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Indonesian army manual permits torture in East Timor

Secret instructions permitting the use of torture have been issued to Indonesian troops operating in East Timor.

An 82-page military manual captured from Indonesian forces by the East Timor resistance movement, Fretilin—and independently authenticated by *AI*—tells soldiers not to photograph prisoners being stripped naked and tortured with electric shocks.

The manual is divided into eight sections, seven of which are marked “secret”, including a chapter on interrogation procedures. It says no local witnesses should be present if force is used—“to avoid arousing the antipathy of the people”.

According to this manual, whose existence was disclosed by *AI* on 20 July, if such photographs are taken, they should not be allowed to fall into the hands of “irresponsible members of society”.

In a letter to President Suharto of Indonesia on 20 July, *AI* pointed out that all governments are bound by international human rights standards that prohibit torture in all circumstances. “Rather than comply with these standards”, the letter stated, “these military instructions, while describing the use of force and threats during interrogation as something generally to be avoided, explicitly allow for the possibility of torture and provide guidelines to prevent its exposure.”

AI has received persistent reports of torture, including by electric shocks, by Indonesian forces in East Timor since they invaded the territory in December 1975. The organization has also expressed fears for suspected Fretilin supporters who have “disappeared” after detention. Many are believed to have been executed after being tortured under interrogation.

After receiving a copy of the manual, seized by Fretilin fighters in December 1982 and brought to Europe last month, *AI* took steps to establish the document’s authenticity; it is satisfied that the manual is genuine.

The organization has now asked President Suharto to issue immediate instructions to all forces under his command prohibiting the torture of prisoners under all circumstances.

AI has received no reply to its letter to President Suharto.

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Reunited after 7½ years . . .



Lima, Peru: Former prisoner of conscience Rosemary Riveros hugs her daughter Tamara, who had been missing for seven years.

Tamara was 18 months old when her mother, a Bolivian citizen living in Buenos Aires, was abducted by military personnel in December 1975. Rosemary Riveros was tortured and held for several months before her detention was acknowledged by the authorities. She was held without charge or trial until May 1981, when she was released on condition that she went into exile.

Five years earlier, in June 1976, she had lost contact with her daughter when the friend looking after Tamara was also abducted by the security forces and “disappeared”.

Since then Tamara’s whereabouts were unknown to the family—until June this year when she was located in Buenos Aires, where she had been selling paraffin on the streets.

It has now emerged that police had ordered a poor family to take in Tamara after the 1976 abduction. Tamara was eventually traced by the *Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo*, the Argentine women’s group which campaigns particularly on behalf of “disappeared” children.

Rosemary Riveros now lives in Switzerland.

Poland Martial law ended

Martial law in Poland was lifted on 22 July, the country's national day. A decree granting a partial amnesty to political prisoners was passed by the Polish parliament on 21 July.

The amnesty applied to all women and to men who had not completed their 21st year at the time they committed the offence. It also applied to all people sentenced to up to three years' imprisonment. Those serving sentences of over three years were to have their sentences halved.

The Ministry of Justice reported that by 4 August 378 political prisoners had been freed under the amnesty.

On 22 July it was reported that a senior justice ministry official had said that about 800 people under investigation or sentenced for political offences would fall under the terms of the amnesty, but that 60 convicted prisoners actually serving sentences would not be freed. Officials have also confirmed that the amnesty does not apply to seven leading Solidarity officials and five members of KOR who are currently awaiting trial.

People awaiting trial for political offences punishable by up to three years' imprisonment will be included in the

amnesty. In certain cases the Supreme Court may discontinue proceedings if the possible sentence is over three years or it may suspend any sentence of over three years.

The decree also grants an amnesty to underground political activists who report to the authorities before 31 October 1983.

The amnesty involves only a conditional remission of sentence. If a person commits a similar offence before 31 December 1985, the proceedings against him or her that were discontinued will be resumed, or, in the case of convicted people, they will serve the remainder of their sentence in addition to the new penalty.

In a letter to the Polish Head of State, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, of 4 August, *AI* welcomed the release of many people held for political offences, but urged that the amnesty be extended so as to ensure the unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience. It said also it was concerned about amendments to the Criminal Code which broadened the scope for the penalization of non-violent political activists □

Mauritania Appeal for amnesty

AI appealed to Mauritania's military rulers to declare an amnesty for all political prisoners on 10 July, the fifth anniversary of the military assumption of power. It has received no reply and understands that none of the prisoners has been freed.

Among those in detention are former government officials, journalists and other professional people arrested in March 1982, apparently on suspicion of holding political views opposed to the authorities.

Most were tortured, according to information received by *AI*. The methods alleged to have been used included being beaten, stripped, hung upside down by their feet and burned with hot coals.

AI has detailed information about 23 cases; it has received estimates putting the total number of political prisoners arrested from 1979 onwards at around 100.

Among those on whose behalf *AI* appealed were economist Abderrahmane Ould Daddah, held without trial for nearly four years; Khalil Ould Ennahoui, former Director of the official daily newspaper, *The People*; Mohammed Ould Ichiddou, a magistrate; and former government ministers Dahane Ould Ahmed Mahmoud and

Mohamed Yehdih Ould Bredillehl.

Most of those arrested between 1979 and 1982 have been held without charge or trial, many of them in poor conditions in the capital, Nouakchott. Some have been banished and held under house arrest in remote villages.

Until recently, the former head of state, Moustapha Mohamed Ould Saleck, and four other prisoners had reportedly been held underground in solitary confinement for almost a year in completely dark cells so small that the prisoners could neither stand up nor lie down. Ould Saleck is currently said to be in extremely poor health □

Change of address

AI's International Secretariat is moving to new premises on 24 September. The new address is: 1 Easton Street / London WC1X 8DJ / United Kingdom.

Prisoner Releases and Cases

The International Secretariat learned in July of the release of 129 prisoners under adoption or investigation; it took up 171 cases.

Japan Acquittal—after 33 years under sentence of death

A Japanese prisoner who had been under sentence of death for 33 years has been acquitted after a retrial and set free.

Sakae Menda, now 57, was convicted of murder in 1950, although he had claimed that police forced him to make a false confession and that he was elsewhere at the time of the murder.

He applied for retrial six times before an application was granted.

On 15 July this year the retrial court freed him after accepting his alibi claim, questioning the validity of experts' opinion on bloodstains found on the alleged murder weapon and deciding that Sakae Menda's confession had not been credible as some of its details contradicted material facts.

Retrials are reported to have been granted recently in two other cases of prisoners convicted of murder in the 1950s and sentenced to death.

AI knows of some 50 people under sentence of death in Japan and has repeatedly appealed to the government to commute such sentences and to abolish the death penalty: according to the latest available official statistics, one execution a year was carried out in 1979, 1980 and 1981 □

Pakistan release

Irshad Rao, the editor and publisher whose case featured in *AI's* latest report on human rights violations in Pakistan, was released from prison on 2 July 1983.

He had been arrested in January 1981 and in October that year was sentenced by a military court to one year's imprisonment and 10 lashes for "printing objectionable literature and creating unrest among the masses". After the expiry of his sentence, he was held in preventive detention.

His deteriorating health necessitated hospital treatment on several occasions and *AI* issued several urgent actions on his behalf.

Sao Tomé POCs freed

Five political prisoners—the only ones known to be held in São Tomé—were reported to have been released on 12 July 1983, the eighth anniversary of the country's independence from Portugal.

All five were arrested in 1977 and accused of complicity in plots to overthrow the government or to kill the head of state. They were serving prison sentences of between 16 and 22 years.

AI has welcomed the release of the five prisoners, three of whom had been adopted as prisoners of conscience—including Albertino Neto, prisoner of the month in October 1982 □

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.

Seventeen prisoners, Gabon

All 17 are serving prison terms of up to 15 years hard labour each after conviction on charges relating to their alleged membership of an illegal political organization.

On 27 November 1981 seven officials or former officials of the government were arrested in connection with leaflets which had circulated in the capital, Libreville, the previous week. The leaflets criticized the government and called for an amendment to the constitution. They were signed by a previously unknown group, the *Mouvement de redressement national* (MORENA), Movement for National Recovery.

On 1 December hundreds of people demonstrated non-violently in Libreville on behalf of the detainees. Over 100 were detained.

More arrests followed in March 1982 after the appearance of MORENA leaflets during the visit to Gabon of Pope John Paul II.

In November 1982, 37 alleged MORENA sympathizers were tried on charges of threatening state security and criticizing the President. Twenty-nine of them were convicted and sentenced to punishments ranging up to 20 years' hard labour—these sentences were later reduced by five years each.

An AI observer who was present throughout the trial reported that the proceedings did not conform to internationally recognized norms.

Seventeen of those sentenced are still in prison. All are reported to have been beaten and subjected to other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment during their pre-trial detention.

The 17 prisoners are: Jean-Marie Aubame; Louis-Marie Aubame; Luc Bengono-Nsi; Paulin Boutamba Mouloungui; Jean-Marc Ekoh; Samuel Ella Ndong; Jules Mba; Moubamba Nziengui; Luc Mve Ollomo; Jean-Pierre Nguema-Mitoghe; Jerome Bina Nguimbi; Thomas Didime Nze; Jean-Pierre Nzoghe-Nguema; Jean-Baptiste Obiang Etoughe; Michel Ovono; Simon Oyono Aba'a; Paul Calvin Tomo.

Please send courteous letters (in French if possible) appealing for their release to: Son Excellence El Hadj Omar Bongo / Président de la République / La Présidence / Libreville / République du Gabon.

WEI Jingsheng, China

A member of the "democracy movement" in the People's Republic of China, he has been in solitary confinement for four years.

Wei Jingsheng, a 33-year-old electrician at Beijing (Peking) Zoo and editor of an unofficial journal, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and a further three years' deprivation of civil rights in October 1979 after being convicted by a Beijing court of "counter-revolutionary" offences.

Before his arrest on 29 March 1979, he had been active in the "democracy movement" which started in late 1978. He was the main editor of an unofficial journal, *Exploration*, which published articles critical of many aspects of political life in China.

In December 1978 he published an essay in which he argued that China needed not only a modernization of the economy but also a political modernization: democracy.

At his trial on 16 October 1979 he was charged with "counter-revolutionary agitation and propaganda" as a result of his writings and publishing activities, and with "passing military secrets to a foreigner". This latter charge refers to information about the Sino-Vietnamese conflict which Wei Jingsheng was accused of having given to a foreigner during the conflict. According to unofficial sources in Beijing, the information could not reasonably be considered secret, having already appeared in *Reference News*, an official document widely circulated in China.

Since his trial nearly four years ago, Wei Jingsheng has been held in solitary confinement in Beijing Prison No. 1. He is reported to be confined to his cell in a block where prisoners sentenced to death are held. He is said to be allowed out for exercise only once a month and to be prevented from meeting other prisoners or receiving visits from his family.

AI believes he is in prison for exercising his fundamental rights to freedom of expression and association.

Please send courteous letters appealing for his release to: His Excellency Zhao Ziyang/Premier/Prime Minister's Office / Beijing / People's Republic of China.

Mohammed KAMOUNI, Morocco

A 38-year-old engineer, he is serving a 20-year prison term for advocating a socialist republic in Morocco.

Mohammed Kamouni, an electrical engineer in the coal industry, was arrested by security police in Jerada on 23 November 1974 and held for eight months in incommunicado police detention. During this time he is reported to have been tortured.

In January 1977 he and 170 others were tried in Casablanca by the Criminal Court of Appeal on charges of belonging to illegal, left-wing organizations and of plotting against the internal security of the state. Sentences handed down by the court in February 1977 ranged from five years' to life imprisonment. Mohammed Kamouni received a sentence of 20 years' imprisonment. He and his co-defendants have been adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience.

The court was shown left-wing literature to support the charges—but no evidence of violence or violent intent is reported to have been produced.

The defendants were not allowed to speak in their own defence or tell the court how long they had already spent in custody or to complain about their ill-treatment. Their lawyers were not allowed to communicate with their clients during the hearing and were prevented from intervening during cross-examination.

The defendants protested at the conduct of the trial and went on hunger-strike for 14 days. All received an additional concurrent sentence of two years' imprisonment for contempt of court.

Mohammed Kamouni has been held since March 1977 at the Central Prison in Kenitra, where his condition gives cause for concern. He suffers from rheumatism and kidney disorders and is reported to have a painful disease of the skin on the soles of his feet—possibly a result of the beatings received earlier in police detention.

Please send courteous letters (in French if possible) appealing for the release of Mohammed Kamouni and all other prisoners of conscience in Morocco to: His Majesty King Hassan II / Rabat / Morocco.

If you prefer, you may send your appeals to the embassies of these governments in your country.

Amnesty International is concerned about the arrest and imprisonment of large numbers of people in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression. It considers that the imprisonment of these people violates Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which sets out the right to freedom of expression and the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds regardless of frontiers.

German Democratic Republic— Restrictions on freedom of expression

- A plumber from Dresden discusses his desire to emigrate with a friend visiting from abroad. Later two articles describing his case appear in foreign journals and he is imprisoned for "treasonable passing on of information" . . . (Article 99 of the GDR penal code)

- A gardener from Saalfeld who has been seeking permission to emigrate for three years writes to the country's head of state and sends a copy of his letter to a foreign human rights organization—as a result he is imprisoned for "treasonable activity as an agent" . . . (Article 100)

- An engineer records and circulates to friends some songs by a dissenting Marxist song-writer—so he is sentenced to imprisonment by the Karl-Marx Regional Court for "incitement hostile to the state" . . . (Article 106)

- After submitting 10 unsuccessful applications to emigrate, a couple demonstrate non-violently in Berlin, carrying a banner that includes the words "let us go; we will never come back" (see photographs)—they are imprisoned for "impeding public and social activity" . . . (Article 214)

- A man from Dresden exchanges correspondence about his wish to emigrate with a member of a foreign human rights group—he is imprisoned for "taking up illegal contacts" . . . (Article 219)

- Another man, from Berlin, asks the authorities to take away his citizenship and when they refuse sends a postcard to the Minister of the Interior and Parliamentarians every week repeating his request—he is imprisoned for "public vilification" . . . (Article 220)

In the German Democratic Republic it is the law itself which permits such violations of international human rights standards. The examples cited above relate to six articles of the penal code which directly restrict the right to freedom of expression and provide the authorities with a powerful tool with which to imprison people for disseminating information or expressing views regarded as inimical to or critical of the established political order.

The law

These articles prescribe imprisonment for people who, among other things, send information to foreign organizations which, although not classified as secret, is "to the disadvantage of the interests" of the GDR; who "discredit" the GDR's "social conditions" or its "ties of friendship and alliance"; or who distribute "writings, objects or symbols" which are liable "to disturb the socialist way of life or bring the state or public order into contempt".

These terms are vague and lend themselves to subjective interpretation. Statements, for example, to the effect that troops from the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968 (instead of being summoned) or that human rights are violated in the GDR have been construed as "discrediting" and resulted in prosecution under Article 106.

Information deemed "to the disadvantage of the interests of the GDR" resulting in prosecution under Article 99 has included copies of applications to emigrate, descriptions of the authorities' reactions to these applications, as well as information about political prisoners in the GDR.

The laws do not require that the opinions expressed or the information disseminated contained factual errors. The official commentary to the penal code goes as far as to say, with reference to Article 99, that the information may be "of a factually true nature".

The broad and vague wording of the six articles severely restricts the possibilities for defence. Many lawyers inform their clients that they cannot defend them against a particular offence as charged but are only able to help in such ways as pleading for a shorter sentence on grounds of previous good conduct or regular attendance at work. *AI* has yet to learn of a case of a prisoner brought to trial under one of these articles being acquitted.

Secrecy

Considerable secrecy surrounds political imprisonment in the GDR. Once prisoners have been arrested they are strictly forbidden to mention details of the charges brought against them to visitors or in letters.

All trials of people charged under these six articles known to *AI* have taken place

with members of the public, even close relatives of the accused, being excluded. After the trial, the prisoner is handed a copy of the judgement to read, but, unlike prisoners convicted on non-political charges, is not allowed to keep it.

If the family or friends of the prisoner pass what information they have out of the country, they themselves risk prosecution under these articles. *AI* has learned of a number of instances of families of prisoners being harassed and threatened with arrest after publicity for the case in foreign media, on suspicion of having provided the information.

Emigration cases

In most cases known to *AI* these articles have been applied to people seeking permission to emigrate. Since the ratification by the GDR of international human rights agreements which include the right to leave one's country, growing numbers of would-be emigrants have applied to the authorities for permission to emigrate, instead of trying to flee the country, an activity punishable by up to eight years' imprisonment under Article 213 of the penal code ("illegal crossing of the border").

Many cite these international human rights agreements in their applications. Permission is frequently refused by the authorities and many of those who have persisted in their efforts to obtain it have been prosecuted under one or more of these six articles of the penal code.

The family that wanted to leave . . .



The Gerdes family demonstrate in support of their right to emigrate (left) . . . and are arrested by the police (right). Hans-Jurgen Gerdes (circled), his wife Angelika and their two children carried out their demonstration in the Alexanderplatz in Berlin on 2 December 1977. The text of the banner they carried was "There are only four of us and we want to go over there; let us go; we shall never come back". Before the demonstration they had applied 10 times to the GDR authorities for permission to leave the country. The husband and wife were sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment under Article 214 of the GDR penal code.

'Everyone is free to leave his country'

Gunter Wienhold, a Dresden engineer now in his thirties, was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment after he had attended a May Day demonstration in 1980 carrying a placard which bore a text taken from the official GDR Law Gazette.

The text was based on Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: "Everyone is free to leave his country".

Demonstration

He was convicted under Section 1 of Article 214 of the GDR penal code of "impeding the activity of public bodies".

He described the circumstances leading up to his arrest as follows:

"I had for some years wished to leave the GDR with my family and for this reason submitted an application to emigrate in October 1976. After six weeks, I was requested to call at the local govern-

ment offices, where I was informed that the reasons I had given for wishing to emigrate were insufficient for permission to be granted.

"After this refusal, we wrote to the relevant government authorities many times inquiring how matters stood and urging them to consider whether the rejection was correct. We had no intention of having any kind of confrontation, but after our requests had remained unanswered for three and a half years, I considered how, in some other appropriate way, to get the authorities to re-examine the matter.

"I decided it would be best done by a placard action. I wrote on a roll of wallpaper a text which I had taken straight out of the *Gesetzblatt* (Law Gazette), namely the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12 of which states, 'Everyone is free to leave the country'. In order to relate it to my family and myself I added, 'We too'.

"On 1 May 1980, I went to the May Day demonstration in Dresden and when I was directly in front of the platform on which the party and state functionaries were seated, I unrolled the wallpaper and was about to roll it up again when I was pulled aside by a young man in a tracksuit and taken to the State Security detention centre in Dresden, where I was charged under Article 214.

'Obstruction'

"The interrogator explained why this charge was being brought roughly as follows: I had already submitted an appli-

cation to emigrate which had been rejected, and with every additional initiative aimed at getting the authorities to re-examine the case I was obstructing the work of public bodies because they had already told me that the application had been turned down. By pursuing the matter I had put them under pressure and this accounted for the charge under Article 214.

"I asked them whether the text might possibly be considered to be political incitement. This, however, was denied; they said the text was taken straight from the *Gesetzblatt* and did not constitute a slander of the state."

He was released in July 1981 and is now in the Federal Republic of Germany.

'Anti-socialist' views

The scope of the freedom of expression guaranteed by the GDR Constitution does not extend to the expression and dissemination of "anti-socialist" views. The stated aim of the penal code is to serve the further development of socialism and to protect the socialist order of state and society.

"Anti-socialist agitation and propaganda" is viewed in the commentary to the constitution as "directly opposed to the freedom which working people have won in socialism" and to be punished as a crime, together with any expression of opinion of an "insulting and slanderous nature".

International Covenant
 The GDR has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19 of which sets out the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom "to seek, receive and pass on information and ideas of all kinds regardless of frontiers"; Article 14 sets out the right of all accused persons to a "fair and public hearing".

Canada Govt. agrees to inquiry

AI has urged the Canadian Government to investigate reports that prisoners were ill-treated after a prison riot last year, and the government has agreed to hold a full investigation.

AI made its recommendation in June 1983 after sending a fact-finding mission to check on reports that prisoners were ill-treated at Archambault Prison, Québec, in July 1982. The mission delegates—a lawyer from AI's International Secretariat and Dr Hélène Jaffe, of France—visited Québec in April this year.

They gathered enough evidence to conclude that the Canadian Government was obliged under its international human rights commitments, to hold an independent and impartial investigation.

The investigation will be carried out by the Correctional Investigator of

Canada at the request of the Solicitor General, the government told AI in its reply in July 1983. The inquiry will include interviews with prisoners, their families, lawyers, visitors and prison staff, the government said.

In a statement on 10 August AI welcomed the Canadian decision and said it looked forward to receiving the results of the government investigation before publishing its own report later in the year.

• Canada, like all United Nations members, has agreed to ban torture and other "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment". Under Article 9 of the United Nations Declaration on Torture, a government should proceed to an impartial investigation of any credible allegations of torture, even in the absence of a formal complaint □

Indonesia Army manual permits torture

Continued from page 1

In Jakarta, a government spokesman, Rear-Admiral Erwin Mangawang, is reported to have told reporters, "No, it does not exist. We have never issued such a manual for East Timor." There was a general manual or handbook issued to all Indonesian military units, he said, but he declined to give details of what it contained.

Force and threats

The military manual, issued to Indonesian forces in 1982, is bound in a folder marked "KODIM 1628/06 BAKAU TIMTIM" and "BAURAH 1629/06", Indonesian for the District Military Command, Baucau, East Timor and the Caucau Region.

Sub-section V.13, titled "The Use of Force and Threats", in the chapter on interrogation procedures, states in translation from the original Indonesian: "It is hoped that interrogation with the use of force will not be implemented except in those situations where the person examined tells the truth with difficulty (is evasive).

"However, if use of force is required there should not be a member of the local population present . . . to witness it so that the antipathy of the people is not aroused.

"Avoid taking photographs showing torture (taken of someone being given electric shocks, being stripped naked and so on). Remember that such photographs should not be printed freely outside or in Denpasar (the Regional Command Headquarters in Bali) and found by irresponsible members of society."

In addition to reporting the official Indonesian denial, the Jakarta correspondent of the *Far East Economic Review* sought other reactions in the capital. He reported: "An unnamed armed forces source has said that it is possible that the local military command had such a document 'but impossible that it would be taken into the field', an oblique remark which is being taken by some as an indication that there may in fact have been a special counter-insurgency manual specially for East Timor." □

Israel and O/T Arab students jailed

Six students from the Islamic University of Gaza were sentenced by a military court in Jenin in the West Bank on 8 June 1983 to six months' imprisonment plus 18 months' suspended.

They were charged on three counts under Military Orders 101 and 378: with distributing 700 copies of a political publication, *An Nada*, in the West Bank without a permit; with incitement—one of the articles and a cartoon were alleged to have constituted incitement to struggle against the State of Israel; and with carrying out other activities against public order.

The last charge resulted from the students visiting patients in hospital in Jenin who were suspected of having been poisoned, and of publicly identifying with their plight. This took place during widespread demonstrations by West Bank residents over a large number of suspected poisonings from 21 March to 2 April 1983.

In AI's view, the article and cartoon in question do not call for the use of violence. Furthermore, Military Orders 101 and 378 are so vaguely worded as to lend

themselves to broad interpretation by the courts, facilitating the conviction of people for the non-violent exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, information and association, as guaranteed by Articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. AI has called on the Israeli authorities to release all six students □

Refusal to serve

AI is investigating five more cases of Israel Defence Force reservists imprisoned in July 1983 for refusing to serve in Lebanon on grounds of conscience. They are: Lieutenant Tommy Sadeh, Sergeant-Major Eitan Bronstein, Corporal Roni Amit, Private Shuki Kook, and Sergeant-Major Andre Draznin.

Since July 1982 AI has worked on behalf of 36 Israelis, both reservists and regulars, who have been sentenced to periods of imprisonment ranging from 14 to 56 days for refusing for reasons of conscience to serve in Lebanon or the West Bank □

AI mission visits El Salvador

An AI mission visited El Salvador from 1 to 7 July 1983 to gather information about human rights violations of concern to the organization in the country.

The three-member delegation included a Spanish lawyer, a forensic pathologist from the USA and a member of AI's International Secretariat.

The delegation met officials of the Salvadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the governmental Human Rights Commission, and also held talks with various independent human rights monitoring organizations in the country.

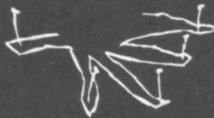
A report of the mission's findings will be submitted to AI's International Executive Committee □

DEATH PENALTY

AI has learned of 79 people being sentenced to death in 12 countries and of 82 executions in 10 countries during July 1983.

amnesty international

campaign for the abolition of torture



Uruguay: Ailing prisoners spend decade in military barracks

Ten years ago nine political prisoners were removed from Uruguay's high security military prison, *Penal de Libertad*, and taken separately to military barracks throughout the country. For the past decade they have been shuttled from one barracks to another, detained in cruel, inhuman and degrading conditions which have included:

- torture and deprivation of sleep;
- almost continuous isolation;
- incarceration in small windowless cells—one was a disused underground water tank; others have been specially constructed of concrete and are too low to allow an average-height prisoner to stand up;
- grossly inadequate medical attention and insufficient food for prisoners suffering from serious physical and psychological illnesses.

Although the nine prisoners have not been adopted by *AI* as prisoners of conscience, it has repeatedly denounced the conditions in which they are kept and appealed to the authorities for an end to the ill-treatment.

Some of the prisoners have been moved as many as 17 times. No prior warning is given and relatives often have to travel from one barracks to another to discover a prisoner's whereabouts.

The prisoners are held under constant guard in windowless cells reported to measure 2m by 1.5m in area.

One of the nine who is reported to have been held in one of the specially constructed low-ceiling concrete cells at the Fourth Infantry Barracks in the town of Colonia is **Jorge Manera Lluveras**, 55,

Raúl Sendic Antonaccio (below) is reported to have been tortured again in June 1983 at a military barracks in the Department of Lavalleja.

A lawyer, aged 58, he was shot in the jaw on arrest in September 1972—the wound was reportedly never properly treated. Since 1974 he has had an inguinal hernia after being hit in the lower stomach with a rifle butt. He is reported to have been tortured in a number of military barracks.



In October 1981 the United Nations Human Rights Committee stated that there had been violations of several articles of the International Covenant

on Civil and Political Rights in his case, including articles prohibiting torture and inhuman treatment. The committee urged the Uruguayan Government to ensure strict observance of the covenant's provisions; it called for Raúl Sendic to be given necessary medical care promptly and said he should have a new trial with all due guarantees.

He has been sentenced in the first instance to 30 years' imprisonment plus 15 years' preventive detention. Although he has been imprisoned for 11 years so far, his sentence has still not been passed on to the appeal court, a mandatory process under the Military Penal Code. Five of the other prisoners are in a similar legal situation—the other three have received final sentences of 30 years' imprisonment plus up to 15 years' preventive detention.

an engineer.

Over a two-week period he was allowed only a few minutes' sleep a day, until he collapsed from exhaustion and lay unconscious for two days. He has glaucoma, is gradually losing his sight and has serious kidney trouble.

The "water tank" cell is in the barracks of the General Pablo Galarza regiment in Durazno: **Raúl Sendic** (see picture) is one of those reported to have been detained there.

A cell in the barracks of the Third Engineers' Battalion in Paso de los Toros is said to have a metal roof which aggravates conditions inside during hot or cold spells.

Eleuterio Fernández Huidobro, 47, a bank employee, is reported to have been seen there earlier this year with signs of torture on his face and arms. He, too, suffers from vision problems.

Frequent allegations have been received that prisoners have not been given enough food. Furthermore, they are said often to be denied reading or writing materials and left in their tiny cells for long periods with nothing to do.

AI fears that their treatment over the past 10 years may have resulted in permanent damage to their health. Complaints received by *AI* mention respiratory problems; avitaminosis, due to inadequate food and lack of sunlight; serious impairment of vision and reflexes; incontinence; intestinal disorders; dehydration; and severe psychological disturbances.

AI believes that the medical attention

received by the prisoners is grossly inadequate—in some barracks the only medicines they receive are those their families manage to get through to them.

Other prisoners among the nine about whom *AI* has received reports of poor health include:

Adolfo Wassen Alaniz, 40, is suffering from a malignant tumour of the cervical vertebrae. After receiving surgery in March 1982 at a military hospital he was reportedly transferred to an underground cell at a military barracks in central Uruguay. Earlier this year he was again reportedly taken to hospital in a grave condition—but was returned to his cell only days later.

Jorge Zabalza Waksman, 39, a notary, has a chronic lung condition, with frequent coughing attacks that keep him from sleeping.

Mauricio Rosencof Silbermann, 50, a writer and dramatist, suffers from psychological problems and, since mid-1982, has had lung and circulatory problems.

Henry Engler Golovchenko, 38, a former medical student, is seriously psychologically disturbed as a result of his isolation and treatment in detention.

Please write courteous letters appealing for an end to the ill-treatment of the nine prisoners named in this article and their immediate return to a regular prison. Address your letters to: Su Excelencia Tte. General (R) Gregorio Alvarez / Presidente de la República / Casa de Gobierno / Plaza Independencia / Montevideo / Uruguay □

The nine prisoners were leading members of the urban guerrilla organization, *Movimiento de Liberación Nacional (Tupamaros)*, National Liberation Movement.

The authorities say they are being kept isolated in military barracks because they are "highly dangerous". However, *Penal de Libertad*, the prison they were removed from, is a high security establishment and no attempted escapes or attacks on guards have ever been reported there.

The names of the nine are: **Henry Engler Golovchenko**, **Eleuterio Fernández Huidobro**, **Jorge Amílcar Manera Lluveras**, **Julio Angel Marenales Sáenz**, **José Alberto Mujica Cordano**, **Mauricio Rosencof Silbermann**, **Raúl Sendic Antonaccio**, **Adolfo Wassen Alaniz**, **Jorge Zabalza Waksman**.

Sri Lanka: Tamils shot dead by soldiers —53 others killed in Colombo prison

Widespread violence in Sri Lanka in late July resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people, nearly all of them Tamils. It was sparked off by the killing of 13 soldiers on 23 July, by Tamil extremists.

Members of Sri Lanka's armed forces shot and killed at least 20 unarmed Tamil civilians in the north of the country on 24 and 25 July. In Colombo a total of 53 Tamil prisoners were killed during violence at Welikada Prison on 25 and 27 July.

The shootings by the soldiers were apparently reprisals for the killing of 13 soldiers on 23 July. Tamil civilians are reported to have been selected at random and killed in cold blood.

The victims included eight people who were shot dead after being taken out of a bus at Manipai and an 83-year-old retired teacher and his son-in-law who were killed in their house in Thirunelvely, Jaffna.

News of the killings reached *AI* very soon afterwards and on 26 July it sent a telex message to Sri Lanka's President J.R. Jayewardene urging him to take immediate steps to prevent further such killings by the armed forces.

It also called on the government to establish an independent investigation into reports of killings in Manipai, Thirunelvely, Pandaterrippu, Kondavil and Channakai, and to bring to justice those responsible.

AI has since received first-hand accounts of killings in these places.

In its messages, *AI* said it recognized the serious problems of internal security faced by the government and its duty to restore order. However, *AI* stressed that such killings by the army constituted a breach of the right to life proclaimed in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Until the first week of August the Sri Lanka Government maintained that it had no knowledge of the northern killings—but on 6 August it issued a statement that 20 civilians had been killed in the Jaffna district by the armed forces "on a rampage" in late July. (Reports in the international news media put the number of dead at over 51.)

On 8 August the London *Guardian* newspaper published a reported interview with President Jayewardene of the 7 August in which he said that he had been informed of the killings only "a couple of days ago".

In its message to President Jayewardene of 26 July, *AI* also expressed concern at reports that a large number of Tamil prisoners had been killed in Welikada Prison the previous day. It urged the government to establish an independent investigation and to take immediate measures to prevent more prisoners being killed.

The government had stated that several



The bodies of three Tamil civilians shot dead by soldiers in Sandilipay on 24 July

hundred Welikada prisoners had attacked "suspected Tamil guerrillas" and killed 35 of them. It announced that a magisterial inquiry had been set up immediately.

AI has the names of 35 Tamil prisoners who died.

On 27 July Tamil inmates of Welikada Prison were again attacked and another 18 were killed. One of the victims was Dr **Somasunderam Rajasunderam**, whose case was featured in July's *Newsletter*.

On 28 July *AI* again called on President Jayewardene's government to protect prisoners' lives.

Full details of the prison killings from independent sources are not yet available. Welikada Prison's Chief Warden reportedly told a magisterial inquiry into the 27 July killings that the prison's authorities had possessed "information there might be a second attack" but that Tamil prisoners "could not be moved in time . . . to save them".

Lawyers for surviving Tamil prisoners have claimed they were not allowed to bring evidence at the magisterial proceedings which would have implied complicity in the violence by some prison staff.

At the time of going to press *AI* had not received a full report on the findings of the magisterial inquiries.

AI has called on the government to set up full independent and public inquiries into the Welikada Prison killings and to publish the findings in full.

On 30 July the government banned three left-wing opposition parties—the Janata Vimukhti Peramuna (JVP), the Nawa Sama Samaja party and the Communist Party for having committed or being likely to commit acts "prejudicial to public safety, to law and order and to maintenance of essential services".

Official reports implied that there was evidence of their involvement in civil dis-

turbances after 23 July but no such evidence had been produced by the time of going to press.

Arrests of members of the banned parties and other politicians followed the 30 July announcement. *AI* has the names of 19 of them who were held under the country's Emergency Regulations and have reportedly been denied access to lawyers or relatives.

The organization has urged the government to release all those arrested, at least on bail pending further investigations; to publish their names, where they are being held and details of the legal provisions under which they are detained—and to ensure their safety while in detention □

• The Sri Lanka Government has sent *AI* a statement commenting on *The Report of an Amnesty International Mission to Sri Lanka, 31 January - 9 February 1982*, published on 6 July 1983 (see July *Newsletter*).

The government statement denies in general terms that the human rights violations described in *AI*'s report took place. It does not indicate the government's willingness to investigate the report's findings or to consider its recommendations.

AI does not consider that the report's findings have been answered by the statement, a detailed response to which will shortly be available from the International Secretariat.

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