

er who was seen in Port-au-Prince after the amnesty. Many of those listed had in fact been released several years earlier and were living abroad, whereas others were presumably dead or still detained. On January 11 1973 Maitre Legros was again arrested. No formal charges have been brought against him, but there have been vague accusations of "communism" and of having been in contact with the opposition abroad. The contact allegation may have arisen from a telephone conversation with his son who lives in Canada. It is believed his second imprisonment is due to his pleading with the authorities for the release of his fellow prisoners.

*Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for his release to:* M Jean-Claude Duvalier, President a vie, Port-au-Prince, Haiti; *and to:* M Fournier Fortuné, Ministre de la Justice, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

#### Pater Pero SKOPLJAK, *Yugoslavia*

Pater Pero Skopljak is a Yugoslav priest who worked in the Roman Catholic Church in Vienna prior to his arrest. In July 1972 he travelled to Yugoslavia with another priest, Pater Stjepan Pavic. Both were arrested in Tuzla, central Yugoslavia, after pamphlets were found in their car which apparently called upon Croats "to secede from the Federal State and overthrow the socialist system". On this basis they were charged with hostile propaganda. The trial in Tuzla district court lasted from November 27 1972 to January 19 1973. Pater Skopljak was sentenced to two years' strict imprisonment.

In the past year relations between the Yugoslav state and the Church have deteriorated and there has been a noticeable increase in anti-religious propaganda. Both the Roman Catholic and Serbian Orthodox Church have been accused of nationalism and have therefore come under attack by the regime in the campaign against all demonstrations of nationalist tendencies. But there is no indication in this case that Pater Skopljak had any contacts with extreme nationalist organizations.

*Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for his release to:* Marshall Tito, President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Office of the President of the Republic, Bulevar Oktobarske Revolucije 70, Belgrade; *and to:* The Minister of Justice, Mr Mugbil Bejzat, Savezni Sekretarijat za Pravosudje, Belgrade 35.

#### Eduardo VALENTIM, *Angola*

Eduardo Valentim, 26, was arrested with 11 other students at Luanda University in October 1969. They had been protesting non-violently against Portuguese colonial rule. Without trial all were ordered detained preventatively for 6 to 10 years. Sr Valentim's lawyer petitioned for *habeas corpus* and the Supreme Court on November 24 1971 conceded he had been wrongfully detained. But his "release" meant only transfer from one detention place to another. He is now in Western Angola's harsh Sao Nicolau Camp.

*Courteously-worded cards appealing for his release and mentioning the Supreme Court ruling to:* Dr Caetano and President Tomaz (addresses as for Dr Arouca on this page); *and to:* Sua Excelencia o Governador-Geral de Angola, Eng. F.A Santos e Castro, Pacos do Governo, Luanda, Angola.