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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT 1995

@Annual Report Summaries 1995

An overview of Amnesty International's Annual Report

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AI INDEX: POL

WORLDWIDE SUMMARY

Highlights of Amnesty International Report 1995
covering events from January to December 1994

Governments worldwide committed gross human rights violations in 1994, putting prisoners of conscience behind bars, torturing people into confessions, and trying to silence their critics through "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions.

Despite government commitments to human rights made at the 1993 United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, the Amnesty International Report 1995 shows the reality of state agents in 151 countries continuing to violate those rights, often with impunity.

In the run up to the first United Nation's Conference on Women for a decade – to be held this September in Beijing – Amnesty International's report also highlights the extent to which women continue to be targeted for state repression.

In the year covered by the report, women suffered every known abuse and violation of fundamental human rights. Torturers, executioners, jailer and killers did not discriminate on grounds of sex, unless it was to subject women to abuses to which they are particularly vulnerable.

"In a world racked by violence, women face rape, mutilation and death at the hands of

armed men," the organization said in its report. "Yet all too often these women remain invisible. Their tales are not heard. Their plight is hidden by the sheer scale of the tragedies."

Their suffering continued despite an historic declaration by the international community at the World Conference on Human Rights, where governments promised to guarantee women's social and economic rights, as well as their civil and political rights. As this report shows, on both counts they have failed abysmally to match their words with deeds.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The following summaries provide an overview but do not detail all the human rights violations in the Amnesty International Report 1995. For full information, please refer to the report.

The following statistics on human rights violations worldwide in 1994 are based on information from the Amnesty International report 1995. The statistics include the number of countries in which human rights violations took place and, where possible, the number of known victims of those violations.

In many cases, the nature and interrelation of the human rights violations makes it virtually impossible to determine the exact number of victims. These figures, therefore, should be seen as a conservative estimate of the numbers of victims.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WORLDWIDE DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1995

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience were held in some 78 countries.

DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- Tens of thousands of political detainees were held without charge or trial in some 70 countries.

UNFAIR TRIAL

- Thousands of political prisoners were imprisoned after trials that did not meet international standards for fairness in 33 countries in 1994.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Detainees were tortured or ill-treated in prisons, police stations or secret detention centres in at least 120 countries, with the known number of such victims estimated at around 3,000.

- At least 1,000 people died as a result of torture, in custody, or inhuman prison conditions in some 34 countries.

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Government agents carried out extrajudicial executions or possible extrajudicial

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executions in 54 countries, killing suspected government opponents, members of targeted ethnic or minority groups or people living in opposition strongholds.

"DISAPPEARANCES"

- In 1994, close to 1,000 people were known to have "disappeared" at the hands of government agents in some 29 countries, some of whom were believed to have been extrajudicially executed.

- In 22 countries, people who had "disappeared" in previous years remained unaccounted for.

DEATH PENALTY

- Some 2,500 people were known to have been executed by hanging, firing squad, lethal injection or other means in 33 countries in 1994.

- Prisoners in some 57 countries remained on death row awaiting execution by the state.

- In 1994, four countries abolished the death penalty entirely completely, or restricted the use of the penalty.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- In 36 countries, armed opposition groups committed human rights abuses, such as torture, hostage taking, and deliberate and arbitrary killings.

AFRICA

Highlights of the Amnesty International Report Covering events from January to December 1994

In 1994, the human rights crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa became apparent when world headlines spotlighted **Rwanda**, where the genocidal attack on the minority Tutsi ethnic group left over half a million people massacred by government soldiers and extremist militia. More than a million Rwandese fled the country. In neighbouring **Burundi**, thousands were also killed in politically motivated massacres by security forces and armed civilian gangs.

Elsewhere in Africa, extrajudicial executions continued to claim countless numbers of lives in less publicized but all too deadly conflicts. In Angola, Mali, Sierra Leone, Sudan and other countries, both government and armed opposition groups abducted and deliberately killed unarmed civilians. Widespread "disappearances" in 1994 also left hundreds of relatives searching for missing family members.

The movement to multi-party democracy brought elections and some human rights advances to **Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa** and other countries, though often mixed with set-backs. Political repression in Africa continued as well, with a pervasive pattern of arbitrary detention without charge or trial that left hundreds incarcerated. After unfair trials, hundreds more were jailed as prisoners of conscience and political prisoners, where they faced torture and ill-treatment. The death penalty continued to be widely applied in Africa.

One of the worst human rights crises in recent times began in **Rwanda**, where massacres were systematic, planned and condoned at the highest level. Virtually all the killers belonged to the majority Hutu ethnic group, while the victims -- such as unarmed civilians, government opponents, human rights activists, journalists and those opposed to the killings -- were predominantly of the Tutsi ethnic group but included Hutu moderates as well. More than one million people fled the country to escape the slaughter or out of fear of reprisals.

Amnesty International repeatedly appealed to government, military and political leaders in power in **Rwanda** at the time to condemn the mass killings and stop them. It also called on the international community to bear its share of responsibility for the massacres: providing international human rights monitors, protection to those at risk and assistance in rebuilding Rwandese courts so that they could conduct fair trials without the death penalty. The organization also called for

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establishment of an international criminal tribunal for Rwanda which could bring those responsible for crimes against humanity and serious violations of the laws of armed conflict to justice.

In 1994, Amnesty International also documented human rights abuses by the Rwanda Patriotic Army, which gained control of **Rwanda** in July 1994 and formed the new government. Hundreds, if not thousands, of captured opponents and unarmed civilians suspected of participating in that year's genocidal killing were summarily executed. Others were detained and killed or "disappeared".

To the south, in **Burundi**, thousands of Hutu were targeted in politically motivated massacres by the Tutsi-dominated security forces and associated armed gangs. An almost complete break-down of law and order ensued as the government failed to control the armed forces or prevent Hutu and Tutsi extremists from arming themselves and carrying out killings.

Political killings continued in other bloody conflicts across Africa in some 16 different countries, both in large-scale massacres of hundreds of people and in targeted assassinations of individuals. In **Angola**, for example, hundreds of unarmed civilians were deliberately killed by both government troops and armed opposition forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). In 1994, thousands died in the fighting or from hunger or disease.

In **Liberia**, hundreds of civilians were killed as the armed conflict intensified. Armed political groups tortured and killed those suspected of opposition, often because of the victims' ethnic origin, as they looted, raided or tried to wrest control of territory. In a massacre at Paynesville, over 50 people -- including 28 children under 10 years of age -- were killed.

Hundreds of civilians also died in the conflict in **Sierra Leone**, where distinctions between government soldiers and rebels had become blurred. Soldiers tortured, ill-treated and extrajudicially executed captured insurgents or those suspected of being insurgents. Rebels killed and abducted unarmed men, women and children. In **Somalia**, hundreds of unarmed civilians were killed by armed political militia on account of their clan allegiance, while the United Nations' peace-making operation failed to end the fighting. Widespread political killings and "disappearances" also took place in many other African countries, such as **Chad, Mali** and **Sudan**.

The world's attention was on **South Africa** in 1994 as the country's first non-racial national elections were held. The African National Congress came to power under an interim constitution guaranteeing certain fundamental human rights. The new government established a commission to promote and protect human rights and signed human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. After the elections, political violence subsided in most of the country, though by the year's end the toll of political killings rose sharply in Natal Province (Kwazulu Natal) with at least 75 people killed in December.

Mozambique's second year of peace, culminating with the nation's first multi-party elections, brought further human rights advances but also some set-backs. Commissions set up under the peace agreement to monitor the police and security services also ended up investigating human rights abuses by police and soldiers. However, police torture and ill-treatment by security forces continued to be reported in 1994.

Malawi's first multi-party elections in more than 30 years unseated Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda, whose government had been responsible for widespread human rights abuses. After the election, over 100 prisoners on death row had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment, and

an investigation was launched into the suspicious deaths of three government ministers and a member of parliament in 1983. Amnesty International continued to receive reports of police ill-treating suspects.

Positive steps were seen in **Ethiopia**, where the government released several thousand opponents detained in the past two years and started to bring charges against members of the previous government detained since 1991. Yet hundreds of other alleged opponents were detained in 1994. Some, including journalists and opposition activists, were prisoners of conscience.

In other parts of Africa, events gave less reason for optimism about improving human rights. In **Sudan**, the government arrested hundreds of suspected opponents, trade unionists, journalists and lawyers. Many were prisoners of conscience; most were detained without charge or trial for up to a few months, some in secret detention centres called "ghost houses". In **Nigeria**, hundreds were detained in protests against military rule and the imprisonment on treason charges of Moshood Abiola, widely acknowledged to have won the annulled 1993 presidential elections. Other countries such as **Chad**, **Equatorial Guinea** and **Zaire** also jailed hundreds of political prisoners or prisoners of conscience.

Torture remained a widespread reality in 33 African countries, with methods including chaining prisoners and suspending them upside down, rape, electrical shocks, suffocation with rubber tubing and the use of tight leg shackles. Scores were tortured in **Djibouti**, **Chad**, **South Africa**, **Sudan** and **Zaire**. Overcrowding that amounted to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment led to 67 prisoners suffocating to death in a single incident in **Gabon**. Another 150 died in one prison in **Cameroon** because of inadequate diet and lack of medical care.

Almost 200 people were sentenced of death in 1994 in 13 African countries, with more than 1,100 people in 15 countries remaining under sentence of death from previous years. More than 200 were actually put to death last year. **Nigeria** carried out at least 100 executions in 1994, while **Tanzania** secretly executed eight. **Kenya** had the largest number of death-row inmates, with 26 prisoners sentenced to death during 1994, bringing the death row population to 568. **South Africa** and **Uganda** each held hundreds under sentence of death at the end of the year.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN AFRICA DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1995

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- In Rwanda, more than half a million people were massacred by the former government and militia in politically organized genocidal killings. In the rest of Africa, thousands more were the victims or possible victims of extrajudicial executions in some 16 countries, including Angola, Burundi, Chad, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa and Sudan.

"DISAPPEARANCES"

- Amnesty International could confirm that some 125 people were reported to have "disappeared" in seven countries but believed the actual number was far greater. The fate of hundreds remain unknown after they were made to "disappear" in previous years. Countries with "disappearances" include Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Zaïre.

TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT

- Detainees were tortured or ill-treated in prisons, police stations or detention centres in some 33 countries, including Chad, Djibouti and Zaïre.

- More than 300 people died apparently from torture in custody, or from inhuman prison conditions in more than 10 countries, including Gabon, South Africa and Zaïre.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience were held in more than 21 countries in Africa, including Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Swaziland.

DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- More than 12,000 people were held in administrative detention -- without charge or trial -- in some 31 countries. Rwanda alone held about 10,000 prisoners in administrative detention by the end of 1994.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- More than five countries conducted unfair trials in 1994, including Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, and Kenya.

DEATH PENALTY

- More than 200 people were executed -- by hanging, firing squad or other methods -- in four countries. More than 100 of the executions in 1994 were recorded in Nigeria, a sharp increase from previous years.

- More than 1,100 people were on death row or were sentenced to death in Africa in some 15 countries including South Africa, where 25 people were sentenced to death in 1994 and 450 prisoners remained under sentence of death.

VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

- Cases of the violation of the human rights of women have been recorded in some 15 countries including Cameroon, Chad, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Armed opposition groups committed serious human rights abuses, including torture, hostage taking or deliberate and arbitrary killings, in more than 15 countries, including Angola, Burundi, Chad, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

AMERICAS

Highlights of Amnesty International Report 1995 Covering events from January to December 1994

Appalling human rights violations continued to blight the Americas region during 1994, both as the result of abuses by government agents and, in some countries, by armed opposition groups. Most governments in the region failed to take effective steps to combat this situation and to put an end to the almost total impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators.

In response to escalating human rights violations in **Haiti** in the months leading up to the return of President-in-exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide in October, Amnesty International urged the international community to take steps to resolve the crisis. Despite Amnesty International's efforts to ensure respect for human rights and basic principles of humanitarian law in the course of any military intervention in Haiti, United Nations (UN) resolution 940 contained no provisions for a human rights plan for the country. The resolution authorized a multinational force led by United States of America (USA) troops to facilitate the departure from Haiti of the military leadership and the prompt return of President Aristide. The organization called on the international community to make a long-term commitment to human rights institution building in the country.

Extrajudicial executions and/or "disappearances" took place in at least 13 countries including **Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico** and **Peru**. In **Brazil**, more than a hundred people were known to have been extrajudicially executed.

In **Colombia**, armed forces or paramilitary groups operating with their support extrajudicially executed over 1,000 people and 140 people were reported to have "disappeared". In September, a month after assuming office, President Ernesto Samper Pizano announced a program of action to improve respect for human rights, including measures to tackle impunity, eradicate paramilitary organizations and assist internal refugees. In the vast majority of cases, armed forces personnel believed to be responsible for extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" continued to evade accountability. Military tribunals investigating human rights violations by army personnel persistently failed to bring those responsible to justice.

In **Guatemala**, extrajudicial executions increased significantly over the previous year. Victims included human rights workers, indigenous activists, suspected government opponents, returning refugees, students, academics, trade unionists and journalists. Amnesty International addressed the government repeatedly, calling for inquiries into reported violations. It also repeatedly reiterated to both the government and the opposition that it was vital to ensure that those responsible for gross violations in Guatemala in recent years (including massive extrajudicial executions directed largely at Guatemala's indigenous peoples) did not benefit

from any sort of pre-trial amnesty that would in effect grant them impunity for violations. In March, Amnesty International urged the UN Commission on Human Rights to continue to monitor the situation in Guatemala, pointing to the marked increase in death threats and other forms of intimidation.

Torture and ill-treatment continued to be widespread throughout the region. In **Mexico**, extensive use of torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement agents continued to be reported. Hundreds of people -- most of them Indians -- were arrested for short periods during the uprising in Chiapas; scores were tortured and ill-treated before being released without charge. Frequent use of torture by Mexican law enforcement agents, particularly the state judicial police, continued to be reported. By the end of the year, none of those responsible for any of the hundreds of cases reported in Chiapas and other parts of the country had been brought to justice.

In **Chile**, there were reported cases of torture by the security forces. By the end of 1994, the number of people who had been killed or "disappeared" under the military government that ruled Chile from 1973 to 1990 was officially acknowledged to be more than 3,000. Seventy-three bodies exhumed from clandestine graves were identified during the year. Most had apparently been extrajudicially executed. Among them were officials of the late President Salvador Allende's government who had been arrested by the security forces immediately after the September 1973 military coup. None of those responsible for the killings has been brought to justice.

In **Peru**, torture and ill-treatment were reported to have been inflicted on the vast majority of prisoners suspected of terrorism-related offences, with the government acknowledging in February the use of torture by agents of the state. In Venezuela, torture was used extensively by the police and army to extract confessions from criminal suspects. Such confessions continued to be accepted as evidence by the courts, state attorneys frequently failed to act effectively on complaints of torture, and official forensic doctors regularly avoided documenting cases.

In the **USA**, there were reports of deaths in police custody in disputed circumstances and allegations of torture and ill-treatment by police and prison officers. There was also concern about conditions in some maximum security prison units in the USA. Thousands of Cubans and Haitian asylum-seekers were held at a USA naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and Amnesty International argued they should have been given the opportunity to present asylum applications in accordance with internationally accepted procedures.

Prison conditions in many countries continued to be poor, in some cases constituting cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Conditions remained extremely harsh in **Venezuela**, where scores of prisoners died during violent incidents in jails. In many **Cuban** police stations and prisons, conditions were reportedly insanitary and medical attention was inadequate or non-existent.

Also in **Cuba**, some 600 prisoners of conscience were believed to be serving jail sentences. Human rights and political activists continued to face frequent short-term detention and harassment, and detention and trial procedures for political prisoners fell far short of international standards. Prisoners of conscience and political prisoners were also detained or imprisoned in the **Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru** and **Venezuela**.

The death penalty has been abolished in most Latin American countries, but it continued to be used in some other countries of the Americas -- notably in the **USA**, where a total of 31 prisoners were executed. That number represents seven fewer executions than in 1993, the year with the

highest number of executions since the use of the death penalty was resumed in 1977. However, the number of people on death row in the **USA** increased to 2,870. The **Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago** also had prisoners on death row, but with the exception of **Cuba** and **Trinidad and Tobago** no executions were carried out during 1994.

Armed opposition groups in **Colombia** committed grave human rights abuses including deliberate and arbitrary killings and the taking and holding of hostages. In **Peru**, the *Partido Comunista del Perú (Sendero Luminoso)*, *Communist Party of Peru (Shining Path)* continued to carry out a policy of deliberate and arbitrary killings against civilians. In **Mexico**, during the Chiapas uprising, the *Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional* took hostages who were later released unharmed.

Despite the historic Declaration of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights -- in which governments acknowledged that women's rights are human rights -- women in the Americas have seen little improvement regarding their civil and political rights. In **Haiti**, an increasing incidence of the use of rape as a weapon of political terror was recorded during the period of violence prior to the return of President Aristide in October. At least 66 women, including 10 girls, were reportedly raped by the security forces and their supporters between January and May 1994. Cases of violations of the human rights of women were recorded by Amnesty International in other countries including **Colombia, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Peru** and **Venezuela**.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE AMERICAS DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1995

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Well over 1,500 people were victims of extrajudicial executions (EJEs) or possible EJEs by government security forces or their agents in 13 countries, including Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela.

"DISAPPEARANCES"

- People "disappeared" or remained unaccounted for in at least seven countries. One hundred and forty people "disappeared" in Colombia, 65 in Peru, at least 30 in Guatemala and 20 in Mexico. Thousands more remained unaccounted for from the past in countries including Argentina, Chile, Haiti, Peru and Mexico.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Cases of torture, ill treatment or rape of prisoners were reported in 22 countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, the USA and Venezuela.

- Cases of death from torture were recorded in at least four countries.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Hundreds of prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience were held in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico Peru and Venezuela.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- Cases of prisoners being held after unfair trials were recorded in Cuba, Peru and Venezuela.

DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- Cases of detention without charge or trial were recorded in eight countries, including Chile, Cuba, Guatemala and Venezuela.

DEATH PENALTY

- The death penalty was retained in eight countries and over 3,000 people remained on death row in seven countries, notably in the USA, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Executions were carried out in the USA (31 prisoners), Cuba (1 prisoner) and Trinidad and Tobago (1 prisoner).

VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

- Cases of the violation of the human rights of women were recorded in countries including Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Guyana, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. Increasing evidence of the use of rape as a weapon of political terror was recorded in Haiti.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Armed opposition groups committed human rights abuses, such as torture, hostage taking or deliberate and arbitrary killings in Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Highlights of Amnesty International Report 1995
Covering events from January to December 1994

Human rights remained a major issue across the Asia/Pacific region as women, children, journalists and indigenous peoples became the victims of human rights violations of every description. Amnesty International remained concerned at high levels of political imprisonment, detention without charge or trial, political killings, "disappearances", torture and the death penalty in the region. In September 1994, Amnesty International launched an international campaign to draw the world's attention to continuing human rights violations in Indonesia and East Timor.

Extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" continued to be prevalent in 1994 with thousands of people known to have been killed for political reasons or "disappeared" in at least 12 countries in Asia/Pacific.

Thousands lost their lives in Afghanistan's continuing civil war. Hundreds of unarmed civilians were deliberately killed by factional fighters on suspicion that they supported rival armed groups.

Civil conflict was also the context for hundreds of political killings and scores of "disappearances" in India, where security forces fought violent political opposition. Deaths from shootings or torture in the state of

Jammu and Kashmir were often reported daily.

In Sri Lanka, the government established commissions of inquiry in 1994 to investigate "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions that occurred since 1988. However, those commissions were not mandated to investigate some 700 unresolved "disappearances" which took place from 1984 and 1987. Other political killings and "disappearances" were recorded in Cambodia, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.

In China, thousands of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience arrested in previous years remained in prison. In 1994, the cases of several hundred political prisoners, previously unknown, came to light. They were held because of their activities in the 1989 pro-democracy protests. Scores, including prisoners of conscience, were held without charge or trial or received prison sentences without a fair trial.

In Pakistan, more than 100 prisoners of conscience were charged with blasphemy for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of religion, including a man arrested for allegedly inviting others to watch a television program featuring the exiled head of the Ahmadiyya community. Although there appeared to be no evidence to support the charges, the man's trial began in September. Despite government announcements of reforms to curb the abuse of the blasphemy laws, which carry a mandatory death penalty, no action was taken.

In Indonesia and East Timor, hundreds of people were arrested and held briefly without charge or trial after demonstrations in East Timor during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit meeting held in Jakarta in November. Dozens of peaceful human rights and political activists were sentenced to prison terms after unfair trials.

Scores of political detainees were imprisoned after unfair trials in China and

India. In Myanmar, hundreds of government opponents remained imprisoned, most of whom were convicted under laws criminalizing peaceful political activity. Dozens of long-term prisoners were still held in South Korea's prisons after unfair trials under previous governments.

Thousands of people suspected of opposing governments remained imprisoned without charge or trial in some 17 countries, including Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia and Pakistan. New information emerged in 1994 about dozens of political prisoners in North Korea who may have been detained without trial, some perhaps for decades.

Torture was reported in 20 countries in Asia/Pacific, with thousands of deaths reported last year from countries including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Pakistan. Torture and ill-treatment was also widely reported in China, with prisoners giving testimonials about being tortured with electric shocks, sleep deprivation and beatings.

The use of the death penalty remained a serious human rights problem in many countries in Asia/Pacific. In particular, China once again continued executions on a massive scale: 1,791 people were executed and 2,496 people were sentenced to death during 1994, but Amnesty International believes these figures are far below the real numbers.

Apart from the huge numbers of executions in China, more than 70 others were executed in the Asia/Pacific region, including in India, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, and Taiwan. In Singapore, at least 10 people were sentenced to death, eight of them for drug trafficking, and another 32 were known to have been executed. In the Philippines, 22 people were sentenced to death, though no one was executed in 1994.

In eight countries in the Asia/Pacific region, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Pakistan and Philippines, armed political groups killed hundreds of unarmed

civilians. In India, Amnesty international appealed to armed opposition groups to release all hostages held in Jammu and Kashmir.

There were some positive human rights developments in the Asia/Pacific region, including the passage of a human rights act in New Zealand in February 1994 that reinforced safeguards against discrimination based on race, religion, ethnic or national origin, disability, sexual orientation or HIV infection. A comedian imprisoned in Myanmar as a prisoner of conscience was released in March after four years in jail. In Pakistan, after two years of campaigning by Amnesty International, a prisoner of conscience sentenced to death for blasphemy was finally acquitted in November 1994. Upon his release, however, Gul Masih received death threats from Islamists, forced to go into hiding and eventually left the country.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ASIA /PACIFIC DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1995

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Thousands of prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience were held in at least 15 countries. China and India both held thousands of political prisoners and hundreds were held in Indonesia. Dozens of prisoners of conscience were imprisoned in each of Myanmar, Pakistan, South Korea and Sri Lanka.

DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- Fifteen countries between them held more than 6,000 political prisoners without charge or trial, including particularly China and India. Hundreds were held in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- At least six countries held unfair trials, including Bangladesh, China, Indonesia and South Korea.

“DISAPPEARANCES”

- Hundreds of people "disappeared" in five countries, including Afghanistan, India and Indonesia. Hundreds more remained missing in Indonesia and Sri Lanka from previous years.

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- A total of several thousand victims or possible victims of extrajudicial executions by government security forces were reported from eight countries, including Afghanistan, India and Pakistan.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Torture or ill-treatment of prisoners in police custody was reported in 20 countries.

- In four countries people died as a result of torture in custody, or inhuman prison conditions. There were hundreds of cases of deaths from torture alleged in India. More than a hundred deaths as a result of torture were reported in Bangladesh and Pakistan. In Mongolia, 90 prisoners died as a result of starvation or illnesses caused by starvation.

DEATH PENALTY

- China sentenced to death at least 2,496 people and executed 1,791 people. More than 70 executions were known to have been carried out in seven other countries: India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan

- In 1994, 11 countries had prisoners on death row, with more than 350 others awaiting execution in Indonesia, Japan, South Korea and Thailand.

VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Amnesty International documented cases of women who were raped, sexually abused or targeted for attack by security forces or armed political groups in several countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China and Myanmar.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Armed political groups killed hundreds of people in Afghanistan, while hundreds of others were killed by the armed opposition in seven other countries, including Cambodia, India and Pakistan.

EUROPE

Highlights of Amnesty International Report 1995 Covering events from January to December 1994

Violent internal conflicts in the region once again led to political killings, "disappearances" and other human rights violations. In a climate of growing intolerance, racist ill-treatment by the police and security forces went unpunished in many European countries. The need for essential safeguards in asylum procedures became more pressing as European governments kept disregarding international standards for refugee protection.

At the start of the year, four different armed forces were fighting in various areas of **Bosnia-Herzegovina**. Despite the difficulties of monitoring human rights violations in the conflict, hundreds of deliberate and arbitrary killings were reported, mostly committed by Bosnian Serb forces, and hundreds of prisoners of conscience were held by various parties to the conflict. There were confirmed cases of widespread human rights abuses against Muslims, Croats and Roma remaining in Bosnian Serb-controlled areas. Other human rights violations included "disappearances", bombing or shooting at houses, and attacking people in their homes. The aim of the attacks was often to force people to leave the area, and women and children featured particularly among the victims. Some women were subjected to assault or rape by military forces in the course of what were effectively forcible expulsions.

In December, Russian troops launched a military assault in the self-proclaimed **Chechen Republic-Ichkeriya**, an area in the south of the country which had declared itself independent in 1991. Thousands were estimated to have been killed in subsequent fighting, and there were numerous allegations of human rights abuses being committed by Russian troops in the area. In one particular instance, 10 people were said to have been shot dead by Russian troops while trying to flee the fighting. After seven vehicles from a convoy of 10 had passed through a checkpoint near the village of Nesterovskoye, troops opened fire on the last three cars. Survivors alleged that troops fired without warning and continued firing on those seeking to escape. Amnesty International called on all parties involved to protect all non-combatants in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law. The organization urged the Russian authorities to ensure that the investigation into the deaths near the village of Nesterovskoye was comprehensive and impartial, with the results made public and anyone found responsible for human rights violations brought to justice.

In **Turkey**, hundreds of people suspected of supporting Kurdish separatism were arrested, many of them at public meetings and demonstrations, and held for hours or days in police custody as prisoners of conscience. Dozens were sentenced to prison terms. Torture of political and criminal

detainees in police stations was routine and systematic, and there were at least 29 reported deaths in custody as a result of torture. At least 55 people "disappeared" in security force custody, and there were hundreds of political killings in the mainly Kurdish southeastern provinces, many in circumstances that suggested the victims had been extrajudicially executed by the security forces. In September, the Turkish Government banned an Amnesty International researcher from entering the country.

Cases of torture and ill-treatment by police forces were recorded in 29 countries in the region, including some West European countries like **France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland**. In many cases, ill-treatment by police appeared to be racially motivated. In **France** there was also a worrying number of shootings and killings by law enforcement officers -- in all the cases mentioned in Amnesty International's annual report, the victims carried no firearms. In **Romania** and **Bulgaria**, there were frequent reports of police harassment and ill-treatment of Roma. In both countries, government investigations into the cases were slow and appeared not to have been thorough or impartial. In **Yugoslavia**, over 2,500 people -- mostly ethnic Albanians -- were ill-treated or tortured by police primarily because of their ethnic identity.

Prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience were held in 20 European countries. **France** and **Greece** had the largest numbers of conscientious objectors to military service. About 400 conscientious objectors to military service were imprisoned in Greece; all prisoners of conscience. The unofficial estimate in France was 500. The vast majority were Jehovah's Witnesses who refused to perform military service on religious grounds.

The death penalty has been abolished in most European countries, with **Italy** joining the list during 1994. However, most of the former Soviet Union republics continued to condemn prisoners to death. In **Russia**, at least 125 people were sentenced to death, and three people were executed, but the death penalty was abolished for four offences. Amnesty International welcomed this step, and President Yeltsin's wide exercise of his right to pardon, but continued to urge the authorities to commute all death sentences and to take further steps towards total abolition. In **Ukraine**, at least 200 people were sentenced to death. One execution came to light during the year, but the true figure was believed to be much higher; information was received of 181 executions in 1992 and 1993.

In July Amnesty International published a report on cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during forcible deportation in the **United Kingdom**. In some cases, unauthorized equipment had been used to restrain deportees, including mouth gags, adhesive tape and plastic straps. The organization urged the government to set up an independent inquiry into allegations of ill-treatment and create an independent statutory authority to regulate the Immigration Service and the private security firms employed by them. The British Prime Minister, John Major, wrote to Amnesty International in August rejecting the need for either.

Armed opposition groups committed human rights abuses in at least six European countries. In **Spain**, attacks by the armed Basque group Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA), Basque Homeland and Liberty, on the security forces and civilians continued throughout the year. Thirteen people, including four civilians were killed, and more than 20 were injured. In the **United Kingdom** armed political groups claimed responsibility for killing 60 people in Northern Ireland, until cease-fires were declared late in the year. In **Turkey**, members of the PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party) were responsible for over 170 deliberate and arbitrary killings of prisoners and other non-combatants.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN EUROPE DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1995

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- More than 200 extrajudicial executions or possible extrajudicial executions were reported in seven countries - Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

"DISAPPEARANCES"

- People "disappeared" or remained unaccounted for in Bosnia, Croatia and Turkey.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Detainees were tortured and/or ill-treated in prisons, police stations or other detention centres in 29 countries including Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

- More than 60 people died as a result of torture, in custody, or inhuman prison conditions in some 10 countries.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Over 1,000 prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience were held in 20 countries including Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Greece, Switzerland, Turkey and Uzbekistan. France and Greece held by far the largest numbers of conscientious objectors (500 in France and 400 in Greece), most of them Jehovah's Witnesses who refused to perform military service on religious grounds.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- Cases of prisoners being held after unfair trials were recorded in Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Georgia and Yugoslavia.

DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- Cases of detention without charge or trial were recorded in nine countries, including Macedonia, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

DEATH PENALTY

- Executions took place in at least eight countries, including Albania, Georgia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

- At least 19 countries had prisoners on death row. In Russia, at least 125 people were sentenced to death, and three people were executed, but the death penalty was abolished for four offences. At least 200 people were sentenced to death in Ukraine, and one was known to have been executed -- but the true figure is believed to be considerably higher.

- Italy abolished the death penalty for all offences.

VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

- Cases of violations of the human rights of women were recorded in countries including Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Romania, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Armed opposition groups committed human rights abuses, such as torture, deliberate and arbitrary killings or hostage taking in at least six countries including Spain, the United Kingdom and Turkey.

MIDDLE EAST

Highlights of Amnesty International Report 1995 covering events from January to December 1994

Appalling human rights abuses were committed by governments and their agents across the Middle East during 1994, including imprisonment of prisoners of conscience, judicial and extrajudicial executions, "disappearances", torture, arbitrary political detention and unfair trials of political prisoners.

Under the protection of almost total impunity, governments and their forces continued to commit gross human rights violations, while armed opposition groups were responsible in some countries for deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians, torture and the taking of hostages.

In **Algeria**, the civilian population was frequently caught between the security forces and armed Islamist groups, as armed attacks and clashes continued during the year. This resulted in thousands of deaths and injuries, and in hundreds of civilians being extrajudicially executed by the security forces or deliberately and arbitrarily killed by armed opposition groups defining themselves as armed Islamist groups.

At least 30 political prisoners, including possible prisoners of conscience, continued serving long sentences imposed in previous years after unfair trials in **Bahrain**, and hundreds of people were arrested in December 1994 in connection with their religious or political activities.

Dozens of lawyers and a number of journalists detained in **Egypt** were also prisoners of conscience, and thousands of suspected members or sympathizers of banned Islamist groups were administratively detained under State of Emergency legislation in force since 1981.

In **Israel and the Occupied Territories**, over 6000 Palestinians were detained on security grounds by the Israeli authorities. At least 5450 political prisoners were held at the end of the year, including about 240 administrative detainees. At least 82 Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli forces. Some of them were killed during armed clashes, while others were killed in circumstances suggesting that they may have been victims of unlawful killings or extrajudicial executions.

In the areas under the **Palestinian Authority's** jurisdiction, hundreds of Palestinians were detained by Palestinian security forces following mass political arrests. Palestinian armed groups committed grave human rights abuses including deliberate and arbitrary killings and hostage-taking. Over 70 Palestinians, mostly suspected of "collaborating" with the Israeli authorities, were also killed by Palestinian groups. At least 15 people were killed by the Palestinian Authority's security forces, some in circumstances suggesting that they were unlawfully killed.

In **Iraq**, thousands of suspected government opponents and their relatives were detained during the year and tens of thousands arrested in previous years continued to be held. Extrajudicial executions of suspected government opponents also continued to be reported. In areas of **Iraqi Kurdistan** under Kurdish control, widespread human rights abuses were committed, including torture and deliberate and arbitrary killings, since December 1993.

There were continuing reports of political arrests, unfair trials and summary executions in **Iran**. Some political prisoners and prisoners of conscience were still held after years in detention without trial or after unfair trials. Religious minority figures were victims of possible extrajudicial executions, while a government opponent was killed in Turkey in January 1994, in circumstances suggesting the possible involvement of Iranian Government agents. The threat of extrajudicial execution extended to many Iranian opposition activists abroad, as well as to non-Iranians, such as the British writer Salman Rushdie, whose killing had been called for in a fatwa (religious edict) in 1989.

In **Kuwait**, over 160 political prisoners, including 13 women, continued to serve prison terms imposed after unfair trials in 1991, 1992 and 1993. At least 150 other political prisoners, including possible prisoners of conscience, who were arrested in 1991 on charges of "collaboration" with Iraqi forces, remained in custody awaiting trial.

In **Lebanon**, hundreds of suspected political opponents, including possible prisoners of conscience, were arrested by government forces and Syrian security personnel stationed in Lebanon.

More than 400 security detainees, including possible prisoners of conscience, were also arrested during the year in **Jordan**, and many were held in prolonged incommunicado detention. Most were released without charge, but at least 25 were sentenced before the State Security Court, whose procedures do not satisfy international standards for fair trial. In March, 1995 the Court of Cassation overturned these sentences, and ordered a retrial.

In **Saudi Arabia**, hundreds of suspected Sunni Islamist opponents of the government were arrested during the year for their political or religious activities. At least 30 Iraqi refugees arrested following a protest in Rafha refugee camp in March 1993 remained held without trial.

In **Oman**, about 160 political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, were sentenced to heavy prison sentences.

In **Syria**, thousands of political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, remained in prison. Some were serving sentences imposed after unfair trials, most were held without charge or trial, and several political prisoners continued to be held after their sentences had expired.

Hundreds of political prisoners, including possible prisoners of conscience, remained held in **Libya** without charge or trial; most had been held incommunicado since their arrest in previous years. Five prisoners of conscience sentenced in previous years to life imprisonment after unfair trials remained in Abou Salim Prison in Tripoli.

In **Yemen**, following the outbreak of full scale civil war in May, thousands of civilians, among them prisoners of conscience, were detained without charge or trial.

In **Tunisia**, hundreds of suspected supporters of the unauthorized Islamist organization *al-Nahda* and the unauthorized *Parti Communiste des Ouvriers Tunisiens* (PCOT), Tunisian Communist Worker's Party, and other government opponents and critics were arrested. Over 2000 political prisoners,

most of them sentenced after unfair trials since 1991, remained held. Prolonged garde-à-vue (incommunicado) detention continued to facilitate torture and ill-treatment of detainees. Just before the presidential electoral campaign, a new wave of arrests and harassment of government opponents and critics further restricted freedom of expression and association.

Torture and ill-treatment of both male and female detainees during garde-à-vue detention continued to be reported. Wives and other relatives of Islamist political activists who were in prison or who had fled the country were often detained and subjected to ill-treatment and harassment during questioning, including sexual harassment and threats of rape.

In **Egypt**, at least one political detainee died apparently as a result of torture. In **Algeria** scores of detainees are reported to have died as result of torture. In **Iran**, prisoners were tortured or ill-treated to extract confessions or statements to be used as evidence at trials. For example, Sheikh Makki Akhound, a follower of Ayatollah Hossein `Ali Montazeri, a leading jurist, was reportedly subjected to two months of torture, including beatings and lashing.

Palestinian detainees continued to be systematically tortured or ill-treated in **Israel** and the **Occupied Territories** during interrogation by the General Security Service, often while held incommunicado. Methods used including hooding with dirty sacks, shackling in painful positions for prolonged periods, beatings, sleep deprivation and confinement in dark, closet sized cells. Torture was also reported from the areas under the jurisdiction of the **Palestinian Authority** and one detainee died in custody.

Beatings and torture or ill-treatment continued to be widely reported, especially in **Western Sahara**. At least four people died in police custody in **Morocco**, allegedly a result of torture or ill-treatment.

New information was received about the torture and ill-treatment of Iraqi refugees in Rafha and Artawiyya camps in **Saudi Arabia**. In **Syria**, commonly cited torture methods including falaqa (beating on the soles of the feet) and dullab (the "tyre" whereby the victim is suspended from a tyre and beaten with sticks or cables). In **Lebanon**, at least three people died in custody in suspicious circumstances. Judicial punishments of flogging and amputation continued to be imposed in **Iran**, **Saudi Arabia** and the **United Arab Emirates**. In **Iraq**, the new judicial punishments of amputation of the hand or foot, severance of the ear and branding were imposed widely, with hundreds of cases reported in Baghdad, Mosul, Basra and other cities. New laws in **Libya** allowed for the judicial punishments of flogging and amputation.

Numerous executions were reported during the year. In **Egypt**, 31 people were executed and at least 139 people were executed in **Iran**, including political prisoners. At least 17 people were executed in **Libya**, 53 in **Saudi Arabia**, two in **Syria**, 14 in **Jordan**, 25 people in **Yemen** and an unknown number of judicial executions were carried out in **Iraq**. Judicial executions resumed in **Lebanon** after 11 years.

"Disappearances" continued to occur throughout the region in 1994. In **Kuwait** the fate and whereabouts of at least 62 detainees who "disappeared" from custody in 1991 remained unknown, and in **Iraq**, the cases of thousands of detainees who "disappeared" in previous years remained unresolved. In **Lebanon**, the fate of thousands of people abducted during the civil war remained unknown.

Mansur Kikhya, a prominent member of the **Libyan** opposition and a human rights activist, remained missing since he "disappeared" during a visit to Cairo in 1993. In **Morocco**, hundreds of Sahrawi and Moroccans who had "disappeared" in previous years remained unaccounted for.

Armed opposition groups were responsible for grave human rights abuses in several countries in the region. In **Algeria** hundreds of civilians were killed by armed Islamist groups. In **Egypt** and **Israel** and **the Occupied Territories** armed opposition groups committed gross human rights abuses, including deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians. In areas of **Iraqi Kurdistan** under Kurdish control, widespread human rights abuses were committed, including deliberate and arbitrary killings.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1995

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Thousands of people were victims of extrajudicial executions or possible extrajudicial executions by government security forces or their agents in at least nine countries, including Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq including areas under Kurdish control, Israel and the Occupied Territories and the areas under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

"DISAPPEARANCES"

- The fate and whereabouts of thousands of people who "disappeared" remained unaccounted for in several countries, including Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Western Sahara, Syria, and Yemen.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Cases of torture or ill-treatment were reported in sixteen countries in the region, including Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Israel and the Occupied Territories and the Palestinian Authority's areas, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Yemen.

- Cases of detainees who died in custody, allegedly as a result of torture or from ill-health aggravated by cruel, inhuman or degrading prison conditions were reported in several countries, including Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Thousands of prisoners of conscience and possible prisoners of conscience remained in prison in 17 countries, including Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- Hundreds of cases of political prisoners being held after unfair trials were recorded in Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. Dozens of cases were reported in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

DETENTIONS WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- Hundreds of people remained in detention without charge or trial in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Territories including the Palestinian Authority's areas, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

DEATH PENALTY

- Executions were carried out in 10 countries : 31 in Egypt, at least 139 in Iran, 14 in Jordan, one in Kuwait, at least 17 in Libya, 53 in Saudi Arabia, two in Syria, at least five in the United Arab Emirates, and 25 in Yemen. In Iraq, hundreds of executions are carried out every year, including 1994, but it was not possible to obtain reliable figures on the number executed.

- A total of 653 people remained on death row in at least five countries, including more than 100 in Algeria, 39 in Egypt, one person in Israel and the Occupied Territories, six in Kuwait and two in Lebanon, where executions resumed after 11 years.

VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

- Violations of the human rights of women were reported in many Middle East countries, including women who were killed or threatened to be killed by armed Islamists groups in Algeria. Wives and other relatives of Islamist political activists in Tunisia were subjected to ill-treatment, including sexual harassment and threats of rape. In Kuwait, women were among those serving prison sentences after unfair trials.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Armed opposition groups committed serious human rights abuses, such as deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians, torture and hostage taking in Algeria, Egypt, areas of Iraqi Kurdistan under Kurdish control and Israel and the Occupied Territories.