A chronology
an Amnesty International publication

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is a worldwide human rights movement which is independent of any government, political faction, ideology, economic interest or religious creed. It works for the release of men and women imprisoned anywhere for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin or religion, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. These are termed "prisoners of conscience".

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL opposes torture and capital punishment in all cases and without reservation. It advocates fair and early trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of persons detained without charge or without trial and those detained after expiry of their sentences.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL seeks observance throughout the world of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has 1,650 adoption groups and national sections in 33 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North America and South America and individual members in 74 countries. Each adoption group works for three prisoners of conscience in countries other than its own. The three countries are balanced geographically and politically to ensure impartiality. Information about prisoners and human rights violations emanates from Amnesty International's Research Department in London.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, is recognized by UNESCO, and has observer status with the Organization of African Unity (Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees).

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## ntroduction

Open your newspapers any day of the week and you will find a report from somewhere in the world of someone being imprisoned, tortured or executed because his opinions or religion are unacceptable to his government... The newspaper reader feels a sickening sense of impotence. Yet if these feelings of disgust all over the world could be united into common action, something effective could be done.

Early in 1961, a British lawyer named Peter Benenson read in his morning paper of two students in Portugal who had been arrested in a restaurant and sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment for raising their glasses in a toast to freedom.

Indignant, Mr Benenson's first reaction was to go to the Portuguese Embassy in London and protest personally, but he realized that such an individual gesture would accomplish little for the students themselves.

Government repression of dissent was a problem that had long troubled Mr Benenson. During the 1950s he had attended political trials in Hungary, Cyprus, South Africa and Spain, either as a legal observer or as defence counsel. He had also written and broadcast widely about the problem.

Now he began to wonder how oppressive regimes might react to concerted worldwide protests to acts of political injustice, rather than to the individual protest he had contemplated in the case of the Portuguese students. Gradually he conceived the idea of a one-year international campaign to draw world attention to the plight of persons detained throughout the world-under all political systems—for the peaceful expression of their political or religious opinions.

He discussed the idea with Eric Baker, a prominent English Quaker, and other friends. Their enthusiastic reactions led to him writing the article in The Observer newspaper, whose opening words are quoted above and which was entitled "The Forgotten Prisoners". The article and a report in Le Monde the same day announced the launching of a one-year campaign called "Appeal for Amnesty, 1961"

whose object was to obtain an amnesty for all political and religious prisoners of conscience. Part of the campaign was the establishment of an office in London to collect information about such prisoners and to publicize individual cases.

The appeal quickly attracted international support and within a few short months the groundwork was laid for a permanent organization that eventually became known as Amnesty International.

To mark Al's 15th anniversary, we publish on the following pages a chronology of the organization's development from those early days. It is by no means a comprehensive history. For one thing, the handful of overworked volunteers who staffed Al's first office in Mitre Court, London (on so tight a budget that they often paid the postage for letters out of their own pockets), had little time for organizational record-keeping. All their efforts were channelled into collecting and publicizing information about prisoners of conscience. Inevitably, therefore, there are gaps in the early annual reports and bulletins—precise dates, for example.

Also largely unmentioned in this chronology are the activities of our national sections, groups and members whose energy and dedication are responsible for the growth of the organization both in their own countries and throughout the world and in whom the real credit for Amnesty International's present position resides.

For Amnesty International, from its earliest days, has been a grass roots movement which, in Peter Benenson's words, "united into common action". The true history of Amnesty International lies not so much with the events recorded here, as with the thousands of prisoners of conscience and victims of torture whose cases it has taken up—and with the tens of thousands of unheralded private individuals throughout the world who have worked unremittingly for their relief and freedom.

## Une campagne mondiale l'amnistie des prisonniers politiques

### est lancée à Londres

di procham à Londres pour ouven va être constitué à Paris. délit d'opinion, et pour l'obtention tie du Vietneu . de garant des libertés simon bukwe, p

Une conférence se tiendra lun- du monde. Un groupe de soutien

une campagne dénommée : « Ap<sub>ro</sub> Quatre cas de prisonniers victipel a l'amnistie 1961 » (1). Un de mes de régimes différents dans **di**ses animateurs, M. Benenson, en vers pays seront examinés à Lonexpose les objectifs dans un article dres. Ce sont ceux d'Istvan Bibo, publié dimanche par l'Observer un des chefs du parti paysan hou-Fondée sur l'initiative d'un groupe grois, ancien membre du cabi**net** d'avocats, d'écrivains et de direc- d'Imre Nagy - de Tony Ambatieteurs de journaux, cette campagne : los, secrétaire général du syndic**as l** se propose de lutter pour la libéra- des marins grecs ; du Dr Dan, | tion des prisonniers poursuivis pour , chef du parti de la 🚈re démocra- 🕻

1961 MAY

Amnesty International, under its original name Appeal for Amnesty 1961, founded. The general accepted official date is 28 May: the day an article by British lawyer Peter Benenson, called "The Forgotten Prisoners" and announcing the appeal, was published in The Observer newspaper in London. Le Monde, Paris, published a report of the appeal the same day. Articles about the new organization were published in Journal de Genève (Switzerland) on 1 June, Die Welt (West Germany), The New York Post (United States, and Berlingske Tidende (Denmark) on 2 June and in hundreds of newspapers throughout the world in succeeding weeks. Joint directors of the Appeal for Amnesty were Mr Benenson and Eric Baker.

☐ Office and library staffed by volunteers opened in Mitre Court, London. "Threes Network" established whereby each Amnesty group adopted three prisoners from contrasting geographical and political areas, thus emphasizing impartiality of the group's work.

Fortnightly journal on political imprisonment called Amnesty JUNE

published.

First international meeting held in Luxembourg (22-23 July), attended by representatives from Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland and the United States. Meeting decides to establish "a permanent international movement in

defence of freedom of opinion and religion".

Penguin Books publishes Persecution 1961, by Peter Benenson, a OCTOBER

collection of nine cases of political and religious persecution, and

which forms part of the Appeal for Amnesty campaign. International colloquy on "Frontiers of Freedom" held in Leiden,

Holland.

1962

DECEMBER

JULY

Prisoners of Conscience Fund established to provide relief to

prisoners and their families.

"Personal Freedom in the Emergent Countries" is first of three JANUARY conferences held in London "to study the state of personal free-

dom in different parts of the world". In June there is a conference on "Personal Freedom in the Marxist-Leninist Countries" and in November a conference on "Personal Freedom in Western Europe"

Amnesty changes to larger quarterly journal, interspersed with MARCH small AI newsletter called Amnesty News in months when journal does not appear.

First Annual Report 1961/62: 210 prisoners under adoption, SEPTEMBER

1,200 cases documented in Prisoners of Conscience Library,

missions sent to Ghana, Czechoslovakia, Portugal, East Germany; 70 AI groups in seven countries (Australia, Britain, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United States); income and expenditure: £7,359, five shillings, sixpence.

□ Second international meeting held at Château de Male, near Bruges, Belgium. Meeting changes name of organization to Amnesty International (to take effect on 1 January 1963) and approves a constitution.

**DECEMBER** 

Dutch television company KPRO makes film of work carried out in AI London office, exciting wide interest in Holland, Belgium and Germany and bringing 800 letters to Dutch Section. ☐ AI publishes booklet entitled A Time to keep silent... and a time to speak to mark Human Rights Day (10 December), with individual messages from philosophers, statesmen and churchmen. It also publishes a code of conduct laying down safeguards about the arrest, remand, trial, appeal, imprisonment and detention of prisoners of conscience.

1963

MARCH

Relief department instituted in secretariat for those prisoners and their families not otherwise helped by "Three Groups". ☐ First bimonthly AI Bulletin for members published.

SEPTEMBER

Annual Report 1962/63: Two-year totals of 770 prisoners adopted, 140 released; 260 groups in 12 countries (Australia, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, United States), individual members in 35 countries; income and expenditure: £8,608. ☐ Third international meeting in Köenigswinter, Germany, elects five-man International Executive Committee to supervise functions of secretariat in London. Former Irish Foreign Minister Sean MacBride elected first IEC chairman.

**NOVEMBER** 

International Secretariat established in London.

DECEMBER

Research Bureau, consisting of volunteers, established to prepare background papers on political imprisonment in individual countries.

1964

**JANUARY** 

Al begins publishing quarterly journal for groups called Eustomy (classical Greek word with two meanings: "speaking auspicious words" and "keeping silence to avoid words of ill-omen").

SUMMER

Poll of membership after Nelson Mandela case in South Africa leads, by overwhelming majority, to reaffirmation of nonviolence condition attached to adoption of prisoners by Al.

United Nations gives AI consultative status. **AUGUST** 

Annual Report 1963/64, with introduction by Dr Albert SEPTEMBER Schweitzer: Three-year totals of 1,367 prisoners adopted, 329 released; 360 groups in 14 countries (as 1963, plus Canada, Finland and Israel but minus France); budget set at £10,000

but only £4,000 received. ☐ International Assembly held in Canterbury, England. Peter Benenson, who until now has acted as secretary to International

Executive Committee, named President of AI.

1965

MAY

Al sponsors resolution at UN to suspend and finally abolish capital punishment for peacetime political offences.

**JANUARY** Council of Europe gives AI consultative status.

Article in The Reader's Digest brings surge of international MARCH

interest in AI.

Monthly Postcards for Prisoners Campaign started. (Campaign originally called Kit Scheme, after the fact that participants were supplied with "kits" of AI postcards to send.)

International Secretariat moves to Crane Court, London. JULY

Annual Report 1964/65: 1,200 prisoners under adoption, four-SEPTEMBER year total of 800 prisoners released; 400 groups in 19 countries

(as 1964, plus Faroe Islands, France, Italy, Sweden and West Pakistan); budget: £7,000.

☐ AI publishes simultaneous reports on prison conditions in Portugal, South Africa and Romania.

☐ International Assembly in Scheveningen, Holland, establishes central emergency fund to finance emergency missions in cases where the death sentence is likely. (Name changed on her death in 1967 to Karin O'Donovan Emergency Fund in memory of honorary secretary of Irish section who had done much to create

fund.)

1966

JULY

Nils Groth, Danish lawyer sent by AI to Guinea to inquire about prisoners of conscience, is arrested shortly after his arrival. He is detained without trial until September when he is sentenced to 10 years' hard labour for alleged espionage. He is released 22 hours after sentencing under special amnesty declared by President Sekou Touré.

**AUGUST** 

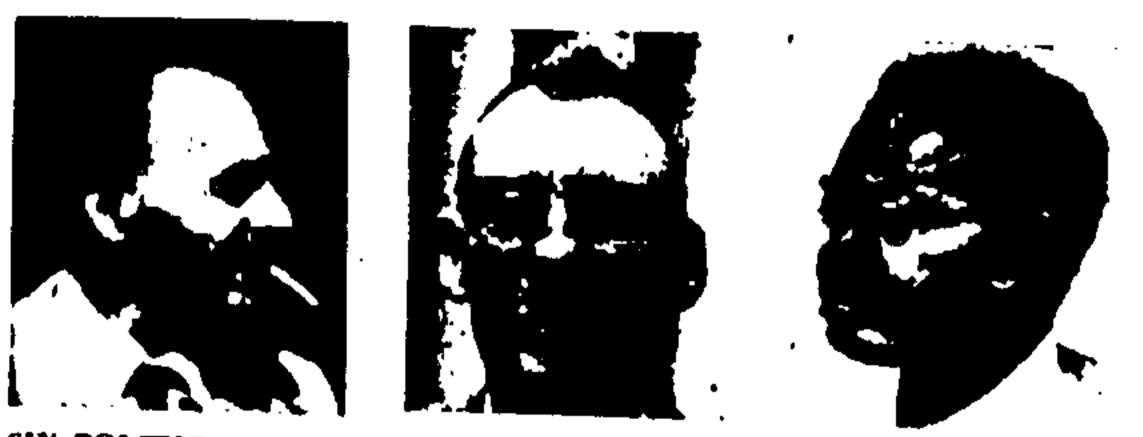
AI publishes reports on prison conditions in Paraguay, Rhodesia and East Germany.

SEPTEMBER International Assembly in Copenhagen, Denmark, decides that

6	
	national sections should give problem of torture special attention and that UN and other international organizations should be asked to include its elimination in their program for UN Human Rights Year 1968. As a result of resistance in United States to military service in Vietnam, assembly also decides to give prisoner of conscience status to those who refuse to fight in particular wars, in addition to those who refuse to fight in all wars.  Annual Report 1965/66: 1,500 prisoners under adoption, 1,000 released since AI was founded; 410 groups in 19 countries (as 1965 plus India, minus West Pakistan); budget: £7,000.
OCTOBER	Report by Swedish section observer Dr Selahaddin Rastgeldi on allegations of brutality and torture by British interrogators in Aden causes furor.
DECEMBER	Peter Benenson resigns as President of AI over policy differences.
1967	
FEBRUARY	International Secretariat moves to larger premises in Turnagain Lane, London.
MARCH	IEC establishes post of Director General to be senior officer of International Secretariat. Al founder-member Eric Baker of British section named to fill post temporarily until permanent occupant can be found. Title of post later amended to Secretary General.
MAY	Name of quarterly bulletin changed to AIR (Amnesty International Report).
SEPTEMBER	Annual Report 1966/67: Al working for nearly 2,000 prisoners in 63 countries, 293 prisoners released; 550 groups in 18 countries (as 1965); budget: report gives no figure.
1968	
1700	AI publishes booklet entitled Conscientious Objection—A Human Right by Pat May.
JANUARY	Al publishes major report by its own investigators on torture in Greece.
	□ Norwegian lawyer Ingjald Orbeck Sörheim goes to Moscow as AI observer at trial of four young Soviet dissidents—Yury Galanskov, Alexander Ginsburg, Alexei Dobrovolsky and Vera Lashkova—but security guards refuse to allow him into courtroom.
FEBRUARY	IEC establishes Borderline Committee to adjudicate when there is uncertainty about whether to adopt a prisoner.
JULY	Martin Ennals, former General Secretary of National Council for Civil Liberties in Britain and a former UNESCO official becomes

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Secretary General of AI.
              AI Swedish Section, prior to International Assembly, holds
AUGUST
             conference in Stockholm on torture.
             Annual Report 1967/68: no prisoner figures given; 516 groups in
SEPTEMBER
              19 countries (as 1966); budget: £20,000.
              ☐ International Assembly in Stockholm, Sweden. New statute
              adopted reorganizing and strengthening AI.
              First AI Prisoner of Conscience Week observed.
NOVEMBER
1969
             IEC Chairman Sean MacBride holds talks in Madrid with Spanish
             government officials on political prisoners in country.
             Rights and Wrongs. Some Essays on Human Rights, edited for Al
              by Christopher R. Hill and published by Penguin Books.
              UNESCO grants AI consultative status.
JANUARY
             Annual Report 1968/69: 4,000 prisoners adopted since AI
SEPTEMBER
             founded, 2,000 released; 640 groups in 21 countries (as for
              1966 plus Japan and Pakistan); 15,000 individual members;
              budget: £23,000.
              ☐ International Council meets in Geneva, Switzerland.
             Greece withdraws from Council of Europe after two-year AI
DECEMBER
             campaign investigating and publicizing torture in country.
1970
APRIL
              Al report on alleged ill-treatment of some Arab prisoners in
              Israel causes international controversy.
             First full-time Head of Research appointed.
JULY
             AI begins internal circulation of stencilled English translations of
AUGUST
             Soviet underground civil rights publication A Chronicle of
             Current Events. (First printed AI translation-Chronicle 16-
             published in mid-February 1971.)
             Annual Report 1969/70: More than 2,000 prisoners under
SEPTEMBER
             adoption, 520 released during year; 850 groups in 27 countries
              (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Ceylon, Denmark,
             Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, India,
             Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico,
              Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Switzerland,
             United States); budget: £28,741; groups distributed estimated
              £10,000 in relief.
             ☐ International Council meets in Oslo, Norway.
             Arrest in Iran of Hossein Rezai while accompanying a German
OCTOBER
              lawyer sent by AI's Austrian section on a mission to investigate
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London, Sunday, May 28, 1961



SIX POLITICAL PRISONERS: left, Constantin Noica, the philosopher, now in Rumanian gool; centre, the Rev. Ashton Jones, Irlend of the Negroes, recently in gool in the United States; right, Agostino Neto, Angolan poet and doctor, held without trial by the Portuguese. Their cases are described in the article below.

ON BOTH SIDES of the Iron Curtain, thousands of men and women are being held in gaol without trial because their political or religious views differ from those of their Governments. Peter Benenson, a London lawyer, conceived the idea of a world campaign, APPEAL FOR AMNESTY, 1961, to urge Governments to release these people or at least give them a fair trial. The campaign opens to-day, and "The Observer" is glad to offer it a platform.



# The Forgotten Prisoners

OPEN your newspaper any day of the week and you will find a report from somewhere in the world of someone being imprisoned, tortured or executed because his opinions or religion are unacceptable to his government. There are several million such people in prison—by no means all of them behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains—and their numbers are growing. The newspaper reader feels a sickening sense of impotence. Yet if these feelings of disgust all over the world could be united into common action, something effective could be done.

the United Nations approved the a government relent. For instance, Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

There is a growing tendency all over the world to disguise the real grounds upon which "non-conformists" are imprisoned. In Spain, students who circulate leaflets calling for the right to hold discussions on current affairs are charged with "military rebellion." In Hungary, Catholic priests who have tried to keep their choir schools open have been charged with "homosexuality." These cover-up charges indicate that governments are by no means insensitive to the pressure of outside opinion. And when world opinion is concentrated on one weak spot, In 1945 the founder members of it can sometimes succeed in making the Hungarian poet Tibor Dery was

campaign, which opens to-day, is the result of an initiative by a group of lawyers, writers and publishers in London, who share the underlying conviction expressed by Voltaire: 'I detest your views, but am prepared to die for your right to express them." We have set up an office in London to collect information about the names, numbers and conditions of what we have decided to call Prisoners of Conscience," and we define them thus: "Any person who is physically restrained (by imprisonment or otherwise) from expressing (in any form of words or symbols) any opinion which he honestly holds and which does not advocate or condone personal violence." We also exclude those who have conspired

Amat, who tried to build a coalition of democratic groups, and has been in prison without trial since November, 1958; and of two white men persecuted by their own race for preaching that the coloured races should have equal rights—Ashton Jones, the sixty-five-year-old minister, who last year was repeatedly beaten-up and three times imprisoned in Louisiana and Texas for doing what the Freedom Riders are now doing in Alabama; and Patrick Duncan, the soziof a former South African Governor-General, after three stays in prison, has just been served with an order forbidding him attending or addressing any new for five years.

who is in gaol." This is hard advice to follow, because there are few governments which welcome inquiries about the number of Prisoners of Conscience they hold in prison. But another test of freedom one can apply is whether the Press is allowed to criticise the government. Even many democratic governments are surprisingly sensitive to Press criticism. In France, General de Gaulle has intensified newspaper seizures, a policy he inherited from the Fourth Republic. Britain and the United States occasional attempts are made to draw the sting of Press criticism by the technique of taking editors into confidence about a " security secret," as in the Bl







Left, Archbishop Bernn of Prague, held in custody by the Czeche; centre, Toni Ambaticios, the Greek Communist and trade unionist prisoner, whose wife is English; right Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, formerly a prisoner and now a political refugee trapped in the United States Embansy, Budapest.

lawyer is able to present the defence in the way he thinks best. In recent years there has been a regrettable trend in some of those countries that take pride in possessing an independent judiciary: by declaring state of emergency and taking their opponents into "preventive detention," governments have side-stepped the need to make and prove criminal charges. At the other extreme there is the enthusiasm in Soviet countries to set up institutions which, though called courts, are really nothing of the sort. The so-called "comradely courts" in the U.S.S.R., which have power to deal with "parasites," are in essence little more than departments of the Ministry of Labour, shifting "square pegs" into empty holes in Siberia. In China the transmigration of labour by an allegedly

judicial process is on a gigantic scale. The most rapid way of bringing relief to Prisoners of Conscience is publicity, especially publicity among their fellow-citizens. With the pressure of emergent nationalism and the tensions of the Cold War, there are bound to be situations where governments are led to take emergency measures to protect their existence. It is vital that public opinion should insist that these measures should not be excessive nor prolonged after the moment o danger. If the emergency is to last a long time, then a government should be induced to allow its opponents out of prison, to seek asylum abroad.

#### Frontier control more efficient

Although there are no statistics, it is likely that recent years have seen a steady decrease in the number

willing to give out translation and correspondence work to refugees, but no machinery to link supply with demand. Those regimes that refuse to allow their nationals to seek asylum on the ground that they go abroad only to conspire, might be less reluctant if they knew that, on arrival, the refugees would not be kicking their heels in idle frustration

The members of the Council of Europe have agreed a Convention of Human Rights, and set up a commission to secure its enforcement. Some countries have accorded to their citizens the right to approach the commission individually. But some, including Britain, have refused to accept the jurisdiction of the commission over individual complaints, and France has refused to ratify the Convention at all. Public opinion should insist on the establishment of effective supra-national machinery not only in Europe but on similar lines in other continents.

This is an especially suitable year for an Amnesty Campaign. It is the centenary of President Lincoln's inauguration, and of the beginning of the Civil War which ended with the liberation of the American slaves; it is also the centenary of the decree that emancipated the Russian serfs A hundred years ago Mr. Gladstone's budget swept away the oppressive duties on newsprint and so enlarged the range and freedom of the Press; 1861 marked the end of the tyranny of King "Bomba" of Naples, and the creation of a united Italy: it was also the year of the death of Lacordaire, the French Dominican opponent of Bourbon and Orleanist oppression.

The success of the 1961 Amnesty Campaign depends on how sharply and powerfully it is sible to rall

10 allegations of torture. Lawyer expelled from country but in October 1971 Mr Rezai is sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment after trial by secret military court in Teheran. IEC decides to restructure and strengthen Research Department, NOVEMBER hiring additional professional researchers. Amnesty International Publications (AIP) imprint introduced. **DECEMBER** 1971 **JANUARY** Volume 1, Number 1 of present monthly Amnesty International Newsletter published in stencil form, combining general AI news with Postcards for Prisoners' Campaign. 10th anniversay of AI receives widespread publicity in inter-MAY national press, radio and television. Annual Report 1970/71: 1,050 new cases adopted or investigated SEPTEMBER in calendar year 1970, 700 prisoners released; nearly 1,000 groups in 30 countries (as for previous year plus Ghana, Nigeria, Peru); budget: £52,747. ☐ International Council and 10th anniversary Assembly meets in Luxembourg. Three-man AI commission visits Belfast to conduct inquiry into **DECEMBER** allegations of torture in Northern Ireland. 1972 Organization of African Unity's Bureau for the Placement and **JANUARY** Education of African Refugees grants AI observer status. AI publishes Report of an Inquiry into Allegations of Ill-MARCH Treatment in Northern Ireland which confirms that brutal interrogation methods were used by security forces against detainees. The British government subsequently accepts the minority report of its specially-appointed investigative commission which reflects Al's recommendations. ☐ AI publishes report of mission to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) undertaken in September 1971 by Lord Avebury, a British parliamentarian, to investigate position and legal rights of 16,000 detainees. Al publishes report on unsatisfactory trial procedures for **AUGUST** political prisoners in Iran. ☐ AI elected to Bureau of Standing Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations. Al publishes Report on Allegations of Torture in Brazil.

Brazilian government subsequently bans any mention in press of

☐ Annual Report 1971/72: 1,271 new cases adopted or

AI statements on country.

investigated in calendar year 1971, 727 prisoners released; 1,100 groups in 31 countries (as for 1970/71 plus South Korea -name of East Pakistan section changed to Bangladesh section, Ceylon section to Sri Lanka section); budget: £102,654. ☐ International Council, meeting near Utrecht, Holland, decides on campaign to eliminate torture of detainees in world. It also confirms that AI should not be bound by government assertions that a prisoner has used or advocated violence. International Secretariat moves to larger premises in Theobald's OCTOBER Road, London. ☐ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of Organization of American States grants AI consultative status. ☐ Information and Publications Department established. Under statute amendment passed by Utrecht Council, first NOVEMBER representative of International Secretariat staff is elected to IEC. ☐ AI publishes draft protocol providing for release, rehabilitation and resettlement of non-criminal civilians detained in Indochina as result of war. Protocol is sent to all governments concerned in the conflict. ☐ Five members of Al's South Korean section arrested, but all subsequently released. Al launches worldwide Campaign for the Abolition of Torture. **DECEMBER** 1973 Al's Dutch section, in cooperation with International Secretariat, MARCH publishes Indonesia Special, report on plight of more than 55,000 persons detained without trial since 1965. ☐ IEC chairman Sean MacBride meets officials of Soviet foreign ministry in Moscow to explore possibility of opening dialogue between AI and Soviet government. AI begins circulating petition called International Appeal to MAY Outlaw Torture. ☐ Sixth Korean section official, journalist Boo Wan-hyuk, arrested. He is sentenced to 10 days' detention for "spreading groundless rumour". Using donated relief funds AI initiates large-scale relief program JUNE for political prisoners and their families in the white-minority ruled countries of southern Africa.

Al publishes Political Prisoners in South Vietnam on plight of

detailing brutality and discrimination suffered in Spanish prisons

AI publishes Political Imprisonment in Spain, major report

100,000 detainees in country.

by opponents of Franco regime.

JULY

**AUGUST** 

**SEPTEMBER** 

Annual Report 1972/73: 1,580 new prisoners taken up and 842 Al-adopted/investigated prisoners released in calendar year 1972; 1,203 groups in 32 countries (as for 1971/72, plus Nepal); budget £134,000.

International Council meeting in Vienna is opened by Austrian Chancellor, Dr Bruno Kreisky. Council reaffirms AI stand against capital punishment, establishes formal guideline for acceptance of financial contributions, reviews AI techniques, sets up committee to look into AI position on violence, approves plans for AI regional conference in Asia, and expresses concern at murders and killings in Chile following coup there. IC meeting approves establishment of field secretaries for Third World, in line with AI's development program. First field secretary is appointed February 1974 for Asia, followed by appointment of field secretary for Latin America in April 1974.

SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER

Al holds series of conferences in Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and USA to provide background material for December Paris conference on legal, medical, political, social, penal and ethical aspects of use of torture.

**OCTOBER** 

New regime in Chile agrees to admit three-man AI mission for on-the-spot probe into allegations of massive violations of human rights.

☐ Three-man AI delegation takes part in commission on social problems and human rights of World Congress of Peace Forces in Moscow.

NOVEMBER

Representatives of 110,000 policemen in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Norway and Sweden sign AI appeal to UN calling for effective machinery to outlaw torture.

UN General Assembly unanimously approves AI-inspired resolution formally denouncing torture and calling on all governments to adhere to existing international instruments with provisions forbidding practice.

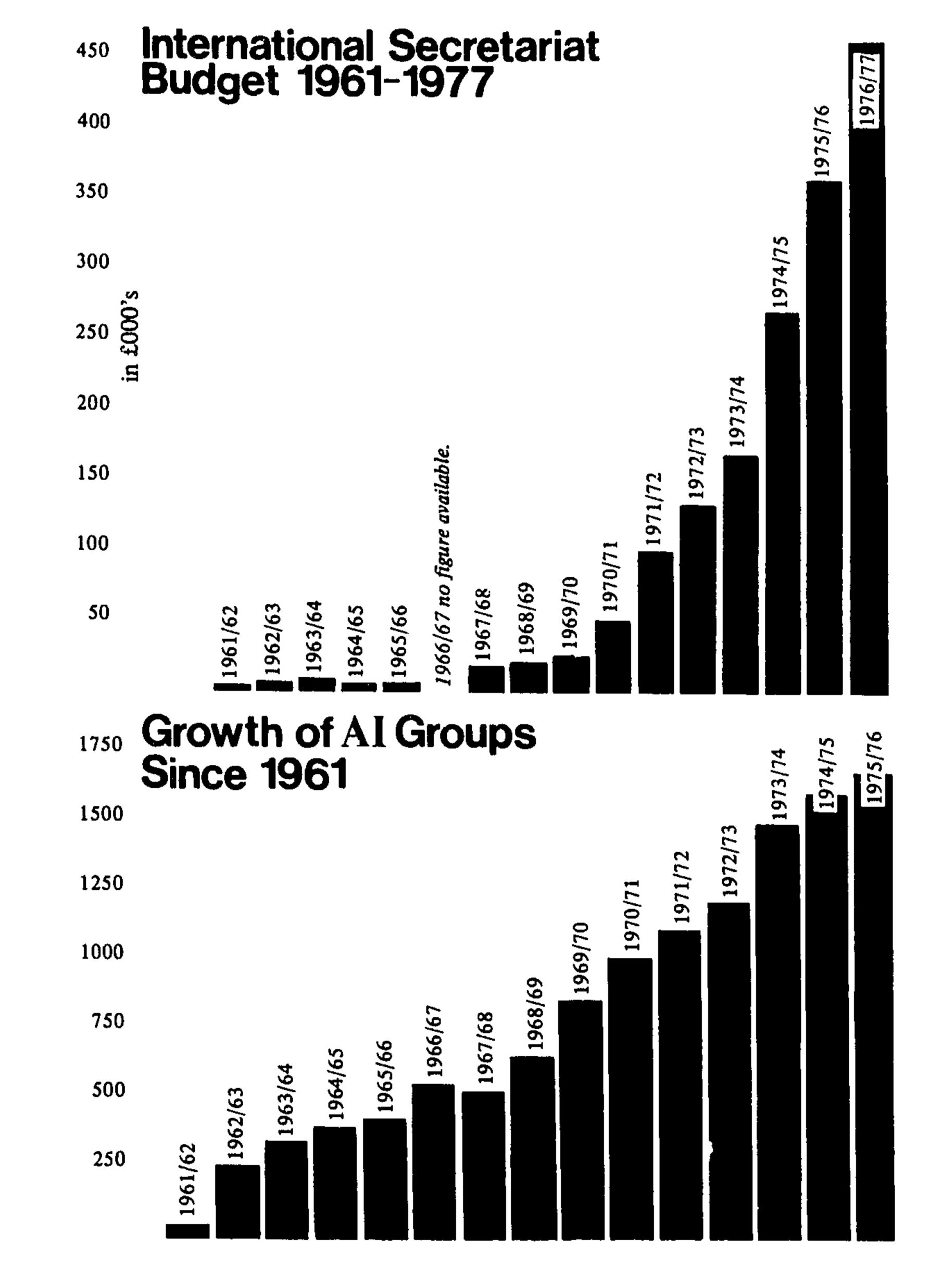
Reverend Un Myung-ki of AI South Korean section executive committee given 8-months sentence, stayed for two years, for "instigating persons" and "spreading a groundless rumour". Four other section leaders arrested.

□ Publication of issue number one of Amnistia Internacional, regular bulletin of AI news in Spanish for circulation in Spanish-speaking countries.

DECEMBER

Publication of 224-page Amnesty International Report on Torture, detailing allegations of torture received against more than 60 countries over previous 10-year period.

☐ At only 10 days notice, UNESCO withdraws conference facilities in Paris for international AI Conference for the Abolition



of Torture on disputed grounds that Report on Torture constitutes conference document and thus violates regulations barring criticism of member states inside UNESCO House. New site hurriedly found in Tour Olivier de Serres, in Paris, and two-day conference opens on schedule on 10 December, 25th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. More than 250 participants from 40 countries, including medical, legal, and police experts and diplomats, attend conference. They back a broad series of moves on all national and international levels aimed at securing end of torture. Al sets up new Campaign for the Abolition of Torture department in International Secretariat to implement action proposals.

☐ International Appeal to Outlaw Torture, with more than one million signatures from 85 countries, is sent to President of UN General Assembly.

UN General Assembly appoints IEC Chairman Sean MacBride as Commissioner for Namibia with rank of Assistant Secretary General of UN.

### 1974

**JANUARY** 

Report of AI mission to Chile says political prisoners there tortured on large scale since coup and lists other gross violations of human rights, including summary executions, political persecution and detention without charge or trial.

☐ International Executive Committee sets up coordination unit in secretariat to streamline services to national sections and groups, and also decides to appoint Deputy Secretary General.

International Secretariat staff member Pat Arrowsmith sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment in Britain for distributing leaflets to British troops informing them of ways to avoid service in Northern Ireland.

JUNE

MAY

First monthly bulletin of Campaign for the Abolition of Torture published as insert to AI Newsletter.

☐ Joint Al-International Commission of Jurists report, based on visit by mission, says political suspects in Uruguay are regularly tortured to extract confessions.

Al receives Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Award of American Veterans Committee for work in the field of human rights.

JULY

Report by AI delegate to South Korea says 55 opponents of regime who had been tried and found guilty of subversion only confessed under torture. The following month, Bishop (Daniel) Tji Hak-Sun, honorary president of Al South Korean section sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for alleged financial help to dissidents.

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SEPTEMBER	AI marks first anniversary of coup in Chile by publishing Chile: an Amnesty International Report, documenting year of political oppression, executions and torture.
	□ Nine-page AI report says thousands of political prisoners have been detained since 1971 in grossly overcrowded conditions in Indian state of West Bengal.
	Annual Report 1973/74: 1,867 new prisoners taken up and 1,059 Al-adopted/investigated prisoners released in calendar year 1973; 1,483 groups in 32 countries, more than 38,000 individual members in 57 countries; £100,000 in relief dispensed budget: £169,200.
	International Council meeting in Askov, Denmark, sees Sean MacBride retire as chariman of IEC. IEC expanded from seven to nine members and former prisoner of conscience Mümtaz Soysal of Turkey becomes first ever ex-PoC elected to it. IEC recognizes first-ever AI adoption group in Soviet Union.
OCTOBER	Sean MacBride awarded 1974 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his lifelong work for human rights.
	Leading AI members in Peru, Nepal and South Korea arrested but subsequently released after protests from AI.
NOVEMBER	Dirk Börner of Federal Republic of Germany named as new chairman of IEC.
	UN General Assembly unanimously adopts Al-inspired resolution placing issue of torture on agenda of its next session and referring issue to Fifth UN Congress on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders.
	☐ Former torture victims from Greece and Portugal attend AI workshop in London on torture.
DECEMBER	Sergei Kovalyov, member of AI adoption group in Moscow, arrested in alleged connection with samizdat journal

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1975

**JANUARY** Bishop Tji Hak-Sun, honorary president of AI's South Korean section, freed in conditional amnesty.

Al South Asia Regional Conference in New Delhi, India, maps MARCH program of AI development in area.

KGB arrests two more members of AI Moscow group, group APRIL secretary Andrei Tverdokhlebov and Ukranian writer Mikola Rudenko, after searching their flats. Mr Rudenko later released. ☐ Documentation Center established in secretariat.

MAY Al publishes Report of an Amnesty International Mission to Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic to Investigate Allegations of Ill-Treatment and Torture which criticizes both countries for

abuses against prisoners of war taken during October 1973 Middle East conflict. Report attacked by Israelis for attempting to create unreal "balance" of criticism.

☐ With numbers 28-31, AI resumes publication of English translation of A Chronicle of Current Events, samizdat journal of human rights movement in the Soviet Union, after a period when KGB succeeded in suppressing original Russian texts.

JUNE

Al-sponsored seminar in The Hague for police officials from eight European countries calls for sweeping international police code of ethics, including duty of policemen to disobey orders to inflict torture.

JULY

AI report urges end to untried detention in Northern Ireland.

SEPTEMBER

Annual Report 1974/75: 2,458 new prisoners taken up and 1,403 AI-adopted/investigated prisoners released in calendar year 1974; 1,592 groups in 33 countries (as 1972/73, plus group in Moscow), more than 70,000 individual members in 65 countries; £100,000 in relief dispensed; budget: £272,000.

☐ International Council meeting in St Gallen, Switzerland, elects Eric Baker of Britain Honorary President of AI.

AI launches South Asia Publications Service, based in Colombo, Sri Lanka, to provide monthly Newsletter and other AI publications to members in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and to institutions and individuals in South Asia concerned with human rights issues.

☐ AI publishes Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR: Their Treatment and Conditions, a 154-page report detailing legal and penal abuses directed against political and religious prisoners in Soviet Union.

DECEMBER

Sergei Kovalyov of Al Moscow group found guilty of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and sentenced to 7 years in a strict regime corrective colony to be followed by 3 years' internal exile. ☐ UN General Assembly adopts by acclamation declaration establishing guidelines for national legislation required to prevent torture, protect and compensate victims of torture and punish torturers.

1976 **FEBRUARY** 

AI launches worldwide campaign against torture in Uruguay, publishing names of 24 persons who died under torture and circulating international petition calling on Uruguayan government to allow independent international body to investigate torture allegations.

☐ AI publishes briefing paper on Singapore, first in a planned series of individual country papers.

MARCH

Briefing paper on Rhodesia/Zimbabwe published.

APRIL

Andrei Tverdokhlebov, secretary of Al adoption group in Soviet Union, sentenced to 5 years' internal exile for alleged "dissemination of fabrications known to be false which defame the Soviet

state and social system".

MAY

Briefing paper published on People's Democratic Republic of

Yemen.

28 May AI celebrates 15th anniversary.



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