

EMBARGOED UNTIL 0001 HRS GMT, WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 1997

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT 1997

Annual Report Statistics 1997

AI INDEX: POL 10/05/97

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The following statistics on human rights abuses in 1996 are based on information from the Amnesty International Report 1997. The statistics include the number of countries in which human rights abuses took place and, where possible, the number of known victims of those violations.

In many cases, the nature and interrelation of the human rights abuses 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 in each case.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WORLDWIDE DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1997

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Thousands of extrajudicial executions or possible extrajudicial executions were reported in at least 69 countries of the region including Algeria, Colombia, India, Somalia and Turkey.

“DISAPPEARANCES”

- The fate of hundreds of thousands of people in at least 39 countries who “disappeared” in recent years, including 1996, remains unknown. Many of those, in countries including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi and Rwanda, Colombia, Iraq, Sri Lanka and Venezuela, may have subsequently been killed.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Tens of thousands of detainees were subjected to torture or ill-treatment, including rape, in at least 124 countries, including Cuba, Egypt, Myanmar, Russian Federation and Nigeria.
- Several hundred people died as a result of torture in custody or inhuman prison conditions in at least 46 countries, including Cameroon, India, Libya, Venezuela, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience were held in at least 94 countries, including Afghanistan, Equatorial Guinea, Greece, Peru, and Tunisia.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- More than 39 countries, including Burundi, China, Greece, Israel and the Occupied Territories, and Peru imprisoned people after unfair trials.

DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- At least 78 countries, including China, Iraq, Russian Federation, Rwanda, and Venezuela held tens of thousands of people without charging them with any crime.

DEATH PENALTY

- Thousands of people were known to have been executed in at least 41 countries including China, Iraq, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America, although Amnesty International believes the real figure to be far higher.
- Amnesty International documented the cases of thousands of people who were sentenced to death in 58 countries, including Algeria, China, Kenya, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ukraine. The organization believes the true figure to be much higher
- Thousands of prisoners remained under sentence of death in 48 countries, including Morocco and Western Sahara, Philippines, Russian Federation, Uganda, and United States of America.
- In 1996, Belgium abolished the death penalty in its entirety, while two countries extended the the scope of the death penalty -- Libya and Guatemala.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Armed opposition groups committed abuses including torture, hostage taking and deliberate and arbitrary killings in at least 38 countries, including Algeria, Burundi, Colombia, Sri Lanka, and the United Kingdom.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN AFRICA DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1997

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Thousands of people were victims of extrajudicial executions or possible extrajudicial executions by government security forces or their agents in at least 20 countries, including Angola, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zaire.

“DISAPPEARANCES”

- “Disappearances” were reported in at least five countries in the region including Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, and Rwanda.
- People “disappeared” or remained unaccounted for after disappearing in previous years in Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Cases of torture and ill-treatment, including rape were reported in at least 29 countries in the region.
- Hundreds of people died apparently as a result of torture in custody or from cruel, inhuman or degrading prison conditions in at least 10 countries, including Chad, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Kenya, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Prisoners of conscience and possible prisoners of conscience were held in at least 27 countries, including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- Cases of political prisoners being held after unfair trials were recorded in at least nine countries, including Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria and Sudan.

DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- Tens of thousands of people remained in detention without charge or trial in at least 29 countries. Rwanda alone detained at least 92,000 people. Other countries included Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Togo and Zaire.

DEATH PENALTY

- Executions were carried out in at least six countries including Burundi, Comoros, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.
- Death sentences were handed down in at least 14 countries including Angola, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
- Several hundred people were on death row in at least 14 countries including Cameroon, Kenya, Mali, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zaire, and Zambia.

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 12 countries, including tens of thousands in Burundi. Other countries included Angola, Chad, Liberia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda and Zaire.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE AMERICAS DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1997

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Thousands of people were victims of extrajudicial executions or possible extrajudicial executions by members of the security forces or their agents in at least 17 countries of the region, including Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Venezuela.

“DISAPPEARANCES”

- “Disappearances” took place in at least five countries of the region, including Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru.
- The fate of hundreds of thousands of people who “disappeared” in previous years remains unknown in at least 12 countries in the region with tens of thousands in Guatemala; other countries include Peru, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay and Venezuela.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Torture and ill-treatment, including rape, took place in at least 21 countries, including Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, USA, and Venezuela.
- Cases of detainees who died apparently as a result of torture or ill-treatment in custody or from cruel, inhuman, or degrading prison conditions were reported in Mexico, Peru, USA, and Venezuela.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Several hundred prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience were held in at least 11 countries, including Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- Hundreds of cases of political prisoners being held after unfair trials were recorded in at least three countries in the region. These were Cuba, Mexico and Peru.

DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- Detentions without charge or trial took place in at least eight countries of the region including Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela.

DEATH PENALTY

- At least 51 executions were carried out in four countries of the region: Bahamas (2), Guatemala (2), Guyana (2), and United States of America (45).
- Death sentences were known to have been handed down in at least seven countries including Bahamas, Belize, Chile, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago.
- More than 3,150 people were on death row in USA. At least eight other countries in the region held prisoners under sentence of death including Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Guatemala, and Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- Guatemala extended the scope of the death penalty to include kidnapping

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Several hundred abuses by armed opposition groups took place in Colombia, and Peru. Cases were also recorded in Mexico and Nicaragua.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ASIA/PACIFIC DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1997

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Hundreds of extrajudicial executions or possible extrajudicial executions were reported in 15 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia and East Timor, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

“DISAPPEARANCES”

- Hundreds of “disappearances” were reported in nine countries including Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The fate of over 3,000 people who “disappeared” in the region in recent years remains unknown.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Tens of thousands of cases of torture or ill-treatment, including rape, were reported in 24 countries including Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia and East Timor, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.
- At least 322 people died as a result of torture in custody or from cruel, inhuman, or degrading prison conditions in at least eight countries, including Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Over 4,000 prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience were held in 22 countries in the region including Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia and East Timor, Myanmar, and Singapore.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- Thousands of people were imprisoned after unfair trials in China; other countries included Cambodia, Indonesia and East Timor, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Tonga.
- People remained in jail after unfair trials in previous years in at least five countries including China, Indonesia and East Timor, Republic of Korea, and Laos.

DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- 19 countries held a total of more than 29,000 people without charge or trial or under administrative detention. China detained people in massive numbers; thousands were detained in Bangladesh; India held more than 1,517; Sri Lanka held around 1,600. Hundreds were detained in Indonesia and East Timor, Malaysia, Myanmar and Nepal.

DEATH PENALTY

- 11 countries passed at least 6,337 death sentences in 1996.
- More than 3,586 executions were carried out in 11 countries. China executed at least 3,500 people. More than 38 people were executed in Singapore. Executions were also reported in Afghanistan, India, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Taiwan, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- Hundreds of prisoners remained under sentence of death in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and East Timor, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Armed opposition groups committed abuses including torture, hostage taking and deliberate and arbitrary killings in 11 countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN EUROPE DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1997

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Extrajudicial executions or possible extrajudicial executions by government forces or their agents were reported in at least nine countries of the region, including Bulgaria, Croatia, Russian Federation, and Turkey.

“DISAPPEARANCES”

- “Disappearances” took place in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Turkey.
- The fate and whereabouts of people who “disappeared” or went “missing” in previous years remained unknown in five countries in the region -- thousands in both Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia; Cyprus, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Torture or ill-treatment, sometimes including rape, took place in at least 33 countries of the region, including Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
- Deaths in custody as a result of torture or ill-treatment, or cruel, inhuman, or degrading prison conditions were reported in at least 16 countries, including Mongolia, Russian Federation, Turkey, and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Several hundred prisoners of conscience and possible prisoners of conscience were held in 17 countries, including Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Greece, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

UNFAIR TRIALS

- Hundreds of people were imprisoned after unfair or possibly unfair trials in Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Georgia, and Greece.

DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- Detentions without charge or trial took place in at least seven countries including Bosnia-Herzegovina and Russian Federation.

DEATH PENALTY

- At least 471 executions were carried out in nine countries of the region: Belarus, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.
- Several hundred death sentences were handed down in at least 16 countries in the region, including Azerbaijan, Kazakstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
- Several hundred people were on death row at the end of the year in at least seven countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Russian Federation, and Ukraine.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

- Abuses took place in at least seven countries of the region including Cyprus, France, Russian Federation, Spain, Tajikistan, Turkey, and United Kingdom.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA DETAILED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 1997

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

- Hundreds of people were victims of extrajudicial executions or possible extrajudicial executions by government security forces or their agents in at least eight countries and territories, including Algeria, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq including areas under Kurdish control, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Lebanon, Libya, and the Palestinian Authority.

“DISAPPEARANCES”

- The fate and whereabouts of thousands of people who “disappeared” remained unknown in at least eight countries, including Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco and Western Sahara, Syria, and Yemen.

TORTURE OR ILL-TREATMENT

- Cases of torture and ill-treatment including rape were reported in at least 17 countries and territories in the region.
- Cases of detainees who died apparently as a result of torture in custody or from cruel, inhuman, or degrading prison conditions were reported in eight countries, including Algeria, Bahrain, Iran, Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Western Sahara, Palestinian Authority, and Yemen.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- Thousands of prisoners of conscience and possible prisoners of conscience remained in prison in 17 countries and territories, including Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Western Sahara, Palestinian Authority, 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 15 countries and territories in the region including Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq including areas under Kurdish control, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Western Sahara, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen.

DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL

- Tens of thousands of people were held in detention without charge or trial in at least 16 countries and territories including Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco and Western Sahara, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen.

DEATH PENALTY

- Executions were known to have been carried out in 11 countries: one in Bahrain, at least 14 in Egypt, at least 110 in Iran, at least 134 in Iraq, at least nine in Jordan, one in Kuwait, two in Lebanon, at least 69 in Saudi Arabia, at least seven in Syria, and one in the United Arab Emirates.
- Hundreds of people were sentenced to death in at least 10 countries and territories in the region, including Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, and Yemen.
- At least 650 people were on death row in at least six countries in the region, with over 600 in Algeria alone. Other countries included Kuwait, Libya, Morocco and Western Sahara, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.
- In Libya, the scope of the death penalty was extended to include those “who speculate in food, clothes or housing during a state of war or blockade, and may be applied for crimes related to drugs, alcohol and speculation in foreign currency”.

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 four countries and territories including Algeria, Egypt, areas of Iraqi Kurdistan under Kurdish control, and Israel and the Occupied Territories.